CCIP Note #575

Re: FY26 Consolidated Application and e-Grants System Changes
Date: August 1, 2025
To: Superintendents, Treasurers, Authorized Representatives, Fiscal Representatives, and Consolidated Funding Application Contacts

Consolidated Application and E-Grants System Changes
The Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) is continuing to provide updates regarding the state Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Consolidated application through CCIP Notes. See CCIP Notes 570, 571, 572, 573, and 574 for prior DEW guidance. The current CCIP Note provides important updates related to the Consolidated Application and e-Grants system changes that will impact FY26 grant applications.

ED Agrees to Release Remaining ESEA Grant Awards
On July 25, the United States Department of Education (ED) announced it will begin releasing funds for the remaining Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) title grants. On July 30, states received the FY26 (federal fiscal year 2025) awards for Title I-C, Title II-A, Title III, and Title IV-A programs. In the coming days, DEW will have allocations amounts for eligible local educational agencies (LEAs) available for all grants in the consolidated application.

Hybrid Systems Approach for FY26 Grants
Given the unprecedented challenges and complications for the start of the fiscal year, DEW is implementing a hybrid approach for submitting grant applications and making payment requests by using both e-grant systems (Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) and the One Funding Application (OFA) component of ED STEPS) for FY26. Most of the core education grant applications, including the Consolidated application, will continue in the CCIP for FY26, while a few other grants will be piloted for use in the OFA for FY26. The hybrid approach will allow DEW and the ED STEPS vendor to refine the functionality of the OFA for the Consolidated Application and other key ESEA applications before the start of FY27.

Core Grant Applications Remaining in the CCIP for FY26

- Consolidated application (including most ESEA Title grants, IDEA-B and Early Childhood Special Education grants)
- 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant
- School Improvement Grant
- Expanding Opportunities for Each Child Grant
- McKinney-Vento
- Additional entitlement and competitive grants

Core Grant Applications to be Piloted in the OFA for FY26
We anticipate the grants below may be piloted in the One Funding Application (OFA) for FY26:

- Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant

- Carl D. Perkins Career Tech Grants
- School Bus Safety Grant

FY26 Substantially Approved Date Flexibility
Given the unique circumstances this year all grants, whether they are administered in the CCIP or the OFA, will have a substantially approved date of July 1, 2025.

What to Expect Next for the Grants Being Returned to or Remaining in the CCIP for FY26
DEW will load the preliminary allocations for consolidated application grants (and the other grants listed above) into the CCIP for FY26. Once the grant allocations are loaded into the CCIP, in most cases, the LEAs will be required to complete the FY26 applications in the CCIP system and submit them in Authorized Representative Approved status. Once the grant applications are in Final Approved status, the LEAs will be able to submit Project Cash Requests (PCRs) against their approved applications. As mentioned above, due to the unique challenges this year, LEAs will have a substantially approved date of July 1, 2025.

*Special Focus: The FY26 consolidated application in the CCIP is essentially identical to the FY25 application in the CCIP. Thus, LEAs should not anticipate any additional steps to complete the FY26 consolidated application compared to prior years.

Benefits of Applying a Hybrid System Approach for FY26
The Department understands the hybrid approach is not ideal and the need to operate in two grant systems may require additional effort in some instances especially if a subrecipient already completed an application in one system that is now placed in another system. However, on the other hand, there are several benefits of applying this hybrid system approach for the short-term. Some examples include:

- LEAs will be able to complete their FY26 applications in a familiar environment. For example, as noted above the FY26 application in the CCIP will be essentially identical to the FY25 application except for minor updates.
- LEAs will have more immediate access to funds by submitting Project Cash Requests in a familiar payment system.
- LEAs can access certain key flexibilities available in the CCIP that are not yet available in the OFA, such as the ability to transfer funds or consolidate funds in a Schoolwide Pool. Those flexibilities are still being developed in the OFA.
- LEAs have access to important functionality for calculating nonpublic equitable services that are not yet available in the OFA.

Grant Specific Information
As DEW begins the process of loading the preliminary allocation amounts into the CCIP, it is important to note a few grant-specific changes and updates:

- **Title I, Part A Allocation Adjustments:** The Title I-A award DEW received from USED was $3 million less than the preliminary allocation USED provided. The change is due to the decreases in data for foster care and neglected and delinquent student counts used to calculate preliminary and final award amounts. This will result in most LEAs receiving

a slight decrease in the Title I-A allocation loaded in the CCIP compared to what was previously loaded in OFA.

- **Title I-A, II-A, III, and IV-A Equitable Services:** Once allocations load for these grants, the equitable services will calculate correctly based on low-income data from the Nonpublic Data System (NPDS). LEAs should begin providing equitable services for participating nonpublic schools.
- **Stronger Connections Grant:** The Stronger Connections Grant will remain in the CCIP. LEAs with Stronger Connections Grant funds available should continue to submit revisions and PCRs in the FY24 Stronger Connections Grant application.

Ongoing Support

DEW will continue to provide updates on the FY26 Consolidated application and system changes through additional CCIP Notes. If you have questions related to the FY26 Consolidated application, please contact your Federal Program Specialist/Consolidated contact in the CCIP Address Book. Specific questions may also be routed to the following:

- The IDEA Resource Management team at IDEA@education.ohio.gov is available to provide technical assistance to entities as IDEA Part B and IDEA Early Childhood Special Education grant applications are completed in the CCIP.
- The Grants Management team at Grants.Management@education.ohio.gov is available to provide technical assistance regarding Project Cash Requests, Final Expenditures, or other questions regarding payment in the CCIP.