Ohio | Department of Education

CCIP Note #509

Re: Upcoming Equitable Services Survey and Nonpublic Data System (NPDS) Federal Reporting
Date: September 30, 2022
To: Nonpublic Principals; Public District Superintendents, Treasurers, Title I Directors/Coordinators and Consolidated Application Contacts

Upcoming ESEA State Activity Equitable Services Survey
The Ohio Department of Education (the Department) reserves a portion of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title grants for state activities to address the needs of Ohio's education community. The Department must engage in timely and meaningful consultation with nonpublic school officials to understand their needs prior to designing ESEA state activity programs. The Department must also provide state activity equitable services to nonpublic schools. On **October 4, 2022,** principals and administrators of nonpublic schools and will receive an email from ESEA@education.ohio.gov containing a link to the ESEA State Activity Equitable Services Survey. Nonpublic school principals and administrators are encouraged to complete the survey to inform the Department of the nonpublic school needs. The Department will provide additional information and opportunities for nonpublic feedback in the coming months as it designs ESEA state activities. The deadline to complete the ESEA State Activity Equitable Services Survey is **October 31, 2022.**

Nonpublic Data System Federal Reporting Now Open
Please be advised that the NPDS federal reporting window has changed. In prior years, nonpublic school low-income counts were identified in the Spring. The Department collected feedback from districts and schools through a survey released in CCIP Note 482. The Department has moved the federal reporting window to the Fall to align with state nonpublic school reporting. The Nonpublic Data System (NPDS) data reporting window will open on **October 3, 2022** for FY24 reporting. The data window will close on **December 31, 2022**.

This is the first year for a combined state and federal reporting window. At this time, nonpublic schools will be able to opt into federal programs, select districts and buildings for which to report and create and upload ADM excel files. Federal Participation forms and Consultation Guides may not be available until January. Updated Instructions are available HERE.

Low-Income Identification Reminders
The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires the public district to determine an accurate count of children from low-income families who attend public and private schools and live in participating Title I public school attendance areas to allocate the proportional share of Title I funds. The most common way to identify low-income status for nonpublic schools are the forms from the National School Lunch Program. If the school participates in this program, they'll have forms that have been completed by parents for free or reduced-price lunch. Many nonpublic schools do not participate in this program. For these schools, the Ohio Household Income verification form may be used. The federal guidance allows a few other methods to determine an accurate count of low-income students. For more information please refer to question B-11 in the Title I, Part A Nonregulatory Guidance.

In NPDS, the nonpublic school reports the number of "Free Lunch or Equivalent," and "Reduced Lunch or Equivalent" students for each grade level by public school building of residence. Then, the public district verifies the low-income counts provided by the nonpublic schools. If the public district has concerns about the accuracy of the data, it's important that the nonpublic school and the public district work in consultation to ensure accurate data is provided in the NPDS participation tab. Ultimately, it falls on the public district to ensure that data is accurate. If a public district believes the nonpublic school needs to use an alternate

method to determine accurate low-income counts, it should ensure that the method used is not administratively burdensome for the nonpublic school.

Non-chartered, Non-tax School Participation
Guidance is available HERE to assist public school districts in providing equitable services to non-chartered, non-tax schools.

District Calculations of Title I-A Equitable Service Amounts
Guidance is available HERE on the process for calculating Title I-A equitable service amounts.

If you have questions, please contact Chantelle Carter, Nonpublic Ombudsman at Chantelle.Carter@education.ohio.gov or the ESEA Education Program Specialist in the Office of Federal Programs assigned to your district.