

Common Federal Single Audit and Monitoring Findings

Federal Funding Conference
March 2020



Audit and Monitoring Requirements

Uniform Grant Guidance

§200.501(a) *Audit required.* A non-Federal entity that expends \$750,000 or more during the non-Federal entity's fiscal year in Federal awards must have a single or program-specific audit conducted for that year in accordance with the provisions of this part.

Uniform Grant Guidance §200.331 All pass-through entities must:

(b) Evaluate each subrecipient's risk of noncompliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subaward for purposes of determining the appropriate subrecipient monitoring



Audit and Monitoring Requirements

DPI Monitoring

Occurs prior to awarding any federal funds to a subrecipient

Intent and Purpose

- Ensure that subrecipients use federal funds for the intended purpose
- Provide preventative assistance before mistakes are made and funds have to be returned

Federal Single Audit

Occurs at year-end after funds are spent

Determines whether the auditee has complied with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of Federal awards



DPI's Monitoring Process

The risk assessment is performed for:

- All federal grants, regardless of agency
- All subrecipients, regardless of type
- Every year



DPI's Monitoring Process

Types of subrecipients:

- Public School Districts
- Independent Charter Schools
- CESAs and CCDEBs
- Non-Profits
- Government Agencies (DOC & DHS)
- Public Libraries
- Private Schools (Food Service)
- Community Based Organizations



Risk Factors

- Dollar amount of total federal funds
- Known fraud
- Significant or multiple audit findings
- New subrecipient of federal award
- No federal single audit required
- Claims do not match financial annual report
- Newly consolidated or created district
- Program fiscal monitoring findings
- Return of federal funds
- Significant leadership turnover
- Financial concerns
- Compliance with prior year terms and conditions
- Insufficient obligation of funds
- Corporate management organization
- Other concerns determined as a possible risk of noncompliance



Common Risks

These are the most common risks identified that can result in terms and conditions placed on the federal grants:

- Known Fraud
- Significant or multiple audit findings
- New DPI recipient of federal funds
- Claims do not match annual reports filed with DPI
- Program fiscal monitoring findings
- Return of federal funds
- Not tracking expenditures



Terms & Conditions

Terms and Conditions/Monitoring Activities

- 1) Technical assistance
- 2) Review and testing of written procedures
- 3) Quarterly filing of claims
- 4) Supporting documentation submitted with claim
- 5) Cash reconciliation
- 6) DPI site visit



Terms & Conditions Follow Up

1) Technical assistance

- Contact subrecipient
- Provide technical assistance individually via phone
- Provide technical assistance online or conferences
- Provide links to available resources

Examples

- Unallowed cost identified on special education claim, DPI talked with the school district providing technical assistance. DPI comfortable that School District will be in compliance going forward
- After having the conversation with the school district above, DPI staff determined other districts were also reporting this unallowed cost, they would develop technical assistance for the DPI website



Required Written Procedures under the Uniform Grant Guidance

- The Federal Uniform Grant Guidance (2 CFR, Part 200) requires all subrecipients of Federal funds to document certain grant procedures.
- <https://dpi.wi.gov/wisegrants/uniform-grant-guidance/writtenprocedures>



Terms & Conditions Follow Up

2) Review and testing of written procedures

- Send DPI written procedures (cash management and allowable cost most common)
- Reviewed for existence and completeness
- If not, DPI provides subrecipient technical assistance and provides links to available resources
- Final written procedures are submitted to DPI

Example

- District uses the checklist available on DPI website and answers the questions. This is submitted to DPI as written procedures. DPI will contact school district and provide feedback and assistance on putting those responses into step by step procedures



Common DPI Monitoring Findings

Review and testing of written procedures

- No documentation
- Policy and no procedure
- Answers to DPI checklist of questions
- Lengthy and complicated
- Unaware of requirement



Terms & Conditions Follow Up

3 & 4) Quarterly claims & supporting documentation

- IDEA and Title I claims must be filed quarterly
- All claims for federal fund reimbursement must include a copy of the general ledger that matches the claim (printout by project code)
- Grant accountants review and follow up on any not matching
- Claim is not paid until supporting documentation matches

Example

When a grant accountant reviews the claim they will look for the costs on the claim to match the same WUFAR coding in the general ledger. If not, they will contact the LEA. This may result in journal entries to record costs appropriately in general ledger and developing a control that will ensure costs are properly accounted for.



