

Memorandum

United States Department of Education
Institute of Education Sciences
National Center for Education Statistics

DATE: February 10, 2017

TO: Robert Sivinski and E. Ann Carson, OMB

THROUGH: Kashka Kubzdela, OMB Liaison, NCES

FROM: David Richards, BPS:12/17 Project Officer, NCES
Tracy Hunt-White, Team Lead, Postsecondary Longitudinal and Sample Surveys, NCES

SUBJECT: 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study: (BPS:12/17) Student Website Change Request (OMB# 1850-0631 v.12)

The 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/17) is conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education (ED). BPS is designed to follow a cohort of students who enroll in postsecondary education for the first time during the same academic year, irrespective of the date of high school completion. The study collects data on students' persistence in and completion of postsecondary education programs; their transition to employment; demographic characteristics; and changes over time in their goals, marital status, income, and debt, among other indicators. Data from BPS are used to help researchers and policymakers better understand how financial aid influences persistence and completion, what percentages of students complete various degree programs, what are the early employment and wage outcomes for certificate and degree attainers, and why students leave school.

The request to conduct the BPS:12/17 full-scale data collection, including a student interview, file matching to various administrative data sources, and collection of corresponding postsecondary education transcripts and student records, was approved by OMB in December 2016 (1850-0631 v.10). In January 2017, OMB approved a change to the question used to confirm the identify of the respondent (1850-0631 v.11). This request seeks approval of the text to be included on the study website, which serves as an entry point to the student interview. The website contains the Paperwork Reduction Act statement, confidentiality information, frequently asked questions about the study, highlights of previous study results, and instructions on how to reach BPS staff. Verbatim text that will be provided on the student website has been added on pages E-5 through E-9 in the attached, revised Appendix E.

This change does not impact the estimated respondent burden nor the cost to the federal government for the study.