

Financial Transparency Working Group “Fitwig” January 17, 2017

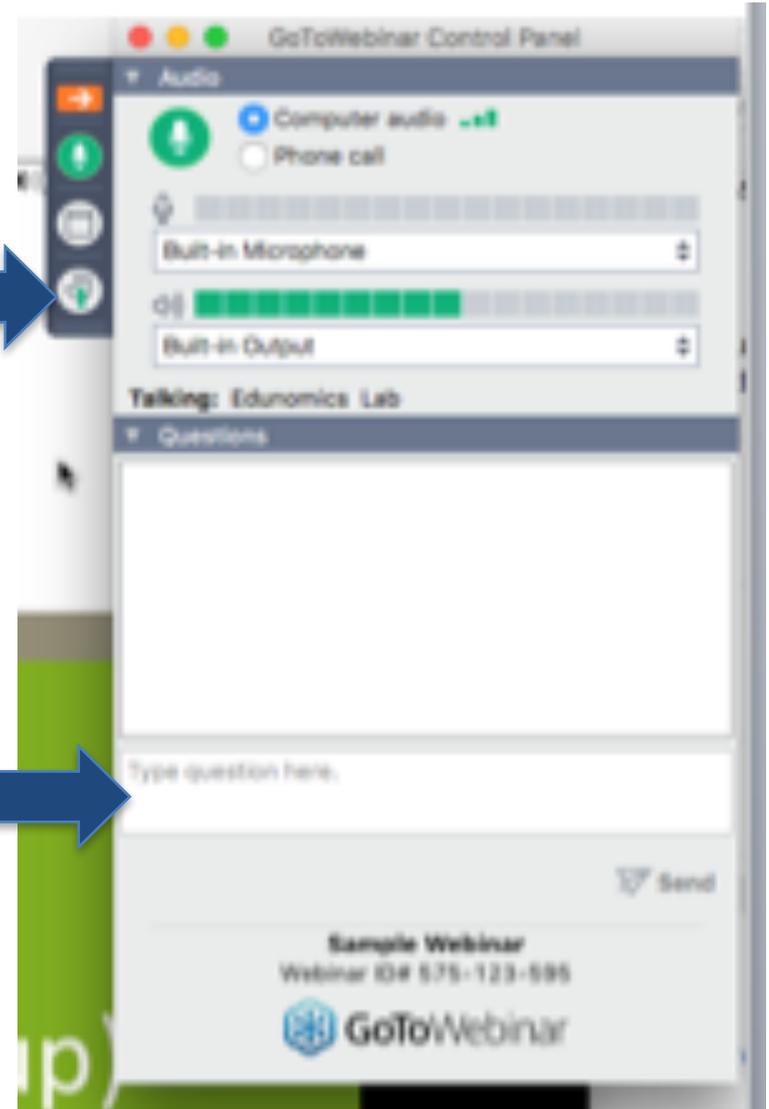
Hosted by:
Edunomics Lab at Georgetown University

Communicating During the Call

To request to be unmuted, please use the hand raise tool



Use the comment box to ask questions or message the group



Agenda

1. ESSA Financial Transparency Requirement
Timeline & Immediate Action Items
2. Still looking for data?
3. SEA Round-Robin
4. What can be done with SLFS survey data
5. In-Person Meeting
6. Next Steps



NO DATA

FOR YOU!

Today's Focus

1. SEA has a common chart of accounts (COA) including a field for location

SEA collects G/L data with COA & location

1.c. SEA hasn't yet collected G/L data from districts with COA & location (or is in pilot phase):
OR, NE

1.a. COA uses real salaries:
RI, DE
OH MA
MS WY
HI* FL
ME

1.b. COA uses average salaries:

2. SEA has SLFS (or similar) data by school (SLFS is a subset of school-level fin. data points):
CO, DC
MD**

3. SEA has real salaries/benefits of personnel with location

3.a. All school personnel
CT

3.b. Only cert/inst. personnel
IL

4. SEA does not yet have access to financial information by school:
ND VA AZ
SD MO

Timeline for meeting the PPE Requirement

June 2019: Regular deadline – PPE for 2017-18 SY

OR

June 2020 (with approved extension) – PPE 2018-19 SY

- Winter/Spring 2017:
 - SEA examines existing data runs
 - SEA decides whether to apply for waiver
 - SEA decides on collection strategy

Assuming no extension:

If new data are to be collected or parsed by LEAs... then

- By Summer 2017
 - SEA communicates new requirements
 - SEA trains LEAs on new procedures
 - SEA drafts “uniform procedure”
- 2017-2018 SY:
 - Districts record expenditures using new procedure
 - SEA refines “uniform procedure”
- 2018-19
 - SEA assembles/validates data
 - develops visual PPE SEA & LEA reports

Parse existing data

Collect new site level data from districts

Implement a new state-wide COA

A categorization of states by data access

Today's Focus

1. SEA has a common chart of accounts (COA) including a field for location

SEA collects G/L data with COA & location

1.a. COA uses real salaries:
RI, DE, HI
OH, MA, FL
MS, WY, ME

1.b. COA uses average salaries:

1.c. SEA hasn't yet collected G/L data from districts with COA & location (or is in pilot phase):
OR, NE

2. SEA has SLFS (or similar) data by school (SLFS is a subset of school-level fin. data points):
CO, DC
MD**

Expand SLFS data collection from LEAs. Develop uniform procedure based on SLFS variables

3. SEA has real salaries/benefits of personnel with location

3.a. All school personnel
CT

3.b. Only cert/inst. personnel
IL

Could develop a uniform procedure that begins by parsing existing salaries/benefits. May choose to supplement with additional collection

4. SEA does not yet have access to financial information by school:
ND, VA, AZ
SD, MO

Could launch a new COA. Could adopt SLFS. Could start a new collection.

