

Clarady, Carrie

From: WILTFONG Michael * ODE <Michael.Wiltfong@ode.oregon.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 7:59 PM
To: IC DocketMgr
Cc: Clarady, Carrie
Subject: SLFS comment due today

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Dear NCES and To Whom It May Concern:

While I can appreciate the need for the SLFS data, especially as we continue to emerge from the pandemic, I have concern for the current implementation timeline for all states and the potential risk this data will bring if it isn't administered in a uniform, systematic approach.

While we are fortunate in Oregon, where we have had an established chart of accounts and a data system that has supported school-level financial reporting for many years, I know this is not the case in several states. In conversations I have been part of, where I have heard of tremendous fatigue and burnout, and loss of institutional knowledge for various reasons, I am concerned pushing this through with all of the competing priorities states are currently facing may prove to be very difficult and it's hard to say what the final result will be. Even with all of the advantages we had in our process and work, we are struggling and just hanging on, where we have been sprinting from one emergency to the next for the past three years. I can't imagine what that stress and fatigue is like where just a few years ago some states didn't have an established chart of accounts.

I am asking for continued conversations to make sure we can bring everyone along at a sustainable pace with the plan we really are comparing the same variables across state lines in the end. I would be concerned about policy discussions and decisions being made with data that may be inconsistent for the reasons I've listed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mike



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Strengths: Includer, Belief, Arranger, Responsibility, and Ideation