



DECEMBER 2023

Office of Federal Emergency Relief Programs (OFERP)

Notes to the Field



Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- December 25th - State offices are closed in observance of Christmas Day
- December 28th Office Hours for Business Managers **cancelled** - Register [here](#) for January's meeting
- December 30th - CRRSA ESSER 2 and MLEH Invoicing must be complete
- January 1st - Happy New Year! State offices are closed today
- January 4th - 9 a.m. - OFERP Office Hours - Register [here](#)
- January 15th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - State offices are closed today

PROGRAM NOTES



Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Public and Annual Notification

As required by [2 CFR §200.113](#), and as a recipient of federal funds, the Maine Department of Education (DOE) must annually ensure that Maine school administrative units (SAUs) are aware that:

1. SAUs must disclose in a timely manner, in writing to the Maine DOE, all violations of federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the federal award.
2. SAUs that have received federal funds are required to report certain civil criminal, or administrative proceedings to the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) within the System of Award Management (SAM).
3. SAUs need to annually notify employees of their responsibility to report fraud.

Each recipient of a federal grant under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 must display, in a public place, the hotline contact information of the US Department of Education Office of the Inspector General (ED OIG) to ensure that any individual who observes, detects, or suspects improper use of taxpayer funds can report such improper use.

2 CFR §200.113, are met, the Maine DOE will begin reviewing SAU websites for the required posting of information beginning Tuesday, January 16th and will submit verification of documentation to the US Department of Education demonstrating all requirements have been met.

Contact the Hotline: The OIG encourages you to use its [online form to file your complaint](#). You can also download the OIG Hotline Form and mail or fax it to our office. Please note that it will take longer to process your complaint if submitted by mail or fax.

U.S. Department of Education Office of Inspector General Hotline 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W. Washington D.C. 20202-1500
Fax: (202) 245-7047

If you need assistance, please visit our [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) or call the OIG Hotline at 1-800-MIS-USED (1-800-647-8733)



Operators are available*:

Monday and Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. EST
Tuesday and Thursday: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST

*Except Federal holidays



NEW OFFICE HOURS FOR BUSINESS MANAGERS AND ACCOUNTING STAFF

Join us on the last Thursday of every month at 10 a.m. as the DOE fiscal teams collaborate to bring you informative sessions and provide a common place for you to get your questions answered, regardless of the Federal funding source.

The next session will be held on Thursday, January 25th and you can register [here](#). We hope to see you there!



HOT OFF THE PRESS!

The updated [ESSER Year 4 \(FY23\) data collection form](#), along with the [Summary of Key Differences](#), which outlines the changes from ESSER Year 3 (FY22) to ESSER Year 4 (FY23) is now available. Grantees will be notified when the schedule for the ESSER collection period has been announced, along with information regarding upcoming webinars.

- Question 3.b2 "LEA Expenditures by ESSER Subgrant fund and Activity"- This question and its associated sub-questions are being moved out of the appendix to be in line with the other LEA-level survey questions, as previewed in the previous version of the form. Guidance is being included for questions 3.b1 and 3.b2 to clarify that question 3.b1 collects expenditure information by accounting object and 3.b2 collects expenditure information by activity.
- Question 3.b4 "Planned Uses of Remaining ESSER II Funds"- A reference to "planned expenditures" in 3.b4 has been updated to "planned uses" for consistency and clarity.
- Question 3.b10 "LEA Hiring and Retention of Specific Positions"- This question was optional and is now mandatory, as previewed in the previous version of the form. The guidance for this question has been updated accordingly.
- Question 3.d3 "LEA Activities or Interventions to Address Learning Loss"- This question previously asked respondents to indicate whether they implemented listed activities or interventions by selecting "Yes" or "No". Respondents will now enter the amount of funds expended on each listed activity, as previewed in the previous version of the form. The guidance for this question has been updated accordingly.
- Question 4.b1 "LEA Interventions and Participation"- This question and its associated subquestions are being moved out of the appendix to be in line with the other LEA-level survey questions, as previewed in the previous version of the form. The guidance for question 4.b1 was updated to remove a portion of the guidance that was incorrectly retained from a draft version of the form.
 - Removed guidance: "If this LEA provided an activity or support to all students and additional or supplemental services/activities targeted specific student groups, please answer yes to the activity "for all students" and select the student group for whom additional support/access was provided."
- Question 4.b1.7 "Purchasing educational technology"- The guidance for question 4.b1.7 was updated to clarify that if educational technology was purchased for all students, no further subquestions about the provision of educational technology are required.
- Question 4.c1 "Access to select staff"- This question was optional and is now mandatory, as previewed in the previous version of the form. The guidance for question 4.c1 was updated to reflect this change and to clarify that respondents should be providing FTE information as of September 30, 2022.
- All references to "subawards" have been updated to "subgrants" for consistency and clarity
- All references to "State(s)" have been capitalized throughout the form for consistency.
- All references to "English language learners" have been updated to "English learners" for consistency.
- Clarifications have been added to the "Auto-fill" information throughout the form to inform respondents that these fields will be auto-filled from prior APR submissions.

You can find this and all other changes to the ESSER Year 4 (FY23) Performance Report [here](#).



Is the information you are hearing out in the field accurate or a misconception?

STATEMENT HEARD IN THE FIELD:

You purchased a vehicle with ESSER funds to provide additional "safe distancing" transportation for students. Under guidance from Federal Programs, this vehicle can only be used for the reason(s) stated in your application/award notification. This only applies until the grant's period of performance ends, at which time you can utilize that vehicle in any manner that is deemed necessary by the district.

True or False?

This statement is **FALSE**. CFR § 200.313(e) states: When original or replacement equipment acquired under a Federal award is no longer needed for the original project or program or for other activities currently or previously supported by a Federal awarding agency, except as otherwise provided in Federal statutes, regulations, or Federal awarding agency disposition instructions, the non-Federal entity must request disposition instructions from the Federal awarding agency if required by the terms and conditions of the Federal award.



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