



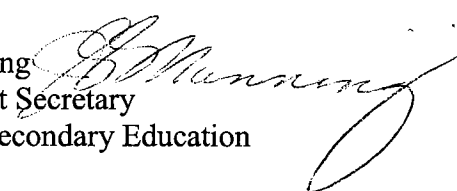
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DATE: June 22, 2007

TO: Nicole Cafarella  
Desk Officer, U.S. Department of Education  
OMB

FROM: James F. Manning   
Acting Assistant Secretary  
Office for Postsecondary Education

SUBJECT: Emergency Clearance for Student Achievement and Institutional  
Performance Pilot Program

The U.S. Department of Education requests an emergency clearance for the applications package for the new competition, the Student Achievement and Institutional Performance Pilot Program.

The Student Achievement and Institutional Performance Pilot Program will be administered by the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), Office of Postsecondary Education. The Student Achievement and Institutional Performance Pilot Program will provide grants to support at least one consortium of institutions of higher education, associations and/or public and private non-profit organizations (including state agencies) to develop methods and implement mechanisms to measure, assess and report on postsecondary student achievement and institutional performance outcomes at the institutions participating in the consortium.

The application package now being submitted for OMB approval is critical to conducting the competition in the current fiscal year. To accommodate a starting date of September 28, 2007, a 30-day OMB clearance process is necessary. This will allow the first Student Achievement and Institutional Performance Pilot Program competition to be announced by mid-July 2007, with a deadline for receipt of proposals by mid-August 2007. This will allow review by independent experts and selection of an award by September 28, 2007.

We seek your serious consideration for an emergency clearance of the Student Achievement and Institutional Performance Pilot Program, which will help the Federal government meet several of the goals and challenges set forth by the Academic Competitiveness Council.