zone is prohibited unless authorized by the COTP Lake Michigan or a designated on-scene representative. Additionally, all vessels must obtain permission from the COTP Lake Michigan or designated representative to enter, move within, or exit a safety zone when the safety zone is enforced. Vessels and persons granted permission to enter the safety zone must obey all lawful orders or directions of the COTP Lake Michigan designated representative. Upon being hailed by the Coast Guard by siren, radio, flashing light or other means, the operator of a vessel must proceed as directed.

In addition to this notification of enforcement in the **Federal Register**, the Coast Guard will provide the maritime community with notification of this enforcement period via Broadcast Notice to Mariners. The COTP Lake Michigan may be reached by contacting the Coast Guard Sector Lake Michigan Command Center at (833) 900–2247. An on-scene designated representative may be reached via VHF–FM Channel 16.

R.N. Macon,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port, Lake Michigan.

[FR Doc. 2026–15025 Filed 7–23–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110–04–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

34 CFR Part 75

[ED–2026–OCTAE–1585]

Final Waivers and Extensions of the Project Periods With Funding for the Native American Career and Technical Education Program (NACTEP)

AGENCY: Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE), Department of Education (Department).

ACTION: Final waiver and extension of project periods with funding.

SUMMARY: The Secretary waives the requirements in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations that generally prohibit project periods exceeding five years and project period extensions involving the obligation of additional Federal funds. The waiver and extension enables 36 Native American Career and Technical Education Program (NACTEP) projects under Assistance Listing Number (ALN) 84.101A to receive funding for an additional period, not beyond September 30, 2027.

DATES: This waiver and extension of the project period is effective July 24, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Adam Flynn, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 245–7405. Email: *Adam.Flynn-Tabloff@ed.gov.*

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and wish to access telecommunications relay services, please dial 7–1–1.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 7, 2026, the Department published in the **Federal Register** (91 FR 24763) a proposal to waive the requirements in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations that generally prohibit project periods exceeding five years and extend the project periods with funding to enable 36 NACTEP projects under Assistance Listing Number (ALN) 84.101A, currently in their fifth year, to receive funding for an additional period, not beyond September 30, 2027.

There are no differences between the notice of proposed waiver and extension of the project period with funding and this notice of final waiver and extension of the project period with funding, as discussed in the *Analysis of Comments and Changes* section of this document.

Public Comment

In response to the Department's invitation in the notice of proposed waiver and extension of the project period with funding, 15 parties submitted 15 comments.

Generally, the Department does not address technical and other minor changes or suggested changes the law does not authorize the Department to make under the applicable statutory authority. In addition, the Department does not address general comments that raised concerns not directly related to the proposed waiver and extension of the project periods with funding.

Analysis of Comments and Changes

An analysis of the comments follows.

Comment: Fourteen commenters submitted comments in support of the extension of the project periods with funding, stating the extension is necessary for the continuity of career and technical education (CTE) services to existing NACTEP program participants. One of the 14 commenters cited that extending the project period would preclude programs from competing for available funds, limiting opportunities to expand services to new students; however, the commenter advocated that current recipients should receive an additional year of services.

Discussion: We appreciate the commenters' support for the waiver and extension and agree that funding this extension will continue to provide CTE services to existing participants.

Change: None.

Comment: One commenter did not support a waiver and extension, expressing concern that not having a new competition would lead to program stagnation.

Discussion: The Department appreciates the commenter's feedback on the NACTEP program. As discussed in the proposed waiver and extension, the Department intends to hold a new competition in FY 2027. The Department believes the waivers and extensions will not cause stagnation; on the contrary, they are important to ensure continuity of program services.

Change: None.

Final Waiver and Extension

The Department believes that it is in the public interest to extend the NACTEP program in lieu of running a new competition in FY 2026.

Extending the project end dates of the 36 NACTEP grants for one year allows for efficient continuity of CTE services for current recipients. Pending FY 2027 appropriations, there may be new competitions for all eligible applicants.

For these reasons, the Department waives the requirements in 34 CFR 75.250, which prohibit project periods exceeding five years, as well as the requirements in 34 CFR 75.261(a) and (b)(2), which allow the extension of a project period only if the extension does not involve the obligation of additional Federal funds. These waivers allow the Department to consider FY 2026 continuation awards to the 36 NACTEP projects (ALN 84.101A) based on their Year 5 planned amount. It is estimated that each grantee's continuation award will be at the amounts listed within the Proposed Waivers and Extensions as published in the **Federal Register** (91 FR 24763), pending review and discussion of carryover.

