Children with Disabilities Enrolled in Private Schools by Their Parents; State Plan for High Cost Fund; Free and Low-Cost Legal Services; and Confidentiality Pledge Prior to the Commencement of Mediation.

Annual reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to approximately 6 hours for 79,194 respondents (LEAs and State agencies). The total annual reporting and recordkeeping burden for information collection 1820–0600 for all States and LEAs is 472,651 hours.

Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. The objective of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism by relying on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

In accordance with this order, we intend this document to provide early notification of the Department’s specific plans and actions for this program.

Assessment of Educational Impact

In the NPRM published in the Federal Register on June 21, 2005, we requested comments on whether the proposed regulations would require transmission of information that any other agency or authority of the United States gathers or makes available.

Based on the response to the NPRM and on our own review, we have determined that these final regulations do not require transmission of information that any other agency or authority of the United States gathers or makes available.

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List of Subjects

34 CFR Part 300

Administrative practice and procedure, Education of individuals with disabilities, Elementary and secondary education, Equal educational opportunity, Grant programs' education, Privacy, Private schools, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

34 CFR Part 301

Education of individuals with disabilities, Elementary and secondary education, Equal educational opportunity, Grant programs—education, Infants and children, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: July 31, 2006.

Margaret Spellings,
Secretary of Education.

For the reasons discussed in this preamble, and under the authority of 20 U.S.C. 1221e(6) and 1406, the Secretary amends title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

1. Part 300 is revised to read as follows:

PART 300—ASSISTANCE TO STATES FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

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Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1221e–3, 1406, 1411–1419, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General
Purposes and Applicability
§ 300.1 Purposes.
The purposes of this part are—
(a) To ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living;
(b) To ensure that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are protected;
(c) To assist States, localities, educational service agencies, and Federal agencies to provide for the education of all children with disabilities; and
(d) To assess and ensure the effectiveness of efforts to educate children with disabilities.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1400(d))

§ 300.2 Applicability of this part to State and local agencies.
(a) States. This part applies to each State that receives payments under Part B of the Act, as defined in §300.4.
(b) Public agencies within the State. The provisions of this part—
(1) Apply to all political subdivisions of the State that are involved in the education of children with disabilities, including:
   (i) The State educational agency (SEA).
   (ii) Local educational agencies (LEAs), educational service agencies (ESAs), and public charter schools that are not otherwise included as LEAs or ESAs and are not a school of an LEA or ESA.
   (iii) Other State agencies and schools (such as Departments of Mental Health and Welfare and State schools for children with deafness or children with blindness).
   (iv) State and local juvenile and adult correctional facilities; and
   (2) Are binding on each public agency in the State that provides special education and related services to children with disabilities, regardless of whether that agency is receiving funds under Part B of the Act.
   (c) Private schools and facilities. Each public agency in the State is responsible for ensuring that the rights and protections under Part B of the Act are given to children with disabilities—
      (1) Referred to or placed in private schools and facilities by that public agency; or
      (2) Placed in private schools by their parents under the provisions of §300.148.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1412)

Definitions Used in This Part
§ 300.4 Act.
Act means the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as amended.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1400(a))