Immediate next steps

Will your SEA apply for an extension?

Yes

- Contact Office of State Support to inform them, ask to stay updated on process
- Winter/Spring 2017: Develop a pilot to implement for 2017-18 SY

No

- Analyze existing data (personnel, SLFS)
- Winter/Spring 2017: Develop data-collection tool and survey districts to collect 2015-16 SY expenditure data to use when developing uniform procedure

Potential “Quick Wins”

1. Survey LEAs
 - Data availability & requests
 - Current school-level accounting procedures
2. Review functions and objects and determine what will be school-level vs. district-level
3. Rework existing financial data-collection tool to allow LEAs to submit school-level data
4. Begin analyzing data from a subset of districts

SEA Updates

SEAs round-robin update to hear where each state is in the process

- Data inventory?
- Outreach to LEAs?
- Attempted an early data run with data from at least one LEA?
- Drafting uniform procedure?

Contact Information

- Stephen Cornman (NCES)
Project Director: NPEFS, F-33, and SLFS
Email: Stephen.Cornman@ed.gov
Phone: (202) 245-7753
- Stephen Wheeler (U.S. Census Bureau)
Project Manager, F-33 and SLFS
Email: Stephen.Wheeler@census.gov
Phone: (301) 763-9950
- Osei Ampadu (U.S. Census Bureau)
Technical Advisor
Email: Osei.L.Ampadu@census.gov
Phone: (301) 763-7321

Exploring early data

Pick an LEA and select two schools within the LEA. Does the state have the data needed to complete this chart?

			School district # _____		
			Elem #1	High School #2	LEA average
A	School level	Federal			
B		S/L			
C		Sch total			
D	LEA level	Federal			
E		S/L			
F	Grand Total				

Post results, questions, comments at
www.fitwig.blog

In-Person Meeting

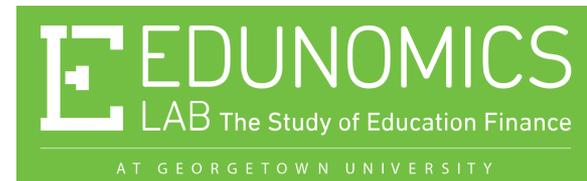
- Feb. 9, 2017 from 8:00AM-4:30PM at 1 Mass. Ave. NW in Washington, D.C. (CCSSO office)
- Programming:
 - Financial transparency large-group AM session
 - CIO and FTWG split for PM sessions
 - PM small-group sessions:
 - 3-6 programmed sessions

Next Steps & Reminders

- Next call: Feb. 1, 2017 – **OFFICE HOURS ONLY**
 - Good for SEAs/LEAs not joining 2/9 in-person
- Slides & recorded call available on FTWG website within a few hours

<http://edunomicslab.org/financial-transparency-working-group/>

- Post results of school level analysis, questions, comments at www.fitwig.blog



Department of Education Regulation on Uniform Procedures:

“A State must develop a single statewide procedure to calculate LEA current expenditures per pupil and a single statewide procedure to calculate school-level current expenditures per pupil”

- (i) Including, but not limited to, expenditures for administration, instruction, instructional support, student support services, pupil transportation services, operation and maintenance of plant, fixed charges, preschool, and net expenditures to cover deficits for food services and student body activities; but
- (ii) Not including expenditures for community services, capital outlay, and debt service;

Where to start on developing a uniform state-wide procedure?

WHAT TO EXCLUDE ENTIRELY FROM LEA?

- Programs (JROTC?); functions; object codes? (pensions)
- What changes are needed to ensure uniform LEA accounting of any exclusions?

Changes to COA?

New training for district CFOs?

New processes for financial data collection from LEAs

Smart steps:

- Go with what's already in place: Could choose categories as defined on existing state-wide COA or F-33 federal survey.
- Get input: Pilot LEA reporting with exclusions to test a draft procedure.

Where to start on developing a uniform state-wide procedure?

PARSING LEA LEVEL VS SCHOOL LEVEL

- Trickier since LEA and school level \$ is all from one pool. Districts currently make different choices about what to “centralize.”
- Are there functions, objects, programs that are reliably “central” across all LEAs and thus can be excluded?
- What about WSF districts? Charters?
- How to ensure that School-level PPE can be compared across schools in different districts?

Best place to start is to look at existing data.

1. To what extent is there consistency/variation in your state's LEAs/charters on the type and level of expenditures accounted for by school (or centrally)?

2. How to create a uniform procedure that works for different types of districts (small, decentralized, charter, etc.)?

- Assign costs to central by object type?
- Assign costs to central by function or program?
- Sum everything to school (even shared costs)?

ESSA Regulation Update

Regs are FINAL

Additional “guidance” to come (likely in January)

Relevant changes:

- Updated deadline: June 30, 2019
- Break out expenditures by:
 - Federal
 - State/Local
- Actual personnel costs (including salaries)
 - Assuming this means benefits too, but we have a question submitted for clarification

ESSA Regulation Update, cont.

- Excluded:
 - community services
 - capital outlay
 - debt services
 - privately generated
- Included (but not limited to) expenditures for:
 - administration
 - instruction, instructional support, student support services
 - pupil transportation services
 - operation and maintenance of plant, fixed charges
 - preschool (publicly funded portions)
 - net expenditures to cover deficits for food services and student body activities
- Denominator: student count *on or around* Oct 1
 - not weighted
 - Includes pre-K students receiving free services

ESSA Regulation Update, cont.

- Uniform procedures. A State must develop a single statewide procedure to calculate LEA current expenditures per pupil and a single statewide procedure to calculate school-level current expenditures per pupil.
 - Some questions remain as to the nature of the “procedure”.

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/essaaccountstplans1129.pdf> page 360