

Supporting Statement for VA Form 21-8926  
Certification of School Attendance – REPS  
(2900-0394)

A. Justification

1. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), through its Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), administers an integrated program of benefits and services established by law for veterans, service personnel, and their dependents and/or beneficiaries. Restored Entitlement Program for Survivors (REPS) benefits are payable to certain surviving spouses and children of veterans who died in service prior to August 13, 1981 or who died as a result of a service-connected disability incurred or aggravated prior to August 13, 1981. Child beneficiaries over age 18 and under age 23 must be enrolled full-time in an approved post-secondary school. Information is requested by this form under the authority of 38 U.S.C. 5101. Regulatory authority is found in 38 CFR 3.812(a)(2).
2. VA Form 21-8926 is used at the beginning of the school year to verify that a beneficiary who is receiving REPS benefits based on schoolchild status is in fact enrolled full-time in an approved school and is otherwise eligible for continued benefits. If the form was not used, payments would continue to be made to beneficiaries who were no longer eligible and substantial overpayments would result.
3. The collection of information does not involve the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. VA Form 21-8926 is partially completed by VA with claimant-specific information before it is mailed to certain schoolchildren. To avoid improper use by claimants who are not required to submit this form, the form is not available on the VBA website for downloading. A faxed copy of a properly signed VA Form 21-8926 may be accepted if there are no questions as to its validity. Currently, there has been no consideration of using other information technology. The Department will reconsider using other information technology when the resources become available, and usage of this form increases.
4. Program reviews were conducted to identify potential areas of duplication; however, none were found to exist. There is no known Department or Agency which maintains the necessary information.
5. The collection of information does not involve small businesses or entities.
6. If the collection were not conducted, VA would be unable to verify full-time school attendance. Payments would be made after school enrollment terminated and overpayments would result.
7. There is no special circumstance requiring collection in a manner inconsistent with 5 CFR 1320.6 guidelines.

8. The Department notice was published in the Federal Register on October 1, 2007, page 55858. No comments were received.

9. No payments or gifts to respondents have been made under this collection of information.

10. The records are maintained in the appropriate Privacy Act System of Records identified as 58VA21/22, "Compensation, Pension, Education and Rehabilitation Records - VA" as set forth in Privacy Act Issuances, 1993 compilation found in 42 Fed. Reg. 49726 (9/27//1977).

11. There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Estimate of Information Collection Burden.

a. Number of Respondents is estimated at 1,200 per year.

b. Frequency of Response is annually for most respondents.

c. Annual burden is 300 hours.

d. The estimated completion time of 15 minutes is based on review by staff personnel and previous usage of this form.

e. The total estimated cost to respondents is \$4,500 (300 hours x \$15 per hour).

13. This submission does not involve any recordkeeping costs.

a. Processing/Analyzing costs \$7,500

(GS-9/5 @ \$25.00 x 1,200 x 15/60 minutes = \$7,500)

b. Printing and production cost \$ 235

c. Total cost to government \$7,735

15. There is no change in the reporting burden.

16. The information collection is not for publication or tabulation use.

17. The collection instrument, VA Form 21-8926, may be reproduced and/or stocked by the respondents and veterans service organizations. This VA form does not display an expiration date, and if required to do so would result in unnecessary waste of existing stocks of this form. This form is submitted to OMB every 3 years. As such, this date requirement would also result in an unnecessary burden on the respondents and would delay Department action on the benefit being sought. VA also seeks to minimize its cost to itself of collecting, processing and using the information by not displaying the expiration date. For the reasons stated, VA continues to seek

an exemption that waives the displaying of the expiration date on VA Form 21-8926.

18. This submission does not contain any exceptions to the certification statement.

B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods

The Veterans Benefits Administration does not collect information employing statistical methods.