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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

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July 1, 2021

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(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 048-21 SPECIAL PROGRAMS & FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers
Educational Service District Special Education Directors
Federal Program Directors
Special Education Directors

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: 2021–22 School Year Formal Monitoring Update

CONTACTS: Timothy McNeely, Director of Consolidated Program Review & Rural Education, 360-725-6234, timothy.mcneely@k12.wa.us

Jennifer Story, Program Improvement Coordinator, 360-725-6075, jennifer.story@k12.wa.us

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

In the spring of 2020, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) suspended all state and federal monitoring activities through the end of the school year, due to COVID-19 school facility closures. This suspension included Consolidated Program Review (CPR), Special Education’s Washington Integrated System of Monitoring (WISM), and Career and Technical Education’s (CTE) Methods of Administration (MOA) monitoring. OSPI staff continued to provide technical assistance to Local Education Agencies’ (LEA) staff, review documentation previously submitted by LEAs, and conducted civil rights investigations, special education citizen complaints, and due process hearings.

This bulletin will address OSPI’s monitoring plans for 2021–22 for CPR and WISM.

Consolidated Program Review

In 2020–21, CPR monitoring processes conducted by OSPI federal and state program staff focused on monitoring activities that protected civil rights and supported the provision of

education focused on student learning and improved outcomes, leading to improved post-secondary outcomes, careers, and civic engagement. OSPI monitored those LEAs that did not complete reviews originally scheduled for 2019–20 and completed open reviews from prior years.

In 2021–22, OSPI will work with LEAs with reviews still open from the 2019–20 and 2018–19 monitoring cycles. A select number of LEAs will receive an out-of-cycle CPR based on our annual risk assessment, as well as the four largest LEAs (as determined by federal fund allocation). LEAs identified for CPRs in 2021–22 will be notified in August 2021.

All LEAs will continue to be monitored annually through the submission and review of federal and state grant applications, ongoing technical assistance and guidance, end-of-year reports, and other reporting requirements.

This approach to monitoring for 2021–22 will limit the impact of monitoring on participating LEAs and fulfill OSPI's obligation to monitor for compliance with federal and state requirements. Emerging necessity during the ongoing crisis and further federal or state guidance leave this and other monitoring plans subject to change. All reviews, unless specific risk is identified, will be conducted as desk reviews.

Currently, OSPI is considering redesigns to the monitoring process using a more risk-based approach, emphasizing a continuum of monitoring activities, and focusing on continuous improvement. We will provide additional information regarding monitoring in 2022–23 and beyond as it is available.

ESSER Fund Monitoring

LEA use of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds is an additional risk factor for the purposes of determining those LEAs selected for review in 2021–22. ESSER is a new fund source and may represent a significant budgetary impact. Upon request, LEAs must provide a summary of how they have used the funds to support the selected activities, and OSPI will conduct an internal fiscal check on expenditures to ensure they are used according to their application to ensure usage aligned with the LEA application. OSPI will also monitor support of equitable services and tribal consultation provided in the use of ESSER funds.

Special Education Monitoring (WISM)

In 2020–21, special education desk reviews and virtual on-site reviews conducted by OSPI focused on the provision of special education services in remote, hybrid, and in-person instructional models; the collection and reporting of IEP progress data; educational benefit; and the use of data for continuous improvement. Selected LEAs completed self-assessments in the areas of inclusionary practices and post-secondary transition outcomes for students with disabilities.

In 2021–22 and beyond, LEAs will continue to be selected for a special education desk review, on-site visit (or virtual on-site, in line with safety guidelines), or self-assessment based on

several fiscal and program risk factors. Some LEAs may receive a combined fiscal/program review, while others may be selected only for a fiscal or program review. Fiscal reviews will focus on the LEA's ability to implement fiscal procedures that ensure grant funds are used for authorized purposes in compliance with laws and regulations; have internal controls that ensure reliable financial reporting and accountability; and evaluate best practices. Program reviews will continue to focus on the provision of special services, including recovery services; educational benefit and student outcomes; collection and reporting of IEP progress data; and the use of data for continuous improvement. WISM reviews will continue to be aligned and coordinated with CPR reviews whenever feasible and in collaboration with LEA leadership.

In addition, all LEAs will continue to be monitored annually through the submission and review of annual federal fund applications, including special education budgets and spending plans; impact reports; special education data reports; fiscal expenditure reports; and annual determination levels.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding CPR, please contact Timothy McNeely, Director of Consolidated Program Review & Rural Education, at 360-725-6234 or email timothy.mcneely@k12.wa.us.

For questions regarding special education monitoring (WISM), please contact Jennifer Story, Program Improvement Coordinator, at 360-725-6075 or email jennifer.story@k12.wa.us.

The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631. This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

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