Common DPI Monitoring Findings

• Supporting documentation submitted with grant claim

- No use of project code
- Year end journal entries moving costs
- Dollar amount of claim does not match general ledger
- Dollar amount by line item of claim does not match general ledger
- Unallowable cost included



Terms & Conditions Follow Up

5) Cash reconciliation

- Sent to DPI
- Reviewed for completeness and balance
- If not, another month will be required to be sent until cash is reconciled

Cash Reconciliations

- After an audit finding has been identified and DPI places terms and conditions on the agency, generally a balanced cash reconciliation is provided



Terms & Conditions Follow Up

6) Site visit to review documentation and procedure

- Written procedures
 - Allowable cost
 - Cash management
- Federal grant budgets
- Federal grant claims
- General ledger
- Payroll reports
- Time and effort supporting documentation



2019-20 Terms and Conditions

For FY2019-20, there were 40 subrecipients identified (up from 35 in 2018-19)

- 15 required to submit written procedures (16)
- 16 required quarterly submission with ledger support (15)
- 12 required to submit cash reconciliations (10)
- 0 required a site visit (1)



Do's

- Document procedures
- Individuals involved are aware
- Review and test procedures to assure implementation
- Track project costs in general ledger (*project codes*)
- Include matching claims to general ledger (*General ledger should match WISEgrants*)
- Include review of costs to budget

Don'ts

- Ignore requirement for written procedures
- Never review procedures
- Do not share with individuals involved
- Wait until end of year to identify costs
- File claims that do not match costs per general ledger
- Not amending budget as needed



2017-18 State Audit Findings

- Preparation of the Financial Statements - 313
- Segregation of Duties - 252
- Material Adjustments - 71
- Compliance Findings - 61
- Preparation of the SEFA - 43



2017-18 State Compliance Findings

- Special Education - 33
- Transportation - 21
- Bilingual/Bicultural - 1
- Tuition - 1



Audit of Written Procedures

Audit findings and management comments



Schedule of Finding and Questioned Costs

Condition:

- Policies and procedures in place to safeguard assets and establish related controls over receipts, disbursements, payroll transactions and general ledger maintenance.
- Federal awards are managed through District-wide policies and procedures
- Policies and procedures have not been evaluated to ensure compliance with the requirements of Uniform Guidance



Schedule of Finding and Questioned Costs

- **Criteria:**

Uniform Guidance requires policies related to cash management, cost allowability, procurement, and conflict of interest provisions, along with appropriate financial management systems and internal controls over federal awards to safeguard federal funds

- **Cause:**

District has not finalized assessment of its financial management system and related internal controls over federal awards, along with evaluation of existing policies for compliance with Uniform Guidance



Schedule of Finding and Questioned Costs

Effect:

District could become noncompliant with requirements of Uniform Guidance, resulting in future findings and questioned costs related to federal awards.

Current audit did not identify noncompliance with direct and material compliance requirements of the major federal award program



Schedule of Finding and Questioned Costs

• Recommendation:

- Assessment of District's financial management system and related internal controls over federal awards.

Assessment should include:

- Evaluation of existing policies and procedures and determination of where additional enhancements should be made or new policies created
- A plan to communicate policies to District employees
- Procedures to periodically review and update



Management Letter

• Comment #1 Uniform Grant Guidance Documentation (UGG)

District was not required to have a Federal Single Audit

- District has not fully implemented the requirements of UGG per discussions with key staff and review of available policies and procedures.
- UGG requires organizations that receive Federal awards to enhance their control documentation over managing these grants in an effort to strengthen oversight of federal awards.
- Recommend enhancing UGG documentation
- District currently working with an agency to create policies and procedures.



