

JUSTIFICATION FOR NONMATERIAL/NONSUBSTANTIVE CHANGE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
National Summer Teacher Institute (NSTI) and Master Teacher of Invention and
Intellectual Property Education Program (MTIP)
OMB CONTROL NUMBER 0651-0077
2025

Background

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) conducts the National Summer Teacher Institute (NSTI) on Innovation, STEM, and Intellectual Property. This program, which focuses on innovation, STEM, entrepreneurship, and intellectual property, is offered in support of the USPTO's ongoing education and outreach programming and Department of Commerce's innovation initiatives. The Institute, launched in 2014, is part of the USPTO's ongoing efforts to foster innovation, competitiveness and economic growth, domestically and abroad, by providing relevant intellectual property, innovation, and invention education resources to school administrators, teachers, students, and parents.

In 2023, USPTO introduced the Master Teacher of Invention and Intellectual Property Education Program (MTIP) to align and support the USPTO's mission to foster innovation, competitiveness, domestic and international economic growth, and deliver invention and intellectual property (IP) training to educators across the nation. The MTIP builds a network of qualified NSTI participants and intellectual property educators and enables them to become teacher-leaders. These teacher-leaders in turn provide professional development to U.S. educators who seek to learn more about invention and IP education. MTIP teacher-leaders share the USPTO resources and practical classroom experience they learned through their participation in the NSTI.

The USPTO facilitates the enhancement of internal and external relations, including stakeholder partnerships and collaborations, and supports government-wide efforts to promote STEM, invention, innovation, and entrepreneurship initiatives. In order to obtain a broad range of participants for the NSTI and MTIP, the USPTO must collect data related to courses taught and teaching experience.

Both NSTI and MTIP combine experiential training tools, practices, and project-based learning models to support elementary, middle, and high school teachers in incorporating concepts of making, inventing, entrepreneurship, and innovation into instructional practice. Recent focuses include the creation and protection of intellectual property, including inventions, knowledge discovery, creative ideas, and expressions of the human mind that may have commercial value and are protectable under patent, trademark, copyright, or trade secret laws in the U.S. The USPTO models its engagement with stakeholders as both a teaching and learning platform to help inspire and motivate student achievement in science, technology, engineering, mathematics,

invention, innovation, entrepreneurship and future prospects for careers in intellectual property.

Summary of Changes

The USPTO is expanding the scope of the NSTI to include postsecondary educators (e.g. those at community colleges, 4-year universities, trade and technical schools, as well as graduate and post-graduate level educators). This expansion aims to equip postsecondary educators with the knowledge and tools to integrate intellectual property education into their curricula, fostering a deeper understanding of innovation and commercialization among students at all levels. By engaging a broader range of educators, the USPTO seeks to strengthen the innovation pipeline, support workforce development, and enhance the nation's competitive edge in the global economy. The USPTO is updating the PTO/NSTI/001 (NSTI Application) and PTO/NSTI/002 (NSTI Participant Survey) to include an option to indicate postsecondary education experience.

The burden estimates in the information collection are already sufficiently large enough to account for the addition of postsecondary educators. As a result, the burden estimates in this information collection will not change.

Changes in Burden

This request will not result in any changes to the burdens associated with this information collection 0651-0077.

The total burden for 0651-0077 remains as follows:

- 27,400 respondents (unchanged)
- 5,998 burden hours (unchanged)
- \$0 non-hourly cost (unchanged)