

ODE ITC Call – 8/9/2021

Notes provided by Naja Bailey (META) and Catherine Wright (NEONET)

Updates provided by Melissa Hennon (ODE)

If you participated in this conference call, please note that the responses to the first two questions (regarding ALT Missing) in the Q&A section below have been updated. Some of the original response information shared during the call had been incorrect.

FY21A Assessment collections – CTE assessment collection was extended because of vendor file issues for course grade substitution records. Appeals for a number of closed collections are open this week, see today's EMIS Newsflash for details.

ODE Change Call – Cancelled for this week since there is just one change open for public comment: EMIS Change #22-74 Reporting of student Gifted (GG) record is now required during the Beginning of the Year "S" collection so data is available for funding, per the new funding formula.

ODE Events – ODE New EMIS Coordinator training sessions are under way, and the August ODE EMIS training starts this afternoon. There is still time to register for some of the sessions via STARS.

FY21H Financial collection – Closing August 31, ODE sent reminder emails to ITC's last week for districts that haven't submitted yet. Data Appeals window will be available after the collection closes.

Funding – On the funding side, ODE is preparing for FY21 final payment #1 (for September), which is typically calculated in August since they need priority rankings for schools. It will include all data pulled today (based on what was submitted through last Friday) but won't include all appealed data. As soon as they get the calculations done, reports will be posted.

FY21 Funding Appeals – Appeal window is August 19-September 1, for an opportunity to file an appeal where someone else's data impacts your payment. E.g., Community School flags, overlapping enrollment, cases where a district's funding is affected because of another district's misreporting. Also, if you've escalated anything in ODDEX Tuition or SOES that hasn't been resolved yet, any outstanding flags you think shouldn't be placed. Flagging for SOES will close August 18 (next Wednesday).

Q: If a district did not get all of their OST 3-8 Assessment "Score Not Reported" codes reported to clear missing assessments for remote learners who didn't test, do they need to do an appeal?

A: Yes, because those scores go into the calculations for the Local Report Card; there aren't grades on the LRC this year, but calculations still take place.

Course Grade Substitution for Assessments – This was an available option for Grade 11 and 12 EOC and CTE assessments. Starting this week, ODE will see if they have EOC grade substitutions reported for students not in grades 11 or 12 (the only grades allowed to use this option last year). If they were reported for any students in grades 9 or 10, ODE won't be using them and will work on getting that info out to districts. If they accidentally reported those, they could just ignore; if data was misreported, ODE needs to know (e.g., FD Grade was wrong, but "S" collection and appeal window is now closed).

ODDEX – Experienced some performance challenges at the end of year, but hopefully it got better once the demand on the system was reduced. They are doing some additional work this week, which should help. They want to fix the system performance issues before they release the new Student Claiming Module. It was supposed to be out by now but we're holding off til this is resolved. We will also have a training video and OEDSA presentation coming out for this new module.

Q&A

Q: What do we do about students on the Missing ALT report who took the standard assessment?

A: The GE Record is what determines if ODE will put students on the ALT or standard assessment missing list. If students are on the ALT missing, then ODE has a GE Record that shows the students were reported with an IEP Test Type of ALT during the ALT Assessment window. In the end, it depends on what the students' actual IEPs say. If the IEPs indicate the Test Type is ALT during the ALT, then the students are expected to take the ALT assessment. If these students don't take the ALT, then they are considered untested for the ALT and a Score Not Reported Reason is required to be reported. If students were given the wrong assessment (standard instead of ALT as indicated on the IEP) and the district has standard assessment scores for the students, the student is still untested for the ALT and must be reported with a Score Not Reported Reason.

Q: We had a couple districts notified that they had too many kids taking the ALT, so they took the STR version instead. Should we have done something with those? Some did, but some didn't, change their GE records.

A: The students are on the ALT Missing because ODE has Special Ed (GE) Records that say the students were supposed to take the AACSD. If students' IEPs weren't changed to indicate the student would be taking the STR, the students are considered untested for the ALT and the districts must report a Score Not Reported Reason for the ALT. If the STR is what students should have taken, as indicated by the actual IEP, but the updated GE Record didn't get reported to EMIS, then districts will need to make sure the GE Record gets corrected in the new school year. If districts have too many students taking the ALT assessment, then once districts are beyond a certain threshold, they will be counted as not Proficient for AACSD, regardless of what the students' scores are. In the end, it matters what the IEP says regarding Test Type during the assessment window.

Q: District was at a meeting where they were led to believe if they had a school with a remote learning option, they have to create a separate school IRN for them. Is that an ODE requirement?

A: It depends, but for a lot of scenarios the answer will be yes. Legislature authorized traditional districts to open online-only schools. In some scenarios you don't (e.g., Credit Recovery) but if you have kids who are all online all year, then you do have to have a separate building IRN. For more information: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Reset-and-Restart/Online-Blended-Learning-Considerations-for-2021>

Q: In a lot of SIS, the Disadvantaged element is intertwined with Free/Reduced lunch status. Since everyone is eligible for free lunch this year, should they report all students as Disadvantaged?

A: They need to have proper documentation to mark students as Disadvantaged. While their lunches may be free, there are other advantages to families who are truly disadvantaged (e.g., waived fees). The only case where you can mark ALL students as Disadvantaged is if you are in a Community Eligibility (CEP) program for school-wide free lunch.

Q: That was tough even last year, they find it difficult to get parents to fill out lunch applications.

A: It is a challenge, but there are other options that Disadvantaged status may be a trigger for (e.g., broadband availability, PEBT, E-Rate). They should be using the Direct Certification process so if families are on public assistance they should be picked up. Do the best you can.

Q: Can PEBT data come from EMIS? That has been a nightmare.

A: Unfortunately, it requires parent name/address that we aren't allowed to see in EMIS. The way the Feds have approved it, it's been short-term things so we have to do the best we can. I'm not sure if this program has been renewed at all beyond this summer.

Q: Can we talk about changes in moving third graders onto fourth grade, are there any big differences from past years?

A: We're still working on figuring out those changes in the budget bill around TGRG. I don't believe we've gotten anything from the business office yet.

Q: So, it's fair to say hold off on reporting Retention until we get clarification?

A: You mean Retention for this year that's about to begin? No, don't hold off! Whatever was in the law for COVID-related modifications, that's what you should be following. Anything adopted in the budget bill doesn't take effect for 90 days, so we're looking around mid-September, and it's for the new year, not the year we just finished. For more information: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Reset-and-Restart/Third-Grade-Reading-Guarantee-Reading-Achievement>

Schedule:

Next ODE ITC call – Monday, August 23, 2021

Next call after that falls on Labor Day; it may move to that Tuesday, but we have to check schedules to see if that works