ED STEPS

A process of increased support and collaboration to connect districts with federal funding suited to their students’ unique academic needs.

The Education Department System of Tiered E-Plans and Supports (ED STEPS) will increase coordination and streamline the timelines and processes for assessing needs, planning and applying for funds. As a part of the ED STEPS project, the One Needs Assessment and One Plan have been developed to assist with creating quality improvement plans.

PIONEERS IN IMPROVEMENT

Ohio was a pioneer in the development of the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) that is used throughout the nation.

The ED STEPS system will replace the CCIP and we hope will once again serve as a nationwide model.

HISTORY AND PILOT PROGRAM

The idea for the ED STEPS Project came from over four years of educator and administrator feedback, including a comprehensive analysis of the CCIP, user interviews and input from an advisory group.

The Department partnered with organizations to pilot the ED STEPS three-year planning process. Pilot cohort members helped develop and implement the three-year plan review and approval process and provide feedback to the ED STEPS Team and outside contractors on the various system components, functionality and design.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

ED STEPS will help the Department provide the more consistent communication and greater support that districts want.
ED STEPS COMPONENTS
CREATED BY AND FOR END-USERS

01
DASHBOARD AND GUIDANCE LIBRARY
The landing site for all parts of the system.

02
ONE NEEDS ASSESSMENT
To develop three-year plans and apply for annual competitive and formula funds.

03
ONE-PLAN
Captures all district and school planning needs over a three-year period.

04
CONSOLIDATED FORMULA AND COMPETITIVE APPLICATIONS
Information from single needs assessment and three-year plan linked to entitlement and competitive funding applications.

OBJECTIVES AND BENEFITS

A HOLISTIC APPROACH
Ed STEPS will improve the user experience, reduce the time and resources the Department and districts devote to compliance activities, promote cross-office and program support, remove barriers and duplication, and offer tools to help districts think more holistically about resource allocation.

BREAKING DOWN SILOS
Breaking down silos and fostering collaboration will improve communication on district needs, plans and funding opportunities.

FUND THE PLAN
We are shifting the approach to “fund the plan, not plan to fund,” standardizing timelines and adopting a 3-year planning cycle with annual funding applications.