

New One Needs Assessment Tool (First-Version)

December 2019

Starting in January 2020, the Ohio Department of Education is unveiling a prototype comprehensive needs assessment tool that will replace the Decision Framework and other needs assessment tools used across the Department. This new "One Needs Assessment" component is designed to get all users accustomed to identifying all their needs in a single location within a standardized timeline. The first-version (or beta testing version) of the One Needs Assessment component is intended to assist in the design and development of a final One Needs Assessment component to be part of the Education Department's System of Tiered E-Plans and Supports ([ED STEPS](#)) system.

What Is the One Needs Assessment Prototype?

The One Needs Assessment prototype pulls data from a variety of Department systems to create a unique needs analysis that is responsive to the requirements and recommendations for any school, district or educational entity. Enhancing the user experience is a core objective of the ED STEPS system components. The One Needs Assessment has features to minimize the number of required fields, auto-saving, and individualized final priority needs selection to send to the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) for planning determinations. State Support Team members are being trained to provide technical assistance and support to users.

Key Design Features

- The new needs assessment is directly related to the educational entity's data. The school or district needs assessment will have required or recommended questions based on the data related to that section of the tool.
- Schools and districts are encouraged to use other internal data sources as they complete the needs assessment.
- The new tool allows for identifying needs beyond academics. Continuous improvement is important at every level and the tool provides an opportunity to look at the needs of the entire building or district such as fiscal and family and community engagement.
- The new tool provides an opportunity for building and district leadership teams to analyze their data (state, school and community), identify areas of improvement and collaborate on root causes to identify goals focused on improvement.

Who Is Eligible?

The Decision Framework will no longer be available for use starting January 2020. All schools and districts will have access to use the new One Needs Assessment tool and are encouraged to use it to identify the needs to drive a focused continuous improvement plan for the 2020-2021 school year.

School Year 2020-2021:

- Recommended: All schools and districts are recommended to use the first version of the tool starting January 2020 to identify needs for the 2020-2021 school year. The One Needs Assessment tool is especially recommended for schools or districts who are in differentiated accountability status.
- Required: Only the districts and schools taking part in the ED STEPS three-year planning pilot group will be required to use the first version of the tool starting January 2020. The pilot group will identify needs over a three-year period for their three-year comprehensive plans.

School Year 2021-2022

- All schools and districts will be required to use the One Needs Assessment tool starting January 2021 for plans submitted for the 2021-2022 school year. Use of the tool for identifying needs over a one-year or three-year period will depend on the district's One Plan Cohort. Districts will be assigned to one of three "One Plan Cohorts" in the spring of 2020. Districts will continue to identify their needs and submit plans each year until their assigned One Plan Cohort year to begin transitioning to three-year planning and annual funding applications.