

SUPPORTING STATEMENT  
FOR PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

**1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. What is the purpose for this information collection? Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Include a citation that authorizes the collection of information. Specify the review type of the collection (new, revision, extension, reinstatement with change, reinstatement without change). If revised, briefly specify the changes. If a rulemaking is involved, list the sections with a brief description of the information collection requirement, and/or changes to sections, if applicable.**

In accordance with section 70914 of the [Build America Buy America Act \(Pub. L. No. 117-58 §§ 70901-70953\) \(BABAA\)](#), grantees funded under Department of Education (the Department) programs that allow funds to be used for infrastructure projects (infrastructure programs), i.e., construction and broadband infrastructure, may not use their grant funds for these infrastructure projects or activities unless they comply with the following BABAA sourcing requirements:

1. All iron and steel used in the infrastructure project or activity are produced in the United States.
2. All manufactured products used in the infrastructure project or activity are produced in the United States.
3. All construction materials are manufactured in the United States.

The Department may, in accordance with sections 70914(b) and (d), 70921(b), 70935, and 70937 of BABAA, and the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum [M 22-11](#), *Initial Implementation Guidance on Application of Buy America Preference in Federal Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure*, approve waivers to BABAA sourcing requirements submitted by grantees under programs it has identified as infrastructure programs when it determines that exceptions to these requirements apply. The Department may approve, subject to notice and comment requirements and the Office of Management and Budget Made in America Office (MIAO) review, the types of waivers listed below when one or more of the following conditions are met:

1. Public Interest Waiver - Applying the BABAA sourcing requirement would be inconsistent with the public interest.
2. Non-availability Waiver - The types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality.
3. Unreasonable Cost Waiver - The inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

This is an extension of a previously approved information collection request.

This is an extension of a previously approved information collection request and it includes the following two documents: 1) the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA) Domestic Sourcing Requirements Waiver - United States Department of Education BABAA Waiver Request Form (BABAA Waiver Request Form); and 2) a document listing the BABAA Waiver Request Form data elements.

**2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.**

The information submitted by grantees using the BABAA Waiver Request Form will be used by the Department to determine if waiver requests are consistent with policy prior to issuing its approval or disapproval.

**3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or forms of information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision of adopting this means of collection. Please identify systems or websites used to electronically collect this information. Also describe any consideration given to using technology to reduce burden. If there is an increase or decrease in burden related to using technology (e.g. using an electronic form, system or website from paper), please explain in number 12.**

BABAA Waiver Request Forms and supporting documentation will be submitted via email to Education Program Contacts as identified in box 3 of the grantees' Grant Award Notification. However, the General Services Administration (GSA), in accordance with BABAA, is currently working with Federal agencies and OMB to develop a web based BABAA electronic data submission system that the Department anticipates participating in when that system goes live. GSA has recently begun work on this endeavor and a completion date has not yet been identified.

**4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.**

The information submitted within the BABAA Waiver Request Form is not at present collected in other Department information collections; thus, duplicate data submission will not occur as a result of the Department implementing this information collection.

**5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden. A small entity may be (1) a small business which is deemed to be one that is independently owned and operated and that is not dominant in its field of operation; (2) a small organization that is any not-for-profit enterprise that is independently owned and operated and is not dominant in its field; or (3)**

**a small government jurisdiction, which is a government of a city, county, town, township, school district, or special district with a population of less than 50,000.**

The Department does not believe that this information collection will adversely impact any institution that may meet the small entity designation.

**6. Describe the consequences to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.**

The Department may, in accordance with sections 70914(b) and (d), 70921(b), 70935, and 70937 of BABAA, approve waivers to BABAA sourcing requirements submitted by grantees under programs it has identified as infrastructure programs when it determines that exceptions to these requirements apply. If the Department is not permitted to implement this information collection, it will not be able to comply with the waiver authority established in BABAA. This will impede infrastructure grant projects that should be granted waivers from moving forward, thus, resulting in delays to critically important projects.

**7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:**

- **requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;**
- **requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;**
- **requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;**
- **requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years;**
- **in connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results than can be generalized to the universe of study;**
- **requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;**
- **that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or that unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or**
- **requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secrets, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted**

**procedures to protect the information’s confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.**

There are not any circumstances related to this information collection would result in submissions or requirements consistent with the bulleted items presented above.

**8. As applicable, state that the Department has published the 60 and 30 Federal Register notices as required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB.**

**Include a citation for the 60 day comment period (e.g. Vol. 84 FR ##### and the date of publication). Summarize public comments received in response to the 60 day notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden. If only non-substantive comments are provided, please provide a statement to that effect and that it did not relate or warrant any changes to this information collection request. In your comments, please also indicate the number of public comments received.**

**For the 30 day notice, indicate that a notice will be published. Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instruction and record keeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.**

**Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained or those who must compile records should occur at least once every 3 years – even if the collection of information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that may preclude consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.**

The Department requested an emergency clearance of the BABAA Waiver Request Form from OMB by September 30, 2022. Given the inability to seek public comment in advance of OMB approval, as part of the emergency notice in the Federal Register, the Department simultaneously solicited 60-days of public comment for the regular information collection as required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d). The emergency notice was published on September 22, 2022 (87 FR 57882). There were no public comments received. A 30-day notice published.

**9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees with meaningful justification.**

No payments or gifts have been provided to respondents.

