

ship of the National Education Centers and shall consider individuals recommended by the Board. The Director may appoint a Commissioner to carry out the functions of a National Education Center without regard to the provisions of title 5 governing appointments in the competitive service, and the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

**(2) Pay and qualifications**

Except as provided in subsection (b), each Commissioner shall—

- (A) receive the rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule; and
- (B) be highly qualified in the field of education research or evaluation.

**(3) Service**

Except as provided in subsection (b), each Commissioner shall report to the Director. A Commissioner shall serve for a period of not more than 6 years, except that a Commissioner—

- (A) may be reappointed by the Director; and
- (B) may serve after the expiration of that Commissioner's term, until a successor has been appointed, for a period not to exceed 1 additional year.

**(b) Appointment of Commissioner for Education Statistics**

The National Center for Education Statistics shall be headed by a Commissioner for Education Statistics who shall be appointed by the President and who shall—

- (1) have substantial knowledge of programs assisted by the National Center for Education Statistics;
- (2) receive the rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule; and
- (3) serve for a term of 6 years, with the term to expire every sixth June 21, beginning in 2003.

**(c) Coordination**

Each Commissioner of a National Education Center shall coordinate with each of the other Commissioners of the National Education Centers in carrying out such Commissioner's duties under this subchapter.

**(d) Supervision and approval**

Each Commissioner, except the Commissioner for Education Statistics, shall carry out such Commissioner's duties under this subchapter under the supervision and subject to the approval of the Director.

(Pub. L. 107-279, title I, §117, Nov. 5, 2002, 116 Stat. 1952; Pub. L. 112-166, §2(d)(2), Aug. 10, 2012, 126 Stat. 1284.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Level IV of the Executive Schedule, referred to in subsecs. (a)(2)(A) and (b)(2), is set out in section 5315 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

AMENDMENTS

2012—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 112-166 struck out “, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate,” after “President” in introductory provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2012 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 112-166 effective 60 days after Aug. 10, 2012, and applicable to appointments made on and after that effective date, including any nomination pending in the Senate on that date, see section 6(a) of Pub. L. 112-166, set out as a note under section 113 of Title 6, Domestic Security.

**§ 9518. Agreements**

The Institute may carry out research projects of common interest with entities such as the National Science Foundation and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development through agreements with such entities that are in accordance with section 1231 of this title.

(Pub. L. 107-279, title I, §118, Nov. 5, 2002, 116 Stat. 1953; Pub. L. 110-154, §1(d), Dec. 21, 2007, 121 Stat. 1828.)

CHANGE OF NAME

“Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development” substituted for “National Institute of Child Health and Human Development” in text, on authority of section 1(d) of Pub. L. 110-154, set out as a note under section 285g of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

**§ 9519. Biennial report**

The Director shall, on a biennial basis, transmit to the President, the Board, and the appropriate congressional committees, and make widely available to the public (including by means of the Internet), a report containing the following:

- (1) A description of the activities carried out by and through the National Education Centers during the prior fiscal years.
- (2) A summary of each grant, contract, and cooperative agreement in excess of \$100,000 funded through the National Education Centers during the prior fiscal years, including, at a minimum, the amount, duration, recipient, purpose of the award, and the relationship, if any, to the priorities and mission of the Institute, which shall be available in a user-friendly electronic database.
- (3) A description of how the activities of the National Education Centers are consistent with the principles of scientifically valid research and the priorities and mission of the Institute.
- (4) Such additional comments, recommendations, and materials as the Director considers appropriate.

(Pub. L. 107-279, title I, §119, Nov. 5, 2002, 116 Stat. 1953.)

**§ 9520. Competitive awards**

Activities carried out under this Act through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, at a minimum, shall be awarded on a competitive basis and, when practicable, through a process of peer review.

