

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) Appeals

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (hereafter “USPTO” or “Agency”), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, invites comments on the extension and revision of an existing information collection: 0651–0063 (Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) Appeals). The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comments preceding submission of the information collection to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: To ensure consideration, you must submit comments regarding this information collection on or before June 22, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by any of the following methods. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

- *Email:* InformationCollection@uspto.gov. Include “0651–0063 comment” in the subject line of the message.
- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov/>.
- *Mail:* Justin Isaac, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450.
- *Telephone:* Stacey White, 571–272–9797.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to Stacey White at:

Patent Trial and Appeal Board, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450; 571–272–9797; or *Stacey.White@uspto.gov* with “0651–0063 comment” in the subject line. Additional information about this information collection is also available at <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/> under “Information Collection Review.”

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Patent Trial and Appeal Board (hereafter “PTAB” or Board”) is established by statute under 35 U.S.C. 6. This statute directs, in relevant part, that PTAB shall “on written appeal of an applicant, review adverse decisions of examiners upon applications for patents pursuant to section 134(a).” PTAB has the authority, under 35 U.S.C. 134 and 306 to decide appeals in applications and *ex parte* reexamination proceedings, and under pre-AIA sections of the Patent Act, *i.e.*, 35 U.S.C. 134, 135, and 315, to decide appeals in *inter partes* reexamination proceedings and interferences. In addition, 35 U.S.C. 6 establishes the membership of PTAB as the Director, the Deputy Director, the Commissioner for Patents, the Commissioner for Trademarks, and the Administrative Patent Judges. Appeals and interference are decided by a merits panel of at least three members of the Board.

The Board’s responsibilities under the statute include the review of *ex parte* appeals from adverse decisions of examiners in those situations where a written appeal is taken by a dissatisfied applicant or patent owner. In *inter partes* reexamination appeals, PTAB reviews an examiner’s decision adverse to a patent owner or a third-party requester. PTAB’s opinions and decisions for publicly available files are published on the USPTO website.¹ The Board also conducts interference proceedings.

The items associated with this information collection include appeals in applications and *ex parte* reexamination proceedings, and appeals

in *inter partes* reexamination proceedings and interference proceedings that are governed by the regulations in 37 CFR 41. Failure to comply with the appropriate regulations may result in dismissal of the appeal or denial of entry of the submission.

II. Method of Collection

Items in this information collection may be submitted as electronic submissions. Applicants may also submit the information in paper form by mail, fax, or hand delivery.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0651–0063.

Forms: (AIA = America Invents Act; SB = Specimen Book).

- PTO/AIA/31: (Notice of Appeal from the Examiner to the Patent Trial and Appeal Board).
- PTO/SB/31: (Notice of Appeal from the Examiner to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences).
- PTO/AIA/32: (Request for Oral Hearing before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board).
- PTO/SB/32: (Request for Oral Hearing before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board).

Type of Review: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Affected Public: Private Sector.

Respondent’s Obligation: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

Frequency: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 16,905 respondents.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 31,494 responses.

Estimated Time per Response: The USPTO estimates that the responses in this information collection will take the public approximately 30 minutes (0.50 hours) to 120 hours to complete. This includes the time to gather the necessary information, create the document, and submit the completed item(s) to the USPTO.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours: 337,662 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Hourly Cost Burden: \$150,934,914.

TABLE 1—TOTAL REPORTING BURDEN HOURS AND HOURLY COSTS TO PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONDENTS

Item No.	Item	Estimated annual respondents	Responses per respondent	Estimated annual responses	Estimated time for response (hours)	Estimated burden (hour/year)	Rate ² (\$/hour)	Estimated annual respondent cost burden
		(a)	(b)	(a) × (b) = (c)	(d)	(c) × (d) = (e)	(f)	(e) × (f) = (g)
1	Notice of Appeal	16,562	1	16,562	0.50 (30 minutes)	8,281	\$447	\$3,701,607
2	Appeal Brief	(*)	1	9,038	32	289,216	447	129,279,552

¹ <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/ptab/decisions>.
² 2023 Report of the Economic Survey, published by the Committee on Economics of Legal Practice

of the American Intellectual Property Law Association, pg. F–41. The USPTO uses the average billing rate for intellectual property work in all

firms, which is \$447 per hour (<https://www.aipla.org/home/news-publications/economic-survey>).

TABLE 1—TOTAL REPORTING BURDEN HOURS AND HOURLY COSTS TO PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONDENTS—Continued

Item No.	Item	Estimated annual respondents (a)	Responses per respondent (b)	Estimated annual responses (a) × (b) = (c)	Estimated time for response (hours) (d)	Estimated burden (hour/year) (c) × (d) = (e)	Rate ² (\$/hour) (f)	Estimated annual respondent cost burden (e) × (f) = (g)
3	Amendment to Cancel Claims	(*)	1	112	2	224	447	100,128
4	Reply Brief	(*)	1	4,795	5	23,975	447	10,716,825
5	Petitions to the Chief Administrative Patent Judge Under 37 CFR § 41.3.	(*)	1	35	4	140	447	62,580
6	Request for Oral Hearing	(*)	1	531	0.50 (30 minutes)	266	447	118,902
7	Request for Rehearing Before the PTAB.	304	1	304	5	1,520	447	679,440
8	Statements, Motions, Oppositions, and Replies in Preliminary and Priority Phases of an Interference.	39	3	117	120	14,040	447	6,275,880
Totals		16,905		31,494		337,662		150,934,914

* These lines (2–6) are the same filers as the respondents in Item 1. As these are subsets of Item 1, they are not included in the total for this column.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Non-hourly Cost Burden: \$24,085,946. There are no capital start-up costs, maintenance costs, or recordkeeping

costs associated with this information collection. However, the USPTO estimates that the total annual non-hour cost burden for this information

collection, in the form of filing fees and postage, is \$24,085,946.