**10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy. If personally identifiable information (PII) is being collected, a Privacy Act statement should be included on the instrument. Please provide a citation for the Systems of Record Notice and the date a Privacy Impact Assessment was completed as indicated on the IC Data Form. A confidentiality statement**

with a legal citation that authorizes the pledge of confidentiality should be provided.<sup>1</sup> If the collection is subject to the Privacy Act, the Privacy Act statement is deemed sufficient with respect to confidentiality. If there is no expectation of confidentiality, simply state that the Department makes no pledge about the confidentiality of the data. If no PII will be collected, state that no assurance of confidentiality is provided to respondents. If the Paperwork Burden Statement is not included physically on a form, you may include it here. Please ensure that your response per respondent matches the estimate provided in number 12.

This information collection does not require that assurances of confidentiality be provided to respondents.

**11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. The justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.**

This information collection does not include any questions of a sensitive nature including any of those identified in item 11.

**12. Provide estimates of the hour burden for this current information collection request. The statement should:**

- **Provide an explanation of how the burden was estimated, including identification of burden type: recordkeeping, reporting or third party disclosure. Address changes in burden due to the use of technology (if applicable). Generally, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices.**
- **Please do not include increases in burden and respondents numerically in this table. Explain these changes in number 15.**
- **Indicate the number of respondents by affected public type (federal government, individuals or households, private sector – businesses or other for-profit, private sector – not-for-profit institutions, farms, state, local or tribal governments), frequency of response, annual hour burden. Unless directed to do so, agencies should not conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample (fewer than 10) of potential respondents is desirable.**

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<sup>1</sup> Requests for this information are in accordance with the following ED and OMB policies: Privacy Act of 1974, OMB Circular A-108 – Privacy Act Implementation – Guidelines and Responsibilities, OMB Circular A-130 Appendix I – Federal Agency Responsibilities for Maintaining Records About Individuals, OMB M-03-22 – OMB Guidance for Implementing the Privacy Provisions of the E-Government Act of 2002, OMB M-06-15 – Safeguarding Personally Identifiable Information, OM:6-104 – Privacy Act of 1974 (Collection, Use and Protection of Personally Identifiable Information)

- If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burden in the table below.
- Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents of the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. [Use this site](#) to research the appropriate wage rate. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included in Item 14. If there is no cost to respondents, indicate by entering 0 in the chart below and/or provide a statement.

Provide a descriptive narrative here in addition to completing the table below with burden hour estimates.

**Estimated Annual Burden and Respondent Costs Table**

Information Activity or IC (with type of respondent)	Sample Size (if applicable)	Respondent Response Rate (if applicable)	Number of Respondents	Number of Responses	Average Burden Hours per Response	Total Annual Burden Hours	Estimated Respondent Average Hourly Wage	Total Annual Costs (hourly wage x total burden hours)
Public institutions	N/A	N/A	400	400	10	4,000	\$45.36	\$181,440
Private Institutions	N/A	N/A	70	70	10	700	\$45.36	\$31,752
Annualized Totals	N/A	N/A	470	470	N/A	4,700	N/A	\$213,192

*Please ensure the annual total burden, respondents and response match those entered in IC Data Parts 1 and 2, and the response per respondent matches the Paperwork Burden Statement that must be included on all forms.*

We estimate that it will take 470 respondents 4,700 total hours to complete and submit the BABAA Waiver Request Form.

**13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in Items 12 and 14.)**

- The cost estimate should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life); and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component. The estimates should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information. Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software;

monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and acquiring and maintaining record storage facilities.

- If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burdens and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of contracting out information collection services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondents (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission public comment process and use existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.
  
- Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices. Also, these estimates should not include the hourly costs (i.e., the monetization of the hours) captured above in Item 12.

Total Annualized Capital/Startup Cost :  
Total Annual Costs (O&M) : \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Annualized Costs Requested :

There are no additional costs aside from those identified in response to question 12.

**14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information. Agencies also may aggregate cost estimates from Items 12, 13, and 14 in a single table.**

There are no additional costs to the Federal government.

**15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments. Generally, adjustments in burden result from re-estimating burden and/or from economic phenomenon outside of an agency's control (e.g., correcting a burden estimate or an organic increase in the size of the reporting universe). Program changes result from a deliberate action that materially changes a collection of information and generally are result of new statute or an agency action (e.g., changing a form, revising regulations, redefining the respondent universe, etc.). Burden changes should be disaggregated by type of change (i.e., adjustment, program change due to new statute, and/or program change due to agency discretion), type of collection (new, revision, extension, reinstatement with change, reinstatement without change) and include totals for changes in burden hours, responses and costs (if applicable).**

Provide a descriptive narrative for the reasons of any change in addition to completing the table with the burden hour change(s) here.

	Program Change Due to New Statute	Program Change Due to Agency Discretion	Change Due to Adjustment in Agency Estimate
<b>Total Burden</b>			
<b>Total Responses</b>			
<b>Total Costs (if applicable)</b>			

This is an extension of a previously approved information collection request. There is no change in burden or responses. The total burden and responses are 4,700 burden hours and 470 responses.

**16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.**

The Department will post approved and disapproved BABAA Waiver Request Forms on its [Build America Buy America Waivers](#) website, but it will not publish these in reports or publications.

**17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.**

The Department is not seeking this approval.

**18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in the Certification of Paperwork Reduction Act.**

The Department is not requesting any exceptions to the certification.