

Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP)



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Comments on Docket ID ED-2014-ICCD-0094

The Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP) is pleased to provide the following comments to the Department of Education regarding the proposed renewal of the data collection for State Assistive Technology Programs funded under section 4 of the AT Act, also known as the RSA 572 Report. ATAP represents 54 of the state Assistive Technology Programs funded under the Assistive Technology (AT) Act of 2004. All ATAP members submit data for the RSA 572 report for their state.

State AT Programs are required by Section 4 (f) of the AT Act of 2004 to submit an annual progress report with a set of mandatory data elements that include extensive data elements related to all four state level activities, all of the state leadership activities plus additional information about state improvement outcomes and leveraged funding. We strongly support the goal of the renewal of this data collection instrument of reducing data burden and making changes that will allow State AT Programs to report data concisely and consistently.

The proposed changes were developed with extensive input of those it directly impacts, the State AT Program grantees. The revision process began over two years ago and grantees had multiple opportunities to discuss and make recommendations on the proposed changes. Very recently, the proposed changes were again reviewed with our membership at a national conference and there was uniform support for these revisions.

We are hopeful that the data reported in the financial loan section of the RSA 572 Report will be deemed sufficient to meet any data reporting requirements for financial loan programs who have received a separate federal grant at some point over the last two decades. The financial loan data reported into the 572 is robust and it will be a significant data reporting burden to ask these programs to report additional and different data in a form other than the RSA 572.

ATAP appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments on behalf of our 54 State AT Program members who will use this data reporting instrument. Please feel free to contact Audrey Busch, ATAP Director of Policy and Advocacy at 202.344.5674 or audrey.busch@ataporg.org with any questions.