Stronger Connections Grant Reporting Frequently Asked Questions



Office of Federal Programs

January 2025





Department of Education & Workforce

IS THERE A WAY TO SEE ALL THE SURVEY QUESTIONS BEFORE WE BEGIN REPORTING?

Yes. There is a survey guidance document that lists the survey questions. You can find the guidance document on the CCIP document library under Bipartisan Safer Communities Act > Stronger Connections Grant > Stronger Connections Grant Annual Reporting.

I CAN'T FIND/DIDN'T RECEIVE MY SURVEY LINK. WHAT DO I DO?

Please send an email to support@ohio-k12.help with your organization name and IRN. If additional support is needed, please contact strongerconnections@education.ohio.gov.

HOW LONG WILL I BE REQUIRED TO ANNUALLY REPORT ON THESE FUNDS?

The United States Department of Education requires annual reporting of the State Education Agency (Department of Education and Workforce) and any Stronger Connections Grant subrecipients (Local Education Agencies). An annual report for Stronger Connections will be required for each subrecipient each year until all funds have been liquidated. It is likely that the last year that reporting will be required for LEAs is FY27, however this is dependent upon the US Department of Education requirements.

WHAT IS THE "REPORTING PERIOD" FOR THE CURRENT STRONGER CONNECTIONS GRANT DATA COLLECTION?

The reporting period is Fiscal Year (FY) 2024: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BUDGETED AND EXPENDED?

Budgeted is the planned amount of expenditures. Expenditures are the actual expenditures liquidated in the reporting period. Budgeted amounts can be higher than expended amounts. Expended amounts cannot be higher than the budgeted amounts.

WHAT DOES "EXPENDITURE DATA" MEAN? WHAT DOES THIS INCLUDE?

An expenditure is a cost that has been liquidated and drawn/paid through the Department's e-grant system during the reporting period. The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce has collected expenditure data for each entity through submitted Project Cash Requests (PCRs) through the reporting period. The answers the entity provides in the survey must match the total expenditure amounts listed in the survey.

WHAT IS CONSIDERED A FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)? HOW MANY DO I REPORT?

An FTE represents the workload of a standard full-time employee, meaning that the total part-time and full-time employees should be calculated using their "equivalent" full-time hours worked. A full-time employee would have an FTE of 1.0, while a part-time employee working half the hours would have an FTE of 0.5. Entities should report the total number of FTEs paid for with Stronger Connections. This includes FTEs paid out of Purchased Services.

I HAVE ALREADY SUBMITTED A SURVEY BUT FOUND A MISTAKE. HOW DO I MAKE A CORRECTION?

Please send an email to strongerconnections@education.ohio.gov and copy support@ohio-k12.help indicating what survey you need to have reopened. Note, to resubmit the survey, all prior data will have to be cleared and re-entered. Therefore, make sure to download the PDF of your responses to make it easier for re-entering the data.