CCIP Note #560

Re: Consolidated ESEA Monitoring, Expiring Funds Report, and ED STEPS Updates
Date: October 25, 2024
To: Superintendents, Treasurers, Authorized Representatives, Fiscal Representatives and Consolidated Funding Application Contacts of Public Districts, Community Schools, STEM Schools, and ESCs

FY25 Consolidated ESEA Grants Monitoring Improvements

The Office of Federal Programs (OFP) has modified its selection process for districts that may be subject to a Desk or Onsite review. OFP will focus Desk and Onsite reviews on a select number of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) based upon their ED STEPS Cohort to better align with the agency's ED STEPS process. For FY25, LEAs from Cohort 3 will be eligible to receive an On-Site or Desk review. The office will still select and assign reviews based on Risk Factor points but will only be conducting Desk and Onsite monitoring reviews with LEAs from Cohort 3. This process will provide support to LEAs as they enter the final year of their 3-year planning cycle. Please note that all LEAs that do not receive a Desk or Onsite review must complete a Self-Survey, regardless of Cohort. Additionally, LEAs that received an Issue/Action Plan in an FY24 Desk or Onsite review may be subject to a Follow-Up Desk Review.

By completing Desk and Onsite reviews for LEAs that are in the second year of the three-year ED STEPS cycle, the Department hopes to inform implementation of the current plan as well as give important feedback prior to the LEA's next three-year ED STEPS planning cycle. The shift to Cohort desk and onsite monitoring aligns to the overall agency focus on ED STEPS and quality customer service. Additionally, applying Risk Factors to a smaller group each year provides the chance to work with districts who otherwise may not have been selected for support.

The eight large urban school districts will move to their cohort for monitoring over the next several years to best transition from their current three-year monitoring rotation cycle. The large urban school districts scheduled for an Onsite Review for FY25 will still have their Onsite review as scheduled. A new rotation schedule for the urban eight school districts will be shared at a later date.

More information regarding FY25 Consolidated ESEA Grants monitoring will be provided at a later date, including direct communication to the LEAs selected for FY25 Desk and Onsite reviews.

ARP ESSER and Stronger Connections Monitoring

Please note that ARP ESSER and the Stronger Connections Grant monitoring will remain located in the Fiscal Year FY24 section of the Monitoring system for the LEAs selected for FY25 monitoring. More information will be released at a later date.

Expiring Funds Report (Formerly 9/30 Report)

The Expiring Funds Report (formerly 9/30 Report) will become available on November 1, 2024. The purpose of the Expiring Funds Report is to allow an entity to report obligated expenditures in the final months of a federal award (typically July 1 to September 30) to prevent these funds from expiring. This year, the Department made several changes to the Expiring Funds Report, including displaying the LEA's at-risk amounts based on the prior fiscal year's Final Expenditure Report. The goal is to provide clear, understandable information to LEAs so they can accurately report expenditures from the final three months of the grant, maximize the allocation and protect at-risk funds. Fiscal Representatives for LEAs that have expiring funds can access the Expiring Funds Report from the left-hand menu in the CCIP starting November 1, 2024. The Fiscal Representative must submit the Expiring Funds Report and Project Cash Requests (PCRs) for reported expenditures by December 31, 2024.

ED STEPS Updates

The ED STEPS One Needs Assessment questions and conditions have been updated for Fiscal Year 2026 planning and are publicly available on the One Needs Assessment webpage. There have been minimal changes from questions and conditions from previous years; however, Educational Service Centers and Boards of Developmental Disabilities should note that there is now a required question. Any educational entity assigned to ED STEPS Cohort 2 should review the questions and conditions to prepare for system opening in January 2025. More information will be released regarding the date the system will open and trainings in a future CCIP note.

If you have questions, please contact your Office of Federal Programs Specialist located in the CCIP Address Book or email federalprograms@education.ohio.gov.