

the dates of the covered services provided for all covered services submitted for reimbursement.

- DHA Form 459 must be completed and signed by the covered member and their Commander (or designee).
- Incomplete forms or forms submitted more than 120 days after the covered services were rendered to the member will be denied. Participating covered members will receive reimbursement upon review and processing of required invoices and documentation.

(iv) Reimbursement Limitations

Reimbursement is limited to \$500 per year for sperm cryopreservation services and \$10,000 per year for oocyte cryopreservation services, as established in statute. For purposes of the per year cap on reimbursement, a one-year period will be individualized for each covered member and measured from the first date on which reimbursable covered services are rendered. The one-year period will include any additional requests for reimbursement of costs incurred by the covered member within the 365-day window. Any claims for reimbursement for covered services provided in subsequent years will be processed in a similar manner. As this is a reimbursement demonstration, clear rules are required so that covered members have a precise understanding of what will be reimbursable and how the annual caps will be applied to their claims.

A covered member may participate more than once during the three year program duration, so long as they meet the eligibility criteria (*i.e.*, have, or anticipate having, new orders (including deployment orders) for duty for which the covered member may receive hazardous duty pay; or who will, under orders, be geographically separated from a spouse, domestic partner, or dating partner for a period of not less than 180 days, including sea duty) and remain under annual coverage limitations.

Services dated prior to program initiation or after program termination are not eligible for reimbursement. This includes new costs for storage or shipment incurred after termination of the program.

(v) Program Considerations

Participants are required to attest to having an advanced medical directive specifying disposition of gametes upon death. Covered members should consult their local legal assistance office for assistance in completing an advanced medical directive.

(vi) Program Evaluation

The demonstration will be evaluated using the following measures: participation rates, including by covered Armed Force and deployment status; total cost and cost per participant; administrative burden and claims processing outcomes; covered member experience and satisfaction; and impact on perceived readiness and retention indicators.

III. Demonstration Limitations

- The program covers only the categories of services listed, also known as “covered services”. A list of possible services covered is provided on the cryopreservation demonstration website, available at <https://dha.mil/CryopreservationDemo>; anything not included on this list will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. No other services—such as embryo creation, in-vitro fertilization, or other elective procedures—are eligible for reimbursement.

- The Department is not a party to any agreement between a covered member and a private medical or storage provider and assumes no liability related to gamete handling or storage conditions. Decisions regarding continued storage, disposition, or later use of gametes are solely the responsibility of the covered member and outside the scope of the program.

- All covered services must be rendered prior to or on the final date of the demonstration program; requests for reimbursement will be accepted up to 30 days thereafter. Any costs, including storage, incurred after the end of this program are not eligible for reimbursement.

- Reimbursement is limited to services provided to eligible covered members.

- Participating covered members must be on active duty in one of the covered Armed Forces (*i.e.*, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Space Force), during the provision of covered services and at the point of reimbursement.

- Decisions regarding continued storage following the end of the demonstration program, as well as later use and disposition of gametes, are solely a responsibility of the covered member, and outside the scope of this program.

IV. Demonstration Duration

This demonstration project will operate for three years, beginning on the effective date specified above. The Department may extend or modify the demonstration based on evaluation results or statutory requirements.

Dated: August 11, 2026.

Stephanie J. Bost,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2026–16533 Filed 8–12–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6001–FR–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DOD–2026–OS–0826]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (OUSD(P&R)), Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: 30-Day information collection notice.

SUMMARY: The DoD (referred to herein as “the Department”, “Department of War” or “DoW”) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by September 14, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Reginald Lucas, (571) 372–7574, whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title; Associated Form; and OMB Number: “Data for Payment of Retired Pay” DD Form 2656, “Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) Election Certificate” DD Form 2656–5, “Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) Election Change Certificate” DD Form 2656–6, “Verification for Survivor Annuity” DD Form 2656–7, “Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP)—Automatic Coverage Fact Sheet” DD Form 2656–8, “Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Former Spouse Request for Deemed Election” DD Form 2656–10; OMB Control Number 0704–0569.

Type of Request: Revision.

Number of Respondents: 10,950.
Responses per Respondent: 1.
Annual Responses: 10,950.
Average Burden per Response: 15 minutes.

Annual Burden Hours: 27,738.

Needs and Uses: This information collection requirement is necessary for the Department of Defense to collect information regarding a uniformed service member's military retired pay and their election to participate in and designate beneficiaries under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP or RCSBP), as well as elections of the eligible family member(s) or Insurable Interest Beneficiary to receive coverage under SBP or RCSBP.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: As required.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

DoD Clearance Officer: Mr. Reginald Lucas.

Dated: August 11, 2026.

Stephanie J. Bost,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2026-16529 Filed 8-12-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6001-FR-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED-2026-SCC-2674]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; National Special Education Spending Study

AGENCY: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Institute of Education Sciences (IES), Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Department is proposing a new information collection request (ICR).

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before October 13, 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-2674. 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](http://www.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 National Center for Education Evaluation, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, LBJ, Room 5C133, Washington, DC 20202-1200.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Matt Soldner, (202) 453-7441.

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; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

Title of Collection: National Special Education Spending Study.

OMB Control Number: 1850-1000.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 14,956.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 15,406.

Abstract: The Institute of Education Sciences (IES), within the U.S.

Department of Education (ED), requests clearance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for data collection activities for the National Study of Special Education Spending—Full Study (NSES). The study will produce national estimates of spending on special education services for students with disabilities (SWDs), including expenditures made by states, districts, and schools, and provide policymakers and education leaders with critical information on the factors that influence special education spending, what this spending pays for, and to what extent federal appropriations from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA) cover special education spending.

IES previously received OMB approval for the study's recruitment and sampling activities (OMB #1850-1000). That approval supported developing a nationally representative sample of local education agencies (LEAs) and schools; contacting state education agencies (SEAs) and LEAs to secure their participation; and collecting the directory and enrollment data needed to sample students. IES contracted with the American Institutes for Research® (AIR®) and its partner organizations—the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago (NORC) and Allovue, a PowerSchool company (Allovue)—for the study's design, pilot study, and initial recruitment activities for the full study. IES will contract with an organization to carry out the full study's data collection.

This request covers the full study's data collection activities, including surveys of SEA staff, LEA administrators, and school-based personnel, as well as collecting financial data from LEAs. These data collection activities will take place during the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years and are designed to produce nationally representative estimates of special education spending overall and by student disability category, LEA and student characteristics, and geographic context. All collection activities support the NSES. District-level financial data files may also support future intramural or extramural research on district-level spending and use of funds.

The data collection plan and survey instruments were developed and refined through an OMB-approved pilot study (OMB #1850-0952 v.10, v.12), which tested recruitment strategies, survey content, and data collection procedures. Pilot study findings informed revisions to the study design, including improvements to data collection