Any activities to be carried out during the year of these continuation awards have to be consistent with, or a logical extension of, the scope, goals, and objectives of the grantees' applications as approved in the FY 2021 NACTEP competition. The FY 2021 NACTEP Notices Inviting Applications continue to govern each grantee's project during the extension. The requirements for continuation awards are set forth in 34 CFR 75.253.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

The Secretary certifies that the waivers and extensions of the project periods with funding would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The extension of existing project periods imposes minimal compliance costs, and the activities required to support the additional year of funding would not impose additional regulatory burdens or require unnecessary Federal supervision. The only entities that are affected by the waiver and extension of the project period are the 36 ALN 84.101A grantees.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

The final waiver and extension of the project period with funding do not contain any information collection requirements.

Intergovernmental Review

This action is not subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79.

Accessible Format: On request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc, or other accessible format.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. You may access the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations at *www.govinfo.gov.* At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF, you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at *www.federalregister.gov.* Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1221e–3 and 3474.

Casey Sacks,

Acting Assistant Secretary for the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

34 CFR Part 100

RIN1870–AA20

Rescinding Portions of the Department of Education Title VI Regulations To Align With the Statutory Text and Conform to Executive Order 14281

AGENCY: Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Education amends the regulations implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (''Title VI'') to eliminate disparate-impact liability. These amendments bring the U.S. Department of Education's (Department's) regulations in line with Title VI's original public meaning, avoid constitutional concerns, implement changes that are consistent with Executive Order 14281, ''Restoring Equality of Opportunity and Meritocracy,'' reflect the Department's independent policy determinations, reduce confusion and uncertainty, lower compliance costs for recipients of Federal financial assistance, and serve the public interest. After reviewing the relevant issues, weighing the various factors, and analyzing the pertinent considerations, the Department concludes that these reasons, separately and cumulatively, support eliminating disparate-impact liability from the Department's Title VI regulations.

DATES: This final rule is effective on July 24, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maria Litsakis, Acting Director, Program Legal Group, Office for Civil Rights, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: 800–421–3481. Email: *Maria.Litsakis@ed.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Executive Summary

The Department is rescinding portions of its regulations promulgated pursuant to Title VI, 42 U.S.C. 2000d–1, to more closely align the regulations with Title VI's prohibition on intentionally discriminatory conduct. There are serious statutory and constitutional concerns with the legality of the provisions of the Department's Title VI regulations that go beyond prohibiting intentional discrimination to additionally prohibit conduct giving rise to unintentional disparate impacts. This rule accordingly rescinds those portions of the regulations that impose disparate-impact liability, which are in considerable tension with the statute and the Constitution, cause confusion and uncertainty, increase compliance costs for recipients of Federal financial assistance, and do not serve the public interest.

The rule's revisions are also consistent with Executive Order (E.O.) 14281, *Restoring Equality of Opportunity and Meritocracy,* 90 FR 17537 (Apr. 28, 2025). That Order stated that ''[i]t is the policy of the United States to eliminate the use of disparate-impact liability in all contexts to the maximum degree possible to avoid violating the Constitution, Federal civil rights laws, and basic American ideals.'' *Id.* at 17537. The E.O. directed the Attorney General to, among other things, review Title VI regulations and ''initiate appropriate action to repeal or amend'' these regulations ''to the extent they contemplate disparate-impact liability.'' *Id.* at 17538. Section 5 of the E.O. specifically directs, through the Attorney General's leadership and coordination authority, the repeal or amendment of Title VI regulations ''for all agencies to the extent they contemplate disparate-impact liability,'' and in a manner consistent with applicable law. *Id.* Though the Department would take this action independently of E.O. 14281, that Order supports this action.

The modifications in this rule will clarify for recipients of Federal financial assistance from the Department that the Department's Title VI regulations prohibit intentional discrimination and do not prohibit conduct or activities that have an unintentional disparate impact, and that accordingly, the Department will not pursue Title VI disparate-impact liability against its Federal funding recipients. This rule also removes from the Department's regulations various provisions that have no statutory justification.

II. Discussion

A. Statutory History of Title VI

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, provides: ''No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.'' 42 U.S.C. 2000d. Title VI also directs Federal departments and agencies that extend Federal financial assistance, including the Department of Education, to ''effectuate the provisions of'' Title VI ''by issuing rules, regulations, or orders of general applicability.'' *Id.* at 2000d–1. The section of Title VI that sets forth the