

2021 Fall Workshop
October 20, 2021
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will the slide show be available after the meeting?

A: Yes, all presentations and associated materials will be posted to the Illinois Quality Afterschool [website](#).

Q: For those whose applications have been approved but grants not loaded in IWAS, what is the timeline for when they will be uploaded so we can submit expenses and have funds reimbursed?

A: All 21st Century Community Learning Centers grants have now been loaded in IWAS. Grantees with approved applications can submit expenditure reports. If you're still having trouble, please reach out to your [principal consultant or the ISBE Funding and Disbursements Department representative](#) for Title IVB: Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Grants.

Q: Will the additional grades served be just for one year or will this grade level now be able to be served in the future?

A: The option to add the grade will only be offered until December 31, 2021. However, if a grade is added to the grant, that additional grade must continue to be served for the duration of the grant.

Q: No surveys are required for high school students at all?

A: Grantees may choose to survey high school students to inform their program planning or local evaluation. The Annual Statewide Evaluation Survey will provide an opportunity for grantees to report on any middle or high school students who are surveyed. However, the Data and Benchmarking tool will only ask for the number of surveys distributed and returned for Grades 1-5.

Q: Teacher survey data collection is required as of fiscal year 2022 and does not pertain to the November 2021 evaluation reports, correct?

A: Correct. The requirement to collect teacher surveys for all students attending programming in Grades 1-5 will impact teacher surveys distributed in spring of 2022 and the local evaluation report submitted in November 2022. The local evaluation report, which is due November 30, 2021, follows the previous Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) requirement of surveying regular participants (30-plus days of attendance) in elementary, middle, and high school.

Q: If the summer program started early and is included in the 2020-21 school year evaluation, can days still be used to track student attendance?

A: No, the new GPRA measures went into effect during the summer 2021 term; attendance should be tracked hourly from summer 2021 forward. Summer 2021 data should be included in your local evaluation for the 2020-21 school year. Grantees should work with their local evaluator to discuss the most meaningful way to reflect upon student attendance given the changing metric.

Q: Did the U.S. Department of Education (ED) ask states to set a minimum band of hourly attendance for grantees to be in compliance?

A: ED did not ask or require states to set a minimum, nor is that designated at the federal level

Q: How many hours of attendance are the students required to have?

A: There is no minimum number of hours of attendance that has been set by ED.

Q: The hour bands for tracking student attendance are very broad. What band should grantees aim for to feel like they are in good shape with the grant? Is there a target band that we should be aiming for?

A: The hour bands were provided by ED. They are broad, we understand. There is no target band set by ED or ISBE. Grantees may choose internally or in conversation with their evaluator to set goals for student attendance, but that is at the discretion of the grantee.

Q: How much notice do we receive if we are going to be monitored?

A: At a minimum, grantees will receive two weeks' notice that they will be receiving Tier II or Tier III monitoring. However, we are reorganizing how monitoring is conducted, so grantees are currently being contacted much farther in advance to coordinate and set monitoring visit dates. Tier III grantees that are being monitored during FY 2022 have already been contacted.

Q: Regarding Tier III monitoring: Does lifespan of grant mean every five years? Or if you are FY 2013, just once since FY 2013?

A: Grantees will be monitored at least once within the five-year grant duration. If renewability occurs, the grantee will be monitored again during that five-year cycle.

Q: Are there updates for FY 2013 grantees that are on their last year of the FY 2018 continuation?

A: At this time, we have no further information regarding whether there will be a Request for Proposals (RFP) for FY 2023 *OR* if FY 2013 grantees would be allowed to apply to serve the same sites they are currently serving should an RFP be released. Programmatic staff do not make those decisions, but will share any information possible as soon as we receive it. We do not have a timeline for when these decisions will be made. At this time, it is recommended that FY 2013 grantees make plans for sustainability options (full or partial) with the sites served on their grants.

Q: Does the Northern Illinois University team pull data (like the NEW GPRA requirements shared) in enough time to share it with grantees to be inserted into a grantee's November 30 summative report? It seems like there is a lot of overlap in data it pulls in comparison to the local evaluation template. New grantees can create all of these systems internally but is it wiser to request that from NIU if it is pulling most of the same data to insert into the Annual Performance Report on our behalf?

A: It is recommended that grantees set up their own systems to pull information needed for the local evaluation report. There may be a delay in some annual information (such as Illinois Assessment of Readiness [IAR] data, etc.) being loaded into the Benchmarking tool. The timing of the data availability in the Benchmarking tool may not allow enough time for evaluators to thoroughly analyze the information and create recommendations before local evaluation reports are due.

Q: Will grades and test scores be posted through the NIU benchmark for last year?

A: Grades are not available in the Data and Benchmarking tool. A grantee's acquisition of grades should be done locally with the school according to the school's guidelines. State test scores (IAR) will be pulled into the Benchmarking tool for students once the scores are available, though data from the 2020-21 school year could be delayed due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on testing windows. New GPRA measures will be pulled by NIU beginning with the fall 2021 term.

Q: To clarify, agencies that were just awarded for the first time this year (July 2021-July 2022) will not need to complete this (November 2021 evaluation report). Correct?

A: The annual evaluation that is due on November 30, 2021, will be an evaluation of the 2020-21 school year/program year. So new awardees for FY 2022 will not need to turn in a local evaluation this November. FY 2022 grantees' first local evaluation report will be submitted in November of 2022 and will evaluate the 2021-22 program year.

Q: Are there any recommendations/expectations for FY 2021 reports that will be reporting on the first year of the grant? I'm used to submitting reports for grants that have multiple years under their belts.

A: Cohort 21 will be required to submit the same evaluation of programming and data as other grantees. Cohort 21 will only have the 2020-21 school year to evaluate and reflect on. This first report is a useful opportunity for you to share and reflect on progress in getting your program running (hiring staff, recruiting students) and lessons learned from initial activities.

Q: For change in behavior, homework, completion, and class participation, can you recommend any existing measure we might use?

A: The teacher survey used under previous ED reporting requirements is a good place to start. You can see an example of this survey [in this presentation](#). However, you should consider what items beyond the GPRA requirements (homework completion, participation, and behavior) align with your program goals. There may be questions you want to ask of teachers that are not on the example survey, and other questions on the example survey that are not relevant to your program goals. ISBE does not provide a set teacher survey precisely so you can tailor the teacher survey to your programming.