

vations, and the dissemination of information on the effectiveness of such strategies and innovations.

(5) Identification and recognition of exemplary schools and programs, such as Blue Ribbon Schools, including programs to evaluate the effectiveness of using the best practices of exemplary or Blue Ribbon Schools to improve academic achievement.

(6) Activities to support Scholar-Athlete Games programs, including the World Scholar-Athlete Games and the U.S. Scholar-Athlete Games.

(7) Programs to promote voter participation in American elections through programs, such as the National Student/Parent Mock Election and Kids Voting USA.

(8) Demonstrations relating to the planning and evaluation of the effectiveness of programs under which local educational agencies or schools contract with private management organizations to reform a school or schools.

(9) Other programs that meet the purposes of this chapter.

(c) Basis of awards

The Secretary is authorized to—

(1) make awards under this subpart on the basis of competitions announced by the Secretary; and

(2) support meritorious unsolicited proposals for awards under this subpart.

(d) Effectiveness of programs

The Secretary shall ensure that programs supported under this subpart are designed so that their effectiveness is readily ascertainable, and shall ensure that such effectiveness is assessed using rigorous, scientifically based research and evaluations.

(Pub. L. 89–10, title V, §5411, as added Pub. L. 107–110, title V, §501, Jan. 8, 2002, 115 Stat. 1811.)

§ 7243a. Applications

(a) Submission

To be eligible for an award under this subpart, an entity shall submit an application to the Secretary, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(b) Contents

Each application submitted under subsection (a) of this section shall—

(1) establish clear objectives, which are based on scientifically based research, for the proposed program; and

(2) describe the activities the applicant will carry out in order to meet the objectives described in paragraph (1).

(c) Peer review

The Secretary shall use a peer review process in reviewing applications for awards under this subpart and in recognizing States, local educational agencies, and schools under section 7243(b)(3) of this title, only if funds are used for such recognition programs. The Secretary may use funds appropriated under this subpart for the cost of such peer review.

(Pub. L. 89–10, title V, §5412, as added Pub. L. 107–110, title V, §501, Jan. 8, 2002, 115 Stat. 1812.)

§ 7243b. Program requirements

(a) Evaluations

A recipient of an award under this subpart shall—

(1) evaluate the effectiveness of the program funded under the award in achieving the objectives stated in applications submitted under section 7243a of this title; and

(2) report to the Secretary such information as may be required to determine the effectiveness of such program, including evidence of progress toward meeting such objectives.

(b) Dissemination of evaluation results

The Secretary shall provide for the dissemination of the evaluations of programs funded under this subpart by making the evaluations publicly available upon request, and shall provide public notice that the evaluations are so available.

(c) Matching funds

The Secretary may require recipients of awards under this subpart to provide matching funds from non-Federal sources, and shall permit the recipients to match funds in whole or in part with in-kind contributions.

(d) Special rule for recognition programs

The application requirements of section 7243a(b) of this title, and the evaluation requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, do not apply to recognition programs under section 7243(b)(3) of this title.

(Pub. L. 89–10, title V, §5413, as added Pub. L. 107–110, title V, §501, Jan. 8, 2002, 115 Stat. 1812.)

§ 7243c. Studies of national significance

(a) Studies

The Secretary shall conduct the following studies of national significance:

(1) Unhealthy public school buildings

A study regarding the health and learning impacts of environmentally unhealthy public school buildings on students and teachers. The study shall include the following information:

(A) The characteristics of those public elementary school and secondary school buildings that contribute to unhealthy school environments.

(B) The health and learning impacts of environmental¹ unhealthy public school buildings on students that are attending or that have attended such schools.

(C) Recommendations to Congress on how to assist schools that are out of compliance with Federal or State health and safety codes, and a cost estimate of bringing up environmentally unhealthy public school buildings to minimum Federal health and safety building standards.

(2) Exposure to violent entertainment

A study regarding how exposure to violent entertainment (such as in movies, music, television, Internet content, video games, and arcade games) affects children's cognitive development and educational achievement.

¹ So in original. Probably should be "environmentally".