

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
FOR PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION**

Teacher Loan Forgiveness Forms

A. Justification

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a hard copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information, or you may provide a valid URL link or paste the applicable section¹. Specify the review type of the collection (new, revision, extension, reinstatement with change, reinstatement without change). If revised, briefly specify the changes. If a rulemaking is involved, make note of the sections or changed sections, if applicable.

Sections 428J and 460 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA) provide for teacher loan forgiveness in the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program and the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program. Borrowers who teach for five consecutive years at schools or educational service agencies serving low-income families and meet certain other requirements may receive up to \$17,500 in loan forgiveness. The teacher loan forgiveness regulations at 34 CFR 682.216 (for the FFEL Program) and 34 CFR 685.217 (for the Direct Loan Program) require borrowers to provide their loan holders with documentation establishing their eligibility for teacher loan forgiveness and for teacher loan forgiveness forbearance.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.

The Teacher Loan Forgiveness Application included in this submission is used by loan holders to collect information needed to determine whether a borrower is eligible for teacher loan forgiveness based on qualifying teaching service. A borrower applies for teacher loan forgiveness by completing the application and returning it to his or her loan holder. The Chief Administrative Officer(s) of the school(s) or educational service agency(ies) where the borrower performed the qualifying teaching service must certify the borrower's application.

The Teacher Loan Forgiveness Forbearance Request included in this submission is used by loan holders to collect information needed to determine whether a borrower is eligible for forbearance on the borrower's outstanding federal student loans during the period when the borrower is performing the qualifying teaching service. During the five years of required teaching, a borrower may apply annually for forbearance on the loans

¹ Please limit pasted text to no longer than 3 paragraphs.

for which he or she is seeking forgiveness if the loan forgiveness amount for which the borrower qualifies will satisfy the anticipated outstanding balance on the borrower's loans upon completion of the qualifying teaching service. A borrower applies for forbearance by completing the form and returning it to the borrower's loan holder. This form is self-certifying.

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is requesting an extension of the currently approved forms. Although ED is not making any substantive changes to the language in either of the two currently approved forms, and there are no changes to the data elements, we have made minor wording changes for greater clarity.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or forms of information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision of adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration given to using technology to reduce burden.

Since the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Application requires a borrower's signature and a signed certification from the chief administrative officer of the borrower's school or educational service agency, the United States Postal Service currently provides the best means for borrowers to return completed applications to their loan holders. Most loan holders also have secure portals where the documents can be electronically uploaded.

The Teacher Loan Forgiveness Forbearance Form requires only the borrower's signature. Therefore, loan holders allow borrowers to submit the forbearance form electronically.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.

There is no information available from other sources that can be used for the purpose described in Item 2 of this supporting document.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden. A small entity may be (1) a small business which is deemed to be one that is independently owned and operated and that is not dominant in its field of operation; (2) a small organization that is any not-for-profit enterprise that is independently owned and operated and is not dominant in its field; or (3) a small government jurisdiction, which is a government of a city, county, town, township, school district, or special district with a population of less than 50,000.

No small businesses are affected by this information collection.

6. Describe the consequences to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

The data must be collected to determine a borrower's eligible for teacher loan forgiveness. Without the collection of this data, a borrower could not receive the benefit of loan forgiveness.

The regulations in 34 CFR Parts 682.216 and 685.217 require a borrower to apply for loan forgiveness with his or her loan holder. Therefore, a borrower who is seeking forgiveness of multiple loans that are with different holders may be required to complete more than one Teacher Loan Forgiveness Application or Teacher Loan Forgiveness Forbearance Request.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:

- requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;
- requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;
- requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;
- requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years;
- in connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results than can be generalized to the universe of study;
- requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;
- that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or that unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or
- requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secrets, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.

This information collection does not involve any of the conditions listed in 5 CFR 1320.5(d)(2).

8. As applicable, state that the Department has published the 60 and 30 Federal Register notices as required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.

Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instruction and record keeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained or those who must compile records should occur at least once every 3 years – even if the collection of information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that may preclude consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.

The paperwork clearance process will provide the public with two opportunities to submit comments on the revised forms included with this submission. The public will be notified of the opportunity to comment through notices published in the Federal Register. On March 19, 2020, a notice was filed in the Federal Register (Vol. 85., No. 54, pages 15768-15769) requesting public comment on the burden assessment for this information collection. No comments were received. This is the 30-day public comment request.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees with meaningful justification.

