CCIP Note #582

Re: Important Department and Consolidated ESEA Grant System Windows Opening
Date: February 6, 2026
To: Superintendents, Treasurers, Authorized Representatives, Fiscal Representatives and Consolidated Funding Application Contacts, and Nonpublic Principals

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENT AND CONSOLIDATED ESEA SYSTEM WINDOWS OPENING
There are several important Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) and Consolidated Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) grant systems opening in February. Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) in the scenarios listed below should take note of these systems opening and complete any necessary steps by the deadlines listed below. If you have any questions, please contact the district's Federal Programs Specialist.

ED STEPS ONE NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND ONE PLAN NOW OPEN FOR COHORT 3
The Education Department's Tiered System of E-Plans and Supports (ED STEPS) One Needs Assessment and One Plan are now accessible for educational entities within ED STEPS Cohort 3. This represents a critical step toward effective planning and enhancing educational outcomes across participating schools. All required One Needs Assessment and One Plan submissions must be completed by **April 30, 2026** to ensure timely approvals and funding alignment.

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT
For help regarding the ED STEPS process, please consult the following resources:

- **ED STEPS User Manual** – Provides guidance on system navigation and updated rubric information.
- **ED STEPS Website** – Offers access to resources related to the One Needs Assessment, One Plan, and One Funding Application, as well as training materials.

For One Plan ESEA or Title I Schoolwide rubric assistance, contact your assigned Federal Programs Specialist. For general ED STEPS assistance, contact EDSTEPS@education.ohio.gov.

NONPUBLIC DATA SYSTEM PARTICIPATION WINDOW NOW OPEN
The Nonpublic Data System (NPDS) is now open for the FY27 Participation Window and will close on March 31, 2026. During this period, nonpublic schools will create participation forms and move them forward for public district approval. Nonpublic schools are reminded that they should ONLY create participation forms with districts from which they have disaggregated federal data which would include low-income students, English learners or eligible children with disabilities. Public districts should verify student addresses in NPDS as well as the disaggregated data before marking the participation forms Public Approved. If there are corrections that need to be made, blue edit pencils will be available for nonpublic principals to make those changes. All participation forms must be Public Approved by March 31, 2026. For more information, please see the State and Federal ADM Reporting Instructions.

UPCOMING TRAINING ON NONPUBLIC EQUITABLE SERVICES

The Office of Federal Programs (OFP) has a training series on key topics related to the Consolidated ESEA grants. On February 12, 2026, from 9:00-10:00 a.m., OFP will host a training on nonpublic equitable services. Chantelle Carter, Nonpublic Ombudsman will provide key reminders and information on the NPDS participation window. You can sign up for this webinar training on the Office of Federal Programs Trainings webpage.

OMBUDSMAN OPEN OFFICE HOURS

Ombudsman open office hours will be held the first Wednesday of every month at 10:00 am. This is open to public and nonpublic school officials. Come with your questions, concerns, issues or just to listen to the discussion. The links to the office hours can also be found on the Office of Federal Programs Training page.

If you have questions, please contact Chantelle Carter, Nonpublic Ombudsman at Chantelle.Carter@education.ohio.gov or your Federal Program Specialist.

TITLE I CARRYOVER WAIVER PROCESS NOW AVAILABLE

LEAs are prohibited from carrying over more than 15 percent of their annual Title I, Part A funds into the proceeding year without an approved carryover waiver from the Office of Federal Programs (OFP). An LEA is only able to receive a Title I carryover waiver once every three years. OFP will notify an LEA that has excess Title I carryover and is eligible for a waiver through a Consolidated application History Log note. There is a page within the Consolidated Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) where LEAs may request a Title I Carryover Waiver if the LEA has excess Title I carry over and if a waiver is available. This page is now available and will be open for LEAs to select to accept Title I carryover waivers until February 20, 2026.

COMPARABILITY REPORTING NOW AVAILABLE

Around 200 LEAs in Ohio meet certain parameters under ESEA to be required to demonstrate that they are providing “comparable” services among Title served and non-Title served schools. LEAs that are required to demonstrate comparability have been notified directly by the Office of Federal Programs. Comparability reporting for these LEAs is completed in the Comparability system in OH-ID. LEAs are now able to submit their comparability report and it is due by March 13, 2026 for the LEAs that are required to complete it.

If you have questions about any of the above topics, please reach out to your Federal Programs Specialist, listed as the Consolidated Contact in the CCIP Address Book.