

Talent Search Annual Performance Report (1840-0826)
Response to Public Comment Following 60-Day Review Period

On June 15, 2026, the Department of Education (Department) published a Notice of Proposed Information Collection Request (Notice) in the Federal Register inviting comments by August 14, 2026, on the proposed annual performance report (APR) for the Talent Search (TS) program.

One respondent submitted comments. The commenter named Anonymous Anonymous asks four questions:

The first question Anonymous Anonymous (AA) asks is: “Is this information collection necessary for the Department to function properly?” AA answers this question immediately after asking the question by writing “Undeniably yes.” AA expounds on this answer in a subsequent paragraph. We add to AA’s affirmation about the necessity of this information collection by noting that the information that is collected is specifically tailored to address requirements from 34 CFR 75.720; 20 USC §1070a–11; and 20 U.S. Code § 1070a-18. Additionally, this data collection allows the Department to perform Substantial Progress assessments in order to make continuation awards (see 34 CFR§ 75.253 (b)); to report Government Performance and Results Act metrics to the Office of Management and Budget (31 U.S. Code § 1122 (Transparency of programs, priority goals and results)); to support the grant recipient audit process; to allow for grantee risk assessment (see 2 CFR 200.206 (b) (2) (3)); and to support program officers in their capacity to monitor grant projects.

AA next asks: “Will the collected data be processed and utilized in a timely manner?” Grant projects have a one-month to five-week time span to submit their performance data. In a typical year, 100% of Talent Search projects who are required to submit their APR are able to submit their APR within this time frame. These collections occur with enough time for the Department to use the data to meet the Department’s mandated requirements (such as performing Substantial Progress assessments, awarding projects Prior Experience Points, and preparing Government Performance and Results Act Reports).

AA further asks: “Is the Department’s estimate of the “reporting burden” accurate? The Department’s estimate of reporting burden is based on the estimates first made for the Talent Search Annual Performance Report collection re-design circa 2012 in order to conform to programmatic amendments made within the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008. The collection has remained substantially similar since that redesign, although from time to time, the Department has made small adjustments and minor modifications. Each small adjustment and/or minor modification has precipitated a new information collection approval process including a review of the reporting burden. Each approval cycle, small adjustments are made to the calculation of the reporting burden commensurate with the adjustments made to the collection

instrument. The calculation of the reporting burden for this approval cycle follows the same procedures as the calculations in the past cycles which have been consistently approved.

Finally, AA asks: “How can the Department improve the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected?” To this question AA recommends “moderniz[ing] the TRIO Web Portal.” The Department takes this recommendation seriously and is investigating ways to address this request. However, this recommendation is focused on the contract which supports the IT system which collects the data, but not on the questionnaire that serves as the basis for the information collection. The Information Collection Request approval process is focused on the questionnaire itself. With a focus on the questionnaire itself, we note that one important aspect of the quality, utility and clarity of the information being collected is that questions are asked consistently from year to year. In this way (1) the Department can make reliable year-to-year data comparisons (utility), and (2) the community of Talent Search project directors can rely on existing experience in completing the APR to be able to anticipate how to complete the questionnaire (clarity).