CCIP Note #557

Re: Public Comment Period for a waiver request to the US Department of Education from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce to extend the period of availability of consolidated administrative funds
Date: September 4, 2024
To: Authorized Representatives, Fiscal Representatives and Consolidated Funding Application Contacts of Traditional Districts, Community Schools, Independent STEM Schools, Education Service Centers, Board of Developmental Disabilities, JVSDs, and Nonpublic Schools

DEW Period of Availability of Consolidated Administrative Funds Waiver Request
The US Department of Education (USED) is inviting state education agencies (SEAs) to submit waiver requests to extend the period of availability of fiscal year 2022 (FY22) consolidated administrative funds until March 31, 2026. SEA FY22 administrative funds will expire on September 30, 2024, without an approved waiver. The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW or Department) plans to take advantage of the waiver opportunity.

Summary
The Department consolidated the administrative portions of the FY22 COVID-related emergency grants (ARP ESSER, ARP EANS, ARP HCY) with the administrative portions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) programs. The Department consolidated the administrative funds to maximize the level of support it provided to the education community and to leverage the use of all available resources during the pandemic. Wherever possible, the Department utilized existing assets and staff to implement the COVID-related grant responsibilities and utilized administrative funds to provide various program support to schools and districts. While the programming of COVID-related grant programs ends on September 30, 2024, there are still significant state-level administrative responsibilities to properly close out the one-time grant requirements. These responsibilities include but not limited to, providing on-going support to districts and schools, collecting and reporting expenditures and program performance, conducting evaluations and monitoring reviews, maintaining records, participating in state and federal audits and properly disposing of federal funded equipment.

The Department welcomes comments on the request to extend the period of availability of the FY22 consolidated administrative funds. Public comments may be submitted to ESEA@education.ohio.gov until **Friday, September 20, 2024.**