Filing Fees

The fees are listed in Table 2 below.

TABLE 2—FILING FEES

Item No.	Fee code	Item	Estimated annual responses (a)	Fee (\$) (b)	Total cost (\$) (a) × (b) = (c)
1	1401	Notice of appeal (undiscounted)	12,176	\$905	\$11,019,280
1	2401	Notice of appeal (small)	3,978	362	1,440,036
1	3401	Notice of appeal (micro)	408	181	73,848
2	1404	Filing a brief in support of an appeal in an <i>inter partes</i> reexamination proceeding (undiscounted).	1	2,260	2,260
2	2404	Filing a brief in support of an appeal in an <i>inter partes</i> reexamination proceeding (small).	1	904	904
2	3404	Filing a brief in support of an appeal in an <i>inter partes</i> reexamination proceeding (micro).	1	452	452
4	1413	Forwarding an Appeal in an Application or <i>Ex Parte</i> Reexamination Proceeding to the Board (undiscounted).	3,908	2,535	9,906,780
4	2413	Forwarding an Appeal in an Application or <i>Ex Parte</i> Reexamination Proceeding to the Board (small).	920	1,014	932,880
4	3413	Forwarding an Appeal in an Application or <i>Ex Parte</i> Reexamination Proceeding to the Board (micro).	97	507	49,179
5	1405/2405/3405	Petitions to the Chief Administrative Patent Judge under 37 CFR § 41.3 (undiscounted).	35	452	15,820
7	1403	Request for oral hearing (undiscounted)	382	1,460	557,720
7	2403	Request for oral hearing (small)	135	584	78,840
7	3403	Request for oral hearing (micro)	14	292	4,088
Totals			22,056		24,082,087

Postage Costs

The briefs, petitions, amendments, and requests may be submitted by mail through the United States Postal Service. The USPTO estimates that 1% of the 31,494 items in this information collection will be submitted by postal mail, resulting in 315 mailed items. The USPTO estimates that the average postage cost for a mailed submission, using a Priority Mail legal flat-rate envelope, will be \$12.25. Therefore, the USPTO estimates the total mailing costs for this information collection is \$3,859.

IV. Request for Comments

The USPTO is soliciting public comments to:

(a) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) Evaluate the accuracy of the Agency’s estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(c) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(d) Minimize the burden of the collection of information for those who intend to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

All comments submitted in response to this notice are a matter of public

record. The USPTO will include or summarize each comment in the request to OMB to approve this information collection. Before including an address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information (PII) in a comment, be advised that the entire comment—including PII—may be made publicly available at any time. While one may request in a comment to withhold PII from public view, the USPTO cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

Justin Isaac,

Information Collections Officer, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2026-07574 Filed 4-17-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice Announcing Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program—Grants to State Entities Competition

AGENCY: Department of Education (ED), Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor (DOL).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Employment and Training Administration at the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), is soliciting applications in support of the administration of the Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP)—Grants to State Entities Program on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education (ED). Assistance Listing Number (ALN) 84.282A.

DATES: Complete proposals must be submitted electronically through the *Grants.gov* “APPLY” function by 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern time, June 18, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sareeta Schmitt. Telephone: (202) 987-1758. Email: *SE_Compensation@ed.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Through the CSP—State Entity grants program, ED awards grants on a competitive basis to State entities that, in turn, award subgrants to eligible applicants for the purpose of opening new charter schools and replicating and expanding high-quality charter schools. The FY 2026 competition includes an absolute priority, seven competitive preference priorities, selection criteria, and requirements. The absolute priority is: Best Practices for Charter School Authorizers. The competitive preference priorities are: At Least One Authorized

Public Chartering Agency Other than a Local Educational Agency, or an Appeals Process; Equitable Financing; Best Practices to Improve Struggling Schools and Local Educational Agencies (LEAs); Charter School Facilities; Serving At-Risk Students; Returning Education to the States; and Expanding Education Choice.

To Apply: The complete funding opportunity announcement and all information needed to apply, including the priority and program requirements, are available on ED’s website at <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/grants-birth-grade-12/charter-school-programs/expanding-opportunities-through-quality-charter-schools-program-csp-grants-state-entities>, on DOL’s website at www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/grants/apply/find-opportunities, and on *Grants.gov* at <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/361920>. The application notice and instructions on *Grants.gov* is the official document governing the grant competition.

Eligible Applicants: State entities in States with a specific State statute authorizing the granting of charters to schools are eligible to apply. “State entity” means—(a) A State educational agency; (b) A State charter school board; (c) A Governor of a State; or (d) A charter school support organization.

Program Authority: Title IV, part C of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. 7221–7221j).

Accessible Format: On request to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format.

Note: Henry Maklakiewicz signs this notice in furtherance of DOL’s role in providing support to ED.

Kirsten Baesler,

Assistant Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education.

In concurrence.

Henry Maklakiewicz,

Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Department of Labor.

[FR Doc. 2026-07671 Filed 4-17-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED-2026-SCC-1453]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Grant Application Form for Project Objectives and Performance Measures Information

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary (OS), Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Department is proposing an extension without change of a currently approved information collection request (ICR).

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before June 22, 2026.

ADDRESSES: To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching the Docket ID number ED-2026-SCC-1453. Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. If the *regulations.gov* site is not available to the public for any reason, the Department will temporarily accept comments at ICDocketMgr@ed.gov. Please include the docket ID number and the title of the information collection request when requesting documents or submitting comments. Please note that comments submitted after the comment period will not be accepted. Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the Grant Policy Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, LBJ, Room 4C227, Washington, DC 20202.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Kelly Terpak, 202-205-5231.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public’s reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department’s information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. The Department is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner;