

FiTWiG October Meeting

Marguerite Roza and Liz Ross

October 1, 2019

Agenda

- Meet Liz
- PPE Data Release and Report Card Features
- Accessing and Validating Data
- SLFS and Financial Transparency: An Interview with Stephen Cornman
- Resources and Next Steps



Meet Liz!

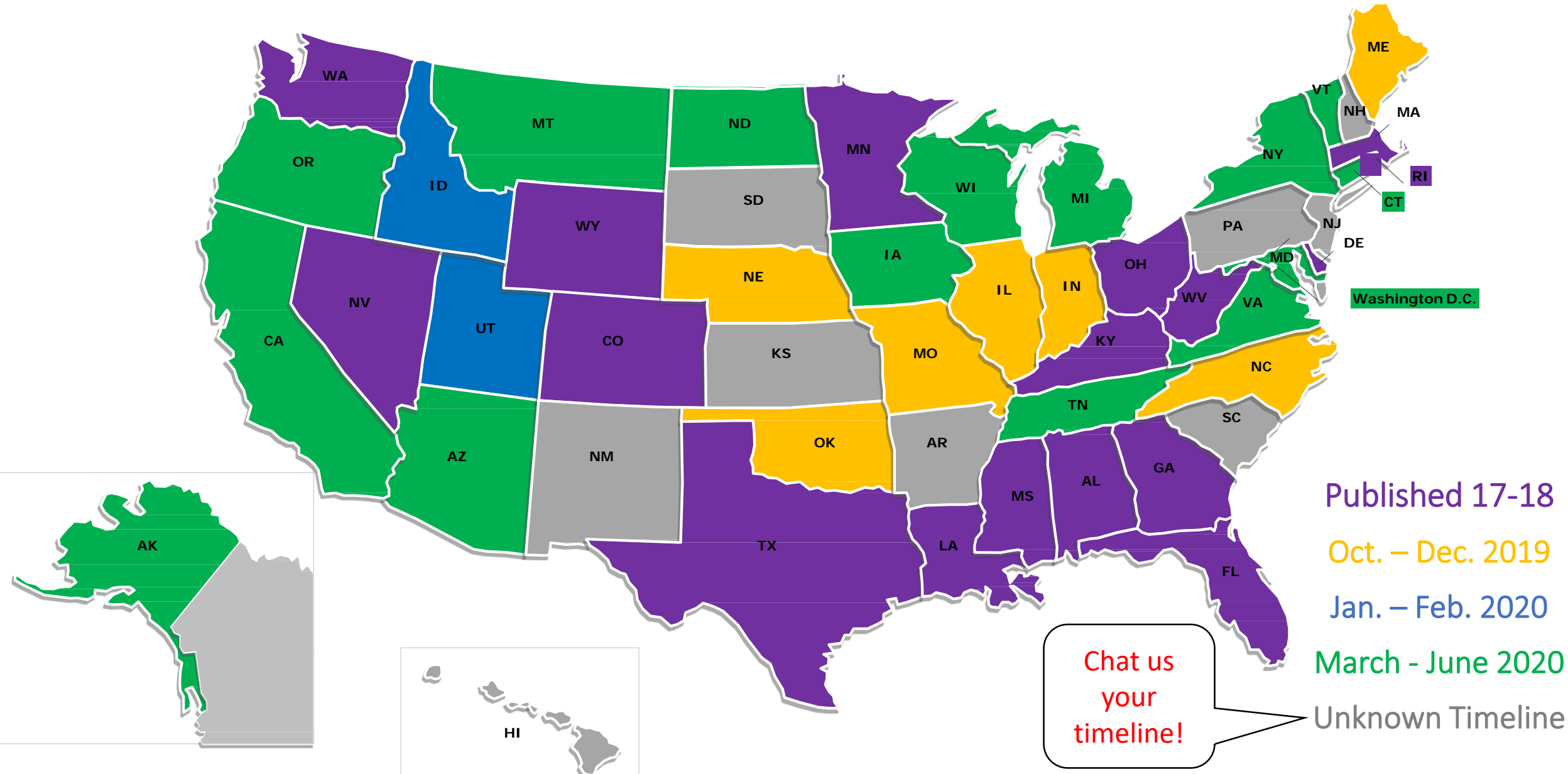
Is it October yet? I'm having
hockey withdrawals.



som^{ee}cards
user card



Anticipated Timeline for PPE Data Release



How are you Accessing Fiscal Data?

SEA Systems

CT, FL, IN, IA, GA,
MA, ME, MI, MO,
MT, ND, NE, NJ,
NM, NY, NC, OK,
OR, RI, and TX

LEA File

AK, CA, ID, IL, MD,
MS, TN, UT, and
WI

Vendor

CO, DC, KY, LA, NV,
VA, WA, and WY

Chat your
method!

??

AZ, DE, HI, NH,
OH, SD, and VT



Verifying Your Data: What to look for

- Not all money is counted (compare totals to F-33 figures for current exp)
- Including excluded expenditures, or excluding non-excluded expenditures
- Confusion over, possible double counting of, or exclusion of, centrally-coded expenditures
 - *LEA-submitted data files - how are you checking this?*
- Using average instead of actual salaries
- Miscalculating enrollment (e.g. pre-k students counted as 1 instead of .5 if they are only half day)
 - *Check against other enrollment sources (if letting LEAs do own per-pupil calcs)*



How to check if school totals match LEA totals using IFR

1. Multiply “A” * “H” across all schools in the district, then sum and see if it matches “I”

This checks alignment between H & I – school sums and reported district total.

