One Needs Assessment Summary

In January 2020, the Ohio Department of Education unveiled a prototype comprehensive needs assessment tool that replaced the Decision Framework and other needs assessment tools used across the Department. The One Needs Assessment (ONA) component is designed to get all users accustomed to identifying their needs in a single location within a standardized timeline. The One Needs Assessment component is the first step of completing the Education Department’s System of Tiered E-Plans and Supports (ED STEPS) process.

What Is the One Needs Assessment?
The ONA pulls data from a variety of Department systems to create a needs analysis for districts, schools, and educational entities using their unique data to create recommended and required questions. The system has useful features such as auto saving and individualized priority needs selections. These priority needs become the structure for goals, strategies, and actions steps in the One Plan (OP).

Key Design Features
- The new needs assessment is directly connected 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 needs.
- 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.

FY23 Enhancements
- The second tab within the One Needs Assessment previously was called the “Priority Needs Tab.” This tab is now the “Pre-Planning” tab.
- To better assist entities completing the One Needs Assessment, a goal and strategy counter has been added to show the amount of goals and strategies that will be pulled over into the One Plan.
- A key enhancement is the alignment of language from the One Needs Assessment to the One Plan. For example, in the Pre-Planning tab, “improvement area” is now “primary strategy area” and “additional improvement area” is now “additional strategy area.”

Who Is Eligible?
The Decision Framework is no longer available. All schools and districts are required to use the One Needs Assessment. Districts and schools will continue to identify their needs and submit plans each year until their assigned One Plan Cohort year. At this point, educational entities will transition to three-year planning and annual funding applications.