

SUPPORTING STATEMENT – PART B

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

1. Description of the Activity

The potential respondent universe for DoDEA are students in grades 3-12 and parents of students in grades PK-12. The student population at the time of the survey is estimated to be 45,000 and the parent population is estimated at 75,000. Parents with multiple children in a DoDEA school will only be asked to complete one survey per school. As this is a new survey, response rates on previous surveys are not available. However, other, similar surveys administered by DoDEA have historically returned total response rates of around 80%. DoDEA has managed to achieve relatively high response rates through mainly school level “advertising.” Principals, for example, have placed messages about the survey on all school communications, announced it at school events, or placed large banners in and around the school. A few principals have even established competitions with other principals for responses, with “losers” dying their hair or volunteering for a water dunk.

2. Procedures for the Collection of Information

Describe any of the following if they are used in the collection of information:

a. Statistical methodologies for stratification and sample selection;

No stratification will be performed as the proposed sample is the entire population of potential respondents.

b. Estimation procedures;

Not applicable

c. Degree of accuracy needed for the Purpose discussed in the justification;

d. Unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures; and

Not applicable

e. Use of periodic or cyclical data collections to reduce respondent burden.

The mobility of military families as well as constantly changing school configurations, consolidations, and closures, means that less frequent collections would eliminate many potential respondents and would also not provide the currency of information that is needed to accurately inform the agency.

3. Maximization of Response Rates, Non-response, and Reliability

Time for students to take the survey will be provided during the school day to increase response rates and decrease non-response. Principals of each school will be charged with getting the word out to parents via their local communication channels (school based email, newsletters, PTA meetings, etc.).

4. Tests of Procedures

The original developers of the survey questions (University of Southern California) have tested and revised the survey over the life of the survey. Prior to use, all questions are tested and validated with partner groups, such as members of school principals' associations and teacher's associations.

5. Statistical Consultation and Information Analysis

a. Ron Avi Astor Ph.D.,
Richard M. and Ann L. Thor Professor in Urban Social Development University of Southern California School of Social Work and Rossier School of Education MRF Building, Rm 319
669 West 34th Street
Los Angeles, California 90089-0411
Phone: 213-740-0296

Dr. Rami Benbenishty
Professor, Louis and Gabi Weisfeld School of Social Work
Bar Ilan University, Israel benbenr@biu.ac.il

b. Provide name and organization of person(s) who will actually collect and analyze the collected information.
Dr. Sandra Embler, Department of Defense Education Activity, Chief Research and Evaluation, 571-372-6006
Dr. Susan Lehmann, Department of Defense Education Activity Research and Evaluation Branch 571-372-5827