No payments or gifts will be provided to the respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy. If personally identifiable information (PII) is being collected, a Privacy Act statement should be included on the instrument. Please provide a citation for the Systems of Record Notice and the date a Privacy Impact Assessment was completed as indicated on the IC Data Form. A confidentiality statement with a legal citation that authorizes the pledge of confidentiality should be provided.² If the collection is subject to the Privacy Act, the Privacy Act statement is deemed sufficient with respect to confidentiality. If there is no expectation of confidentiality, simply state that the Department makes no pledge about the confidentiality of the data.

These teacher loan forgiveness forms include a Privacy Act Disclosure Notice that (1) informs the borrower of the statutory authority for collecting the information; (2) explains that the disclosure of the information is voluntary, but that it is required in order for the borrower to be considered for the forgiveness; and (3) identifies the third parties to whom the information may be disclosed and explains the circumstances under which such disclosures may occur.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. The justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

² Requests for this information are in accordance with the following ED and OMB policies: Privacy Act of 1974, OMB Circular A-108 – Privacy Act Implementation – Guidelines and Responsibilities, OMB Circular A-130 Appendix I – Federal Agency Responsibilities for Maintaining Records About Individuals, OMB M-03-22 – OMB Guidance for Implementing the Privacy Provisions of the E-Government Act of 2002, OMB M-06-15 – Safeguarding Personally Identifiable Information, OM:6-104 – Privacy Act of 1974 (Collection, Use and Protection of Personally Identifiable Information)

These teacher loan forgiveness forms do not contain any sensitive questions.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should:

- Indicate the number of respondents by affected public type (federal government, individuals or households, private sector – businesses or other for-profit, private sector – not-for-profit institutions, farms, state, local or tribal governments), frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated, including identification of burden type: recordkeeping, reporting or third party disclosure. All narrative should be included in item 12. Unless directed to do so, agencies should not conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample (fewer than 10) of potential respondents is desirable. If the hour burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size, or complexity, show the range of estimated hour burden, and explain the reasons for the variance. Generally, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices.
- If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens in the ROCIS IC Burden Analysis Table. (The table should at minimum include Respondent types, IC activity, Respondent and Responses, Hours/Response, and Total Hours)
- Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents of the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included in Item 14.

The total estimated annual reporting hour burden for this information collection is approximately 2,871 hours (2,640 for the application and 231 for the forbearance form) for the Direct Loan Program and the FFEL Program. The burden estimate was calculated as follows:

Teacher Loan Forgiveness Application

Estimated annual number of respondents:	8,000
Number of responses per borrower:	x 1
Hours per response:	<u>x 0.33 (20 minutes)</u>
Annual hour burden:	2,640 hours

Teacher Loan Forgiveness Forbearance Request

Estimated annual number of respondents:	700
Number of responses per borrower:	x 1
Hours per response:	<u>x 0.33 (20 minutes)</u>
Annual hour burden:	231 hours

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in Items 12 and 14.)

- The cost estimate should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life); and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component. The estimates should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information. Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and acquiring and maintaining record storage facilities.
- If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burdens and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of contracting out information collection services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondents (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission public comment process and use existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.
- Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices. Also, these estimates should not include the hourly costs (i.e., the monetization of the hours) captured above in Item 12

Total Annualized Capital/Startup Cost :
Total Annual Costs (O&M) :
Total Annualized Costs Requested : _____

There are no capital/startup costs to respondents, nor are there any annual costs to respondents associated with operating or maintaining systems or purchasing services.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that

would not have been incurred without this collection of information. Agencies also may aggregate cost estimates from Items 12, 13, and 14 in a single table.

There is no significant annualized cost to the federal government. For the Direct Loan Program, ED's contract with its Direct Loan servicers are not based on a fee-for-service model; rather, ED pays its servicers based on performance metrics. For the FFEL Program, there is no significant cost associated with this collection, since FFEL Program loan holders distribute the forms, collect the information, and process the loan forgiveness and forbearance requests. The government incurs no additional cost merely as a result of this information collection.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments. Generally, adjustments in burden result from re-estimating burden and/or from economic phenomenon outside of an agency's control (e.g., correcting a burden estimate or an organic increase in the size of the reporting universe). Program changes result from a deliberate action that materially changes a collection of information and generally are result of new statute or an agency action (e.g., changing a form, revising regulations, redefining the respondent universe, etc.). Burden changes should be disaggregated by type of change (i.e., adjustment, program change due to new statute, and/or program change due to agency discretion), type of collection (new, revision, extension, reinstatement with change, reinstatement without change) and include totals for changes in burden hours, responses and costs (if applicable).

ED is not reporting any changes. The number of respondents remains 8,700, the number of responses remains 8,700, and the number of burden hours remain 2,871 for this collection.

16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.

The results of this collection will not be published.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

ED is not seeking this approval.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in the Certification of Paperwork Reduction Act.

ED is not requesting any exceptions to the "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions" of OMB Form 83-I.