UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
National Center for Education Statistics

October 28, 2024

MEMORANDUM

To:	Dr. Bev Pratt, OMB
From:	Erin Tanenbaum, NCES
Through:	Carrie Clarady, NCES
Re:	2024-25 School Pulse Panel December 2024, January 2025, and February 2025 Questionnaire Items Change Request (OMB# 1850-0969 v.17)

The School Pulse Panel is an ongoing study conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), part of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), within the United States Department of Education, to collect extensive data on current and emerging issues concerning students and staff in U.S. public primary, middle, high, and combined-grade schools. Specifically, the survey will ask school leaders about topics such as staffing, college and career readiness, artificial intelligence, tutoring, summer and after-school programs, facilities, and learning strategies and recovery, among other topics. The SPP has become one of the nation's main sources of timely and reliable data on issues concerning the education environment, as reported by principals in U.S. public schools.

The SPP monthly data collection went through a 60-day public comment period, followed by a 30-day public comment period (OMB# 1850-0969 v.13), and was formally cleared on July 1, 2024. A change request (v.15) was cleared in August 2024 to make changes to the August 2024, September 2024, and October 2024 instruments, informed by cognitive testing results with school staff. A 30-day public comment period package (v.16) was cleared in October 2024 that included new items (within the scope of the research domains previously established) to be collected on the November 2024, December 2024, and January 2025 instruments, as well as planned items for the rest of the study year, through June 2025. The purpose of this memo is to request approval for changes to the December 2024, January 2025, and February 2025 SPP questionnaires, informed by cognitive testing results with school staff.

Changes to the December 2024, January 2025, and February 2025 questionnaires that are being made in response to the cognitive testing are detailed below. Many of the changes were made to improve item clarity and include such actions as modifying response options based on recommendations from the cognitive testing. The costs to the government have not changed as a result of this amendment, nor has the projected respondent burden. Below, for each month, we provide explanations for our changes. No changes were made to November 2024 or March-June 2025 instruments at this time.

Changes to Appendix C2

December 2024 Instrument

School Facilities
- The SPP team re-ordered some questions, reordered some answer items within questions, and updated definitions provided to respondents for clarity based on cognitive testing feedback.

Technology (Digital Literacy + Artificial Intelligence)
- In **AI1a**, based on feedback received during cognitive testing, we separated school employees into three groups (i.e., teachers, non-teaching staff, and administrators) and updated answer options to be: All, Only some, None, Don't know.
- In **AI5**, to align with how training may be implemented, the answer option scale was updated to be: All, Only some, None, Don't know.
- "Data privacy" was updated as an answer option in **AI7** to be more descriptive of concerns related to "Sharing of student and/or teacher data with AI systems" and including relevant examples based on cognitive testing feedback.
- Questions related to digital literacy were moved to the end of this section and clarification on the types of digital literacy training that should be considered was added to **DL1**.
- Based on cognitive testing feedback, questions related to 1-to-1 computing programs and the provision of devices to students (**Tech1a-c**) were expanded to encompass laptops or tablets and gather clarifying information on use of devices outside school hours.
- Based on cognitive testing feedback, questions related to school policies on cell phones (**Tech2a-c**) were updated to eliminate repetition, clarify policy parameters, and address questions related to the inclusion of smartwatches in policies (**Tech3a-c).**
- **Tech4** was updated to include a scale with both positive and negative perceptions from negative perceptions only to reduce bias in the question.

January 2025 Instrument

School Demographics | Introduction
- **SchType** was added to this section as it relates to college and career readiness and provides important school context for these questions.

College & Career Readiness
- Minimal changes were made to questions in this section, including removal of "Don't know" options for **AdvC1a** and **AdvC1b**.

Sources of Information
- Based on cognitive testing feedback, an answer option of "Other schools or districts" was added to **SOI1a-b**.
- The definition of research evidence was updated to make shorter and more clear to respondents in **SOI2**.

Family Engagement

- **ParEng5** was updated and expanded to reflect the results of open-ended response analyses, from an item that was fielded during the August 2024 SPP collection. **ParEng10** was added, also coming from that same open-ended item.
- **ParEng1** was removed to avoid redundancy with **ParEng5**.
- Answer options for **ParEng9** were updated to reflect cognitive testing feedback, including the addition of "Language barriers between families and your school."

February 2025 Instrument

Attendance
- Questions related to attendance and chronic absenteeism were moved to the end of the survey.

Concerns
- Minimal changes were made to this section (i.e. correction of date to 2024-25 school year).

State Assessment Perceptions
- Based on feedback gathered during the release of this content area last year, **SA5** was added to this section to collect information on tangible challenges related to state-mandated testing.

Climate Impacts on Educational Operations
- **CI5** was updated based on feedback from cognitive testing with language to clarify that we are interested in a standalone course, not integration of environmental science into other courses.
- **CI6b** was removed as it was determined this would be very difficult for principals to answer.
- **CI11b** was expanded to be a severe event specific question for each severe event answered with "Yes" to **CI11a** (**CI11heat, CI11cold, CI11storm, CI11aq**). This change was made to capture more useful information about the disruptions in learning from severe events.