**Inclusionary Practices Project**

**COVID-19 Q&A**

*For Pilot Districts and Schools Receiving iGrants Funds*

1. **During these unprecedented times, districts may not be able to expend all of their iGrants funds for the Inclusionary Practices Project. Do pilot districts and schools get to carry over their unspent funds from the 2019–20 school year to 2020–21 school year?**

   The legislature approved the transfer of a portion of 2019–20 funds, which run July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, to the next state fiscal year, which starts July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The amount OSPI requested to be transferred from year one to two was in part based on what responsive Pilot Districts indicated they would be unable to spend year one. A significant amount of money was approved to be transferred to the next fiscal year starting July 1, 2020, and will allow about $19.8 million to be spent on inclusionary professional development in the 2020–21 school year.

   The amount requested to be carried over was calculated prior to the emergence of COVID-19 and is not reflective of the current need. Due to district and other closures, it will be a challenge to spend the full amount allocated June 30, 2020, and any unspent dollars for the 2019–20 school year, except for those approved to be carried over, will be lost. Please contact speced.fiscal@k12.wa.us for details specific to your district.

2. **What are ways districts could spend their Inclusionary Practices Project funds before June 30, 2020?**

   We encourage districts to think flexibly and creatively about ways they can utilize their funds before June 30, 2020. This includes the purchasing of training, online modules and other virtual opportunities (for ideas download the spreadsheet on OSPI’s Inclusionary Practices Project website). In addition, funds may be spent to purchase materials and supports that will assist educators in online, remote and distance learning to increase inclusionary access, support professional growth and be utilized in the long-term beyond the current school year. Purchases may include, but aren’t limited to:

   - Professional texts and books for educators and book studies
   - Assistive technology that supports students with disabilities in the general education classroom curriculum,
   - Online professional learning
   - Software
3. **In these times of uncertainty, how do districts address this issue in terms of their work plans for the inclusionary Practices Project this school year?**

Spending plans that have been uploaded by pilot districts to the iGrants system can be updated and amended at any time. We realize there are many unknowns right now. Once districts know the spending adjustments, they will make this spring, we encourage districts to amend their spending plan summary on page 2 of the iGrants Form Package (935, 936, or 939, respectively). This is only required if the spending plan changes significantly, meaning a change of 10% or more among budget lines. For example, if your district will now have educators pursue online professional development options, make sure this change is reflected in your iGrants spending plan and in the District Action plan, specifically the page titled, Pilot Activities Map: District- and Building-level.

4. **If districts weren’t able to spend all of their funds this school year, will they receive less funding next year?**

No, the agency is committed to funding pilot districts using a data-driven LRE formula based on the number of students with disabilities in pilot schools. See question 9 for specific information.

5. **Prior to the shutdown of schools, districts purchased registrations and travel reservations for conferences, trainings and other out-of-town and in-person opportunities. If these expenditures weren’t refunded, can districts get reimbursed for these costs?**

Reimbursement for non-refunded expenses due to cancellations because of COVID-19 will be made on a case-by-case basis by OSPI. OSPI will evaluate documentation submitted by districts that must indicate all efforts were made to obtain a refund. Like any other reimbursement request, districts will need to provide documentation of the type of proof of purchase, including but not limited to, invoices, receipts, and confirmation documentation, that includes purchased amounts and a record of efforts the district tried to seek refunds and reimbursements from the vendors, companies and businesses where goods and services were purchased.
6. Are there online professional development opportunities available to educators now?

Yes, the OSPI team has gathered a collection of online modules and training that are available to educators now. Many are free and some require a fee. The spreadsheet is available on OSPI’s Inclusionary Practices website towards the top of the page and under the same website under the “Hot Topics” menu on the right side of the page. This resource will be updated regularly as additional opportunities arise.

7. Do I need to adjust my iGrants spending plan before accessing online professional development?

No, you don’t need to adjust your spending plan before you access online PD. However, your spending plan may need to be adjusted prior to submitting an invoice claim for reimbursement if it is a 10% or more change in budget lines (refer to question 3). OSPI won’t be able to pay your claim if your spending plan is not aligned accordingly within the guidelines. Bottom line, make sure any changes to your spending plan and District Action plan are updated and uploaded to iGrants prior to submitting claims.

8. Is the mid-year report still due on March 31?

No. Due to the current situation, the mid-year report is not required, and districts do not need to submit it. We will keep you posted on an end-of-year report which would be due in June.

9. Year 2 funds will be released in July 2020. What do districts need to do now?

Pilot districts do not need to do anything at this time related to next school year 2020–21. The funding formula will be the same as it was for this school year. Districts will receive a $15,000 base amount plus $95 per student with disability in identified pilot schools based on November 2019 child count. For the most part, we anticipate districts will receive close to the same amount they received in the 2019–20 school year.

Once the form package is set up for 2020–21, districts will be notified.

If you do not find the answer to your question on this page, please contact Nasue Nishida at inclusion@cstp-wa.org and we will help you find the information you are seeking and update this document on OSPI’s website.