MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006-8501

DATE : June 29, 2006

TO : Rachel Potter
Desk Officer
Office of Management and Budget

FROM : David Bergeron
Director
Policy and Budget Development Staff

SUBJECT : Request for emergency clearance of the Interim Final Regulations for the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant) Programs

This memorandum requests emergency clearance of the Interim Final Regulations for the ACG and National SMART Grant Programs. In the Higher Education Reduction Act of 2005, enacted on February 8, 2006, Congress appropriated $790 million for the Department to use in awarding ACG and National SMART Grants to students for the 2006-2007 award year, which begins on July 1, 2006. The Department therefore had a very short, less-than five-month window to issue regulations, plan the administration of these programs, and begin the process of making awards for the 2006-2007 award year. Even on an extremely expedited timeline, the Department could not feasibly conduct a regular information clearance on these program regulations.

Based upon this information, and in order to make timely grant awards for the 2006-2007 award year, we are requesting emergency clearance of the Interim Final Regulations for the ACG and National SMART Grant Programs.

Attachments:
OMB Form 83-I Paperwork Reduction Act Submission
Supporting Statement for Paperwork Reduction Act Submission