

Breakout Session Descriptions

Concurrent Breakouts: 10:45am-12:00pm

Federal Grants Management Test – Andrew Ball and Aaron Kramer Brosnan

Gracia 1,2

Are you ready to test your knowledge of federal grants? In this interactive session, you will review and respond to a variety of questions on federal grants management. We will cover a wide range of topics, including procurement, time and effort, and many more.

The Most Challenging Issues in Implementing Perkins V – Michael Brustein and Steven Spillan

Castellana 1

We are seventeen months into the first State and Local Four Year Plans under Perkins V, and we are observing a number of questions. This session will discuss these questions, as well as any questions of concern to attendees. We will discuss the mandate to develop new strategies if the Section 113 data for the period ending June 30, 2021 does not reflect a reduction in the performance gap for special populations; we will look back to the last fiscal year as providing a “gap year” due to COVID to allow the use of federal funds for CTSO activities without violating the non-supplant provision; and we will focus on the changing role of the pass-through agency now that the federal office has stepped back on issuing policy.

Help Me, ESSER! Hot Topics and Updates – Julia Martin and Tiffany Kessler

Gracia 3,4,7,8

Got questions on ESSER? Want to know what you should be looking out for in the coming months? Then this session is for you. We'll cover the new requirements for set-asides in the American Rescue Plan, Maintenance of Equity, and lots of the questions we get most on what expenses are and aren't allowable. The discussion will cover the ins and outs of paying for construction, vehicles, building repairs, outdoor facilities, and vaccination programs and incentives. Attendees will also hear about plans and predictions for ESSER accountability so far, and have an opportunity to ask their own questions about ESSER issues at the State and district level.

Recent OSEP Guidance on Serving Students with Disabilities – Jennifer Mauskap and Madelaine Cleghorn

Castellana 2

The COVID-19 pandemic led educators to find new and innovative ways to work to ensure students with disabilities were provided a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). Despite best efforts, the challenges created by the pandemic may have prevented some IDEA-eligible children from receiving necessary services. In this session, we will review recent ED guidance regarding the provision of FAPE in the evolving times of COVID-19, including the question of compensatory services. We will also review recent OCR investigations related to serving students with disabilities as well as updates regarding the IDEA State Performance Plan / Annual Performance Report process.

Concurrent Breakouts: 1:30pm-2:45pm

Twist and Shout! EDGAR Hot Topics – Steven Spillan

Gracia 3,4,7,8

This session will discuss some key issues under EDGAR, especially in light of the pandemic. Topics will include procurement, timeliness of spending, and even discuss some time & effort issues under the stimulus bill. Attendees will also have an opportunity to ask questions on federal grants management issues.

WIOA and ARP – Michael Brustein and Aaron Kramer Brosnan

Castellana 1

Congress has provided significant revenues under ARP and CARES to support CTE, AEFLA, and WIOA, and the pending “Build Back Better” uses the WIOA framework to provide even more support. This session will discuss the permissible uses and restrictions on these new funding sources, and we explain how funds under these different programs may be “braided” or “blended” to promote coordination. We will reference the EDGAR and UGG sections which govern allowable uses of funds, eligible beneficiaries, and eligible recipients. There will be ample time to respond to questions from attendees.

Equitable Services and EANS – Bonnie Graham and Andrew Ball

Gracia 1,2

This session will discuss equitable services generally and equitable services under the recent coronavirus relief legislation—specifically, equitable services under the CARES Act and Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools under the CRSSA and ARP. The presentation will discuss topics such as consultation, set-aside calculation and pooling, as well as the allowable uses of funds and the public control of funds requirement under recent coronavirus legislation.

IDEA Fiscal Hot Topics – Tiffany Kessler and Madelaine Cleghorn

Castellana 2

Educators and administrators working with students with disabilities face significant and unique challenges in the wake of COVID-19. In this session, you will have an opportunity to learn how to navigate some of these related fiscal challenges as the speakers review new guidance from the U.S. Department of Education and discuss maintenance of effort requirements, braiding pandemic stimulus funds with IDEA funds, and IDEA audit priorities under the 2021 Compliance Supplement.

Concurrent Breakouts: 3:15pm-4:30pm

Time and Effort Requirements and Flexibilities – Steven Spillan and Aaron Kramer Brosnan

Gracia 3,4,7,8

This session will do a deep dive into the rules regarding time distribution records for employees paid with federal funds. We will discuss the various requirements, flexibilities, and guidance on maintaining compliant time & effort records, as well as discuss some recent issues regarding time tracking and stimulus funding.

HEERF Updates – Bonnie Graham and Andy Ball

Castellana 1

This session will discuss each of the Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEERF) funds authorized by each of different coronavirus relief bills. The presentation will provide background information on each of the three HEERF funds including the allowable uses and provide a discussion on FAQs from ED guidance. Finally, the presentation will review two recent ED OIG audits of two colleges' use of HEERF funds using an audit period from the grant date through December 31, 2020.

Student Counts and Other Data Challenges – Julia Martin

Gracia 1,2

From confusion about the Census to changes in SNAP rules to waivers of school meal applications to assessment waivers, the last two years have been full of upheaval in terms of what data schools collect about students and how. This session will lay out how data on student body makeup and percentages of economically disadvantaged students are used to drive everything from accountability to funding. Come hear about the challenges in collecting and using the data we do have, the guidance that the U.S. Department of Education and Agriculture have issued so far about potential alternatives, and why states and districts might want to start considering alternative sources of data – and when that might be necessary.

Office for Civil Rights – Jennifer Mauskopf

Castellana 2

With a new administration comes new priorities, and one ED office within which we expect to see some significant changes is the Office for Civil Rights (OCR). In this session, we will review OCR trends, priority areas, and what to expect in terms of civil rights enforcement and policy under the Biden Administration.