(Pub. L. 107-279, title I, §120, Nov. 5, 2002, 116 Stat. 1953.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in text, means Pub. L. 107-279, Nov. 5, 2002, 116 Stat. 1940, which enacted this chapter

and section 3419 of this title, amended sections 1232j, 3412, 3461, 6194, 6311, 6312, 7013, 7451, 7703, 7909, 9007, 9010, 9011, 9573, 9623, and 9624 and former sections 6317, 6491, 6932, 7253c, 7283b, and 7283d of this title and section 5315 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, transferred sections 9010 and 9011 of this title to sections 9621 and 9622 of this title, respectively, repealed sections 3419, 6011, 6021, 6031, 6041, 6051, 6053 to 6053e, 6054 to 6054b, 6055 to 6055h, 6056, 6056a, 9001 to 9009, and 9012 of this title, enacted provisions set out as notes under section 7703 and 9501 of this title, and repealed provisions set out as notes under sections 1221e and 9001 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

PART B—NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION  
RESEARCH

**§ 9531. Establishment**

**(a) Establishment**

There is established in the Institute a National Center for Education Research (in this part referred to as the “Research Center”).

**(b) Mission**

The mission of the Research Center is—

(1) to sponsor sustained research that will lead to the accumulation of knowledge and understanding of education, to—

(A) ensure that all children have access to a high-quality education;

(B) improve student academic achievement, including through the use of educational technology;

(C) close the achievement gap between high-performing and low-performing students through the improvement of teaching and learning of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and other academic subjects; and

(D) improve access to, and opportunity for, postsecondary education;

(2) to support the synthesis and, as appropriate, the integration of education research;

(3) to promote quality and integrity through the use of accepted practices of scientific inquiry to obtain knowledge and understanding of the validity of education theories, practices, or conditions; and

(4) to promote scientifically valid research findings that can provide the basis for improving academic instruction and lifelong learning.

(Pub. L. 107–279, title I, §131, Nov. 5, 2002, 116 Stat. 1954.)

**§ 9532. Commissioner for Education Research**

The Research Center shall be headed by a Commissioner for Education Research (in this part referred to as the “Research Commissioner”) who shall have substantial knowledge of the activities of the Research Center, including a high level of expertise in the fields of research and research management.

(Pub. L. 107–279, title I, §132, Nov. 5, 2002, 116 Stat. 1954.)

**§ 9533. Duties**

**(a) General duties**

The Research Center shall—

(1) maintain published peer-review standards and standards for the conduct and evaluation of all research and development carried out under the auspices of the Research Center in accordance with this part;

(2) propose to the Director a research plan that—

(A) is consistent with the priorities and mission of the Institute and the mission of the Research Center and includes the activities described in paragraph (3); and

(B) shall be carried out pursuant to paragraph (4) and, as appropriate, be updated and modified;

(3) carry out specific, long-term research activities that are consistent with the priorities and mission of the Institute, and are approved by the Director;

(4) implement the plan proposed under paragraph (2) to carry out scientifically valid research that—

(A) uses objective and measurable indicators, including timelines, that are used to assess the progress and results of such research;

(B) meets the procedures for peer review established by the Director under section 9514(f)(5) of this title and the standards of research described in section 9534 of this title; and

(C) includes both basic research and applied research, which shall include research conducted through field-initiated research and ongoing research initiatives;

(5) promote the use of scientifically valid research within the Federal Government, including active participation in interagency research projects described in section 9518 of this title;

(6) ensure that research conducted under the direction of the Research Center is relevant to education practice and policy;

(7) synthesize and disseminate, through the National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, the findings and results of education research conducted or supported by the Research Center;

(8) assist the Director in the preparation of a biennial report, as described in section 9519 of this title;

(9) carry out research on successful State and local education reform activities, including those that result in increased academic achievement and in closing the achievement gap, as approved by the Director;

(10) carry out research initiatives regarding the impact of technology, including—

(A) research into how technology affects student achievement;

(B) long-term research into cognition and learning issues as they relate to the uses of technology;

(C) rigorous, peer-reviewed, large-scale, long-term, and broadly applicable empirical research that is designed to determine which approaches to the use of technology are most effective and cost-efficient in practice and under what conditions; and

(D) field-based research on how teachers implement technology and Internet-based