Ohio | Department of Education

CCIP Note # 421

Re: ED STEPS taking shape; sign up for district pilot project by Dec. 6
Date: November 19, 2019
To: Consolidated Funding Application Contacts, Superintendents/CCIP Authorized Representatives, and Treasurers/CCIP Fiscal Representatives of Public Schools, Nonpublic Principals, Community Schools, STEMs, and ESCs

Based on four years of feedback from schools and districts, the Ohio Department of Education is designing 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.

ED STEPS will enable districts to develop one comprehensive plan for student growth and leverage all its federal and other resources to fund that plan rather than creating programs based on available funding. This "funding the plan" rather than "planning to fund" approach will enable districts to better serve students and communities. Learn more about ED STEPS here, and view a brief video message from State Superintendent Paolo DeMaria.

The Department is seeking organizations to pilot the ED STEPS three-year planning process. Members of the three-year pilot cohort will partner with the Department in January 2020 to 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. Find more information about the pilot project and sign up by Dec. 6.

All districts soon will have the opportunity to use a prototype of the single needs assessment tool to become familiar with the system and offer feedback on its use and functionality. While the Department is preparing to pilot the three-year needs assessment and planning concept, districts will continue to use the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP).

Watch for updates on ED STEPS development in the coming weeks and months through the Department's website and publications and at professional association meetings.