



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

CHARTER

READING FIRST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AUTHORITY

Sections 1203(c)(2)(A) and 1202(e)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA) authorize the Secretary of Education to establish a panel to evaluate State Reading First applications and to review third-year progress reports submitted by States under the Reading First program. The activities of the panel (hereinafter referred to as the "Committee") will be governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (P.L. 92-463, as amended; 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2) (FACA), which establishes the standards for the formation and use of advisory committees.

PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS

The Committee will evaluate the application of the one State educational agency whose application has not yet been approved by the Department, and at the request of the Department, may review issues identified in other State applications.

The Committee will also review the third-year progress reports submitted by States to the Department on or before November 30, 2006. The reports include, among other things, information on the progress State educational agencies and local educational agencies are making in reducing the number of students served under the Reading First program in grades 1, 2, and 3 who are reading below grade level. In addition, the Committee may advise the Secretary on other issues that the Secretary deems appropriate.

The Committee will carry out its responsibilities as advisory functions to the Secretary.

STRUCTURE

By statute, the Committee will consist, at a minimum, of three individuals selected by each of the following: the Secretary of Education, the National Institute for Literacy, the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Any non-Federal members of the Committee will serve as Special Government Employees (SGEs), and as SGEs, the members have been chosen for their individual expertise, qualifications, and experience. Members will provide advice and make recommendations based on their independent judgment, and will not be speaking for or representing the views of any nongovernmental organization or recognizable group of persons.

Committee members will serve for a period of three years or until the date of reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), whichever is earlier. The Committee will choose one of its members to serve as the chairperson. The Team Leader for the Reading First program will serve as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Committee. As appropriate, the Committee may form one or more subcommittees to assist with committee functions.

The Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) will provide staff and administrative services to the Committee.

MEETINGS

The DFO, in consultation with the Committee chairperson, will set the agenda for the Committee and schedule meetings on an as-needed basis. The DFO is present at all meetings. A majority of the voting members of the Committee serving at the time of the meeting shall constitute a quorum. Meetings will be open to the public, except when the Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education determines otherwise, in accordance with section 10(d) of FACA and with the concurrence of the Office of the General Counsel.

Meetings will be conducted and records of the proceedings kept according to applicable laws and departmental regulations.

ESTIMATED COSTS

Members who are not full-time Federal employees will be paid at a rate determined by the Secretary to attend Committee meetings plus per diem and reimbursement for travel expenses in accordance with Federal Travel Regulations.

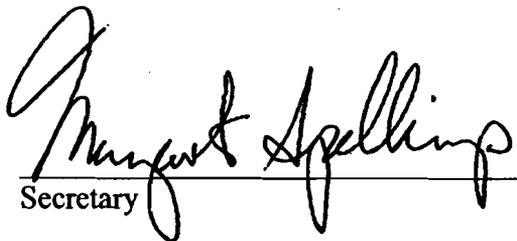
Annual operating costs associated with supporting the Committee's functions, including direct and indirect expenses, will be approximately \$100,000. Staff support will be approximately 0.2 full-time equivalents.

TERMINATION DATE

The Committee is hereby chartered in accordance with section 14(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This charter expires two years from the date of filing.

Approved:

MAR 20 2007
Date


Secretary

Establishment Date: MAR 20 2007

Filing Date: MAR 21 2007