

§ 9004. Performance of duties**(a) Grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements****(1) In general**

In carrying out the Commissioner's duties under this chapter, the Commissioner may award grants, and enter into contracts and cooperative agreements.

(2) Duration

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements under this section may be awarded, on a competitive basis, for a period of not more than five years, and may be renewed at the discretion of the Commissioner for an additional period of not more than five years.

(b) Gathering information**(1) Sampling**

The Commissioner may use the statistical method known as sampling to carry out the purpose of this chapter.

(2) Source of information

The Commissioner may, as the Commissioner considers appropriate, use information collected—

(A) from States, local educational agencies, public and private schools, preschools, institutions of higher education, libraries, administrators, teachers, students, the general public, and such other individuals, organizations, agencies, and institutions as the Commissioner may consider appropriate; and

(B) by other offices within the Department and by other Federal departments, agencies, and instrumentalities.

(3) Collection

The Commissioner may—

(A) enter into interagency agreements for the collection of statistics;

(B) arrange with any agency, organization, or institution for the collection of statistics; and

(C) assign employees of the Center to any such agency, organization, or institution to assist in such collection.

(4) Technical assistance and coordination

In order to maximize the effectiveness of Federal efforts to serve the educational needs of children and youth, the Commissioner shall—

(A) provide technical assistance to Department offices that gather data for statistical purposes; and

(B) coordinate closely with other Department offices in the collection of data.

(Pub. L. 103-382, title IV, § 405, Oct. 20, 1994, 108 Stat. 4032.)

§ 9005. Reports**(a) Report on condition and progress of education**

The Commissioner shall, not later than June 1, 1995, and each succeeding June 1 thereafter, submit to the President and the Congress a sta-

tistical report on the condition and progress of education in the United States.

(b) Statistical reports

The Commissioner shall issue regular statistical reports to the President and Congress on such education topics as the Commissioner determines to be appropriate.

(c) Special reports

The Commissioner may, whenever the Commissioner considers it appropriate, issue special reports on particular education topics.

(Pub. L. 103-382, title IV, § 406, Oct. 20, 1994, 108 Stat. 4033.)

§ 9006. Advisory Council on Education Statistics**(a) Establishment**

There is established, within the Center, the Advisory Council on Education Statistics (hereafter in this chapter referred to as the "Council").

(b) Membership**(1) Composition**

The Council shall be composed of—

(A) 18 voting members who are users of education data and who are appointed by the Secretary on the basis of their experience and eminence within the field of education, of whom at least—

(i) three shall be practicing educators;

(ii) three shall be education policy-makers;

(iii) three shall be professional statisticians;

(iv) three shall be education researchers; and

(v) three shall be experts in educational measurement;

(B) three individuals representing the general public, appointed by the Secretary;

(C) the Director of the Census and the Commissioner of Labor Statistics, as voting, ex officio members; and

(D) the Assistant Secretary and the Commissioner, as nonvoting, ex officio members.

(2) Presiding officer

The Commissioner shall appoint the presiding officer of the Council from among the voting members of the Council.

(3) Terms

Members of the Council appointed under paragraph (1)(A) shall be appointed for three-year terms except that, in the case of initial appointments, the Secretary shall make appointments for shorter terms to the extent necessary to avoid the expiration of the terms of more than six members in the same calendar year.

(4) Meetings

(A) The Council shall meet in public session at the call of the presiding officer, except that the Council shall meet—

(i) at least two times during each calendar year; and

(ii) in addition, whenever ten voting members request in writing that the presiding officer call a meeting.

(B) Eleven voting members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.

(5) Special rule

The Council shall—

(A) review general policies for the operation of the Center and shall advise the Commissioner on standards to ensure that statistics and other information disseminated by the Center are of high quality and are not subject to partisan political influence; and

(B) advise the Commissioner and the National Assessment Governing Board on technical and statistical matters related to the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

(6) Staff

The Council shall appoint a staff of not more than six individuals with technical expertise to enable the Council to carry out its duties.

(Pub. L. 103-382, title IV, §407, Oct. 20, 1994, 108 Stat. 4033.)

TERMINATION OF ADVISORY COUNCILS

Advisory councils established after Jan. 5, 1973, to terminate not later than the expiration of the 2-year period beginning on the date of their establishment, unless, in the case of a council established by the President or an officer of the Federal Government, such council is renewed by appropriate action prior to the expiration of such 2-year period, or in the case of a council established by Congress, its duration is otherwise provided by law. See sections 3(2) and 14 of Pub. L. 92-463, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 770, 776, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 9010, 9011 of this title.

§ 9007. Confidentiality

(a) Confidentiality standards

(1) In general

(A) The Center shall develop and enforce standards designed to protect the confidentiality of persons in the collection, reporting, and publication of data under this chapter.

(B) This section shall not be construed to protect the confidentiality of information about institutions, organizations, and agencies that receive grants from, or have contracts or cooperative agreements with, the Federal Government.

(2) Prohibition

No person may—

(A) use any individually identifiable information furnished under this chapter for any purpose other than a statistical purpose;

(B) make any publication whereby the data furnished by any particular person under this chapter can be identified; or

(C) permit anyone other than the individuals authorized by the Commissioner to examine the individual reports.

(b) Administration

(1) In general

No department, bureau, agency, officer, or employee of the Federal Government, except

the Commissioner in carrying out the purposes of this chapter, shall require, for any reason, copies of reports that have been filed under this chapter with the Center or retained by any individual respondent. Copies of such reports that have been so filed or retained with the Center or any of the Center's employees, contractors, or agents shall be immune from legal process, and shall not, without the consent of the individual concerned, be admitted as evidence or used for any purpose in any action, suit, or other judicial or administrative proceeding. This paragraph shall apply only to individually identifiable information (as defined in paragraph (5)(A)).

(2) Employee or staff violations

Whoever, being or having been an employee or staff member of the Department, having taken or subscribed the oath of office, or having sworn to observe the limitations imposed by subsection (a)(2) of this section, knowingly publishes or communicates any individually identifiable information (as defined in paragraph (5)(A)), the disclosure of which is prohibited by subsection (a)(2) of this section, and that comes into such employee or staff's possession by reason of employment (or otherwise providing services) under this chapter, shall be found guilty of a class E felony and imprisoned for not more than five years, or fined as specified in section 3571 of title 18, or both.

(3) Temporary staff

The Commissioner may utilize temporary staff, including employees of Federal, State, or local agencies or instrumentalities (including local educational agencies), and employees of private organizations to assist the Center in performing the Center's responsibilities, but only if such temporary staff are sworn to observe the limitations imposed by this section.

(4) Information requirements

No collection of information or data acquisition activity undertaken by the Center shall be subject to any review, coordination, or approval procedure except as required by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under the rules and regulations established pursuant to chapter 35 of title 44, except such collection of information or data acquisition activity may be subject to review or coordination if the Commissioner determines that such review or coordination is beneficial.

(5) Definitions

For the purposes of this section—

(A) the term "individually identifiable information" means any record, response form, completed survey, or aggregation thereof from which information about particular individuals may be revealed; and

(B) the term "report" means a response provided by or about an individual to an inquiry from the Center and does not include a statistical aggregation from which individually identifiable information cannot be revealed.

(6) Violations

Any person who uses any data provided by the Center, in conjunction with any other in-