2. Compare “I” against F-33 total current expenditures

Any difference should be attributable to some state spending that don’t go through districts or education departments (i.e. pensions, food services).

		• District 1 •			
		Elementary School #11	Elementary School #12	Middle School #17	Criteria Descriptions
A	Enrollment	375	511	992	Students are counted at the school that serves them, regardless of district of origin. The counts reported here are not weighted. The method of student count (ADA, ADM) is up to each individual state.
Site Level					
B	Federal	\$456	\$209	\$164	Expenditures accounted for at the school site include at a minimum the actual salary and benefit costs of the school site's full-time staff (as ESSA requires). These three numbers represent expenditures directly assigned to school sites. D is the sum of B and C.
C	State/Local	\$6,111	\$4,756	\$5,998	
D	Site Level Total	\$6,567	\$4,965	\$6,162	
Site Share of Central					
E	Federal	\$161	\$161	\$161	Any shared expenditures accounted for at a central level, but reattributed to the site level via state- or district-preferred method. Whether to prescribe site- versus central-level accounting and, if so, what methods to use to separate the two are decisions left to each state. For schools where all public funds are reported at school level, fields E, F and G can be zero.
F	State/Local	\$5,378	\$5,378	\$5,378	
G	Site Share of Central Total	\$5,539	\$5,539	\$5,539	
H	Total School Expenditures	\$12,106	\$10,504	\$11,701	This is the number states can use to make apples-to-apples comparisons across states. Critically, the sum of D and G represents the total public funds expended on behalf of students at the school.
I	Total District Exclusions/ Total District Expenditures	\$2,416,986 \$21,514,686			Total excluded expenditure amounts at the district level, remaining total district expenditures, and the list of excluded expenditures. IFR excludes certain expenditures and permits (but does not require) exclusion of others. See appendix on p. X for chart listing IFR exclusions and optional exclusions and related NCES codes.
J	Excluded Expenditures	<i>Debt, capital, equipment, special education transfers to private schools, adult education, community services</i>			
K	Enrollment Count Procedure	ADA, student count Oct. 1			Count method used for Criteria A, up to each state to determine.



Other Suggestions/Findings on Data Validity Checks?



“When we went inside the numbers, we found goo.”

School by School Spending Checklist	AL	CO	DE	FL	GA	KY	LA	MA
Student demographics alongside PPE					✓			
Enables comparisons among schools <i>within</i> a district	*	Up to 4	✓	*	*	*		
Enables comparison among similar schools <i>across</i> districts	*	Up to 4		*	*	*		
Arrays spending with student outcomes by school					✓			
Link to methodology	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Downloadable data for entire state	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
User can submit questions/feedback to agency			✓		✓			
School or district narrative		?						

* indicates this feature is possible only by downloading a PDF or Excel Document

School by School Spending Checklist	MN	MS	NV	OH	RI	TX	WA	WY	WV
Student demographics alongside PPE			✓		✓	*			
Enables comparisons among schools <i>within</i> a district		✓	✓	*	✓	*	*	✓	✓
Enables comparison among similar schools <i>across</i> districts			✓	*	✓	*	*		
Arrays spending with student outcomes by school						*			
Link to methodology					✓		✓	✓	
Downloadable data for entire state			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
User can submit questions/feedback to agency							✓		✓
School or district narrative									

*this feature is possible only by downloading a PDF or Excel Document

Three Different Fed Initiatives re School-by-School Financials:

CRDC collection –

focused on equity, with questions about course offerings, discipline, etc. but also included some questions on financial expenditures for teachers, or other limited categories.

OMB has proposed eliminating finance questions (data were unreliable).

SLFS optional

collection– focused initially on gathering expenditures for some expense variables. Now expanded to collect more expense variables. Still optional.

- *Voluntary expansion of F-33.*
- *Slow release of data makes them more relevant for research (than for current policy or practice).*

ESSA mandate–

requires states to post school-by-school spending on report cards. Emphasis is on total spending (vs spending by expense variables).

- *All states release data by 2020.*
- *Faster release of data makes data more actionable.*
- *Focus is on total spending (vs spending by expense variables).*
- *Some DoEd guidance may be coming.*

A Conversation about the SLFS Redesign

Stephen Cornman, NCES

Stephen Wheeler, U.S. Census Bureau

1. SLFS got a redesign. What's new and different?
2. How many states completed SLFS this year?
3. When will the data from the redesigned SLFS be available for public use?
4. You've mentioned a hope for merging SLFS and the ESSA school-by-school financial requirement at some point down the road. Any insights on how that might play out?
5. The CRDC is eliminating its expenditure questions (unreliable data), since some districts that don't code expenditures *by expense category* to the school. Decentralized districts (the ones that allocate dollars) also had difficulty. Does this concern you when considering making the SLFS mandatory?
6. Other questions?



Open time for SEA Questions



Resources

1. Accessing, Validating and Communicating about your Data: https://statesupportnetwork.ed.gov/system/files/financial_transparency_community_of_practice_cop_key_slides.pdf
2. A Check List Guide to Data-Visualization: http://www.bscpcenter.org/ftresources/resources/BSCP_Visualization_Checklist_Document.pdf
3. Data Visualization Tools <https://vimeo.com/341644680>
4. Results of SLFS Pilot Study <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2019/2019305.pdf>
5. OMB Survey Package <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=ED-2018-ICCD-0084>



November FiTWiG Meeting!

Communicating about the Data
November 12, 2019 1:00pm ET

Got questions? We're here!

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