

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, nor is it available from other sources within our Department.
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 January 3, 2014, pages 426 and 427, Vol.79, No. 2. No comments were received in response to this notice.

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 58VA21/22/28, ‘‘Compensation, Pension, Education, and Rehabilitation Records—VA’’ as set forth in Privacy Act Issuances, 1993 compilation found in 74 Fed. Reg. 117 (June 19, 2009).

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. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Average Hourly Earnings, the cost to the respondent is \$24, making the total cost to the respondents an estimated \$7,200 (300 hours x \$24).

13. This submission does not involve any recordkeeping costs.

14. Estimated Costs to the Federal Government:

a. Processing/Analyzing costs \$8,412

(GS-9/5 @ \$28.04 x 1,200 x 15/60 minutes = \$8,412)

b. Printing and production cost \$ 235

c. Total cost to government \$8,647

15. There is no change in the reporting burden. The form has been updated to include the expiration date placeholder.

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 The information collection is not for publication or tabulation use.

17. We are not seeking approval to omit the expiration date for OMB approval.

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

B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods

This collection of information does not employ statistical methods.