Other Comments and Observations

Federal awards received by District were less than \$750,000.

Wisconsin Public School District Audit Manual requires review of internal controls over federal and state awards, a Uniform Grant Guidance audit may have resulted in additional testing of internal controls or compliance over federal awards which may have identified areas where your internal control documentation or District policies could be enhanced or improved primarily with Allowable Costs, Cash Management, Procurement Suspension and Debarment, Conflict of Interest and Reporting



Other Comments and Observations

Appropriations

Budget categories had expenditures in excess of amounts budgeted (appropriated). District should continue to monitor its expenditure activity and adopt budget amendments when necessary to properly authorize expenditures

CFR 2, §200.308(a) The approved budget for the Federal award summarizes the financial aspects of the project or program as approved during the Federal award process.

CFR 2, §200.308(b) Recipients are required to report deviations from budget or project scope or objective, and request prior approvals from Federal awarding agencies for budget and program plan revisions, in accordance with this section.

CFR 2, §200.302(b) The financial management system of each non-Federal entity must provide for comparison of expenditures with budget amounts for each Federal award.



Other Comments and Observations

District does not have a formal policy regarding employee conflicts of interest

CFR 2, §200.318(c)(1) The non-Federal entity must maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of its employees engaged in the selection, award and administration of contracts.



Other Comments and Observations

- Although District management has a good understanding of the rules and regulations regarding procurement, Uniform Grant Guidance requires that the procurement policy be written
- The District's purchasing policy should be updated for the new Uniform Grant Guidance procurement requirements for the 2018-19 school year

CFR 2, §200.318(a) The non-Federal entity must use its own documented procurement procedures which reflect applicable State, local, and tribal laws and regulations, provided that the procurements conform to applicable Federal law and the standards identified in this part.



Other Comments and Observations

The district filed the majority of its grant claims after year-end. This is not proper cash flow management. It also deters the District from reviewing the expenses related to the grant on a periodic basis. We recommend the District file their grant claims throughout the year in order to efficiently manage their cash flow and related expenses.



Charter School Authorizer Reporting



Required Authorizer Annual Report

All authorizers (**School Districts**, City of Milwaukee, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Parkside and UW System Office of Educational Opportunity) are required to annually (December 1st) submit to the state superintendent and to the legislature a report that includes:

1. An identification of each charter school operating under contract with it, each charter school that operated under contract with it but had its contract non-renewed or revoked or that closed and each charter school under contract with it that has not yet begun to operate.



Required Authorizer Annual Report

2. The academic and financial performance of each charter school operated under contract.
3. The operating cost the authorizing entity incurred as a result of fulfilling its duties under Wis. Stat. 118.40(3m), detailed in an audited financial statement prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).
4. The services the authorizing entity provided to charter schools under contract with it and an itemized accounting of the cost of the services.



Required Authorizer Annual Report

Wis Stat 118.40(3m)(f)(3) refers to the Authorizer duties identified in Wis. Stat 118.40(3m):

- a) **Soliciting** and **evaluating** charter school applications.
- b) Considering the principles and standards for quality authorizing established by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers.
- c) Giving preference in the awarding of contracts for the operation of charter school that serve children at risk.
- d) Approving high-quality charter schools that meet identified educational needs and promote a diversity of educational choices.
- e) **Monitoring the performance** and compliance with s. 118.40, Wis. Stats., of each charter school with which it contracts.



Authorizer Operating Costs To Include

Examples of the types of costs that should be reported in the schedule of authorizer operating costs include but are not limited to:

- costs incurred by the authorizer to oversee and monitor its charter schools (i.e. salary and fringe for individuals who assume these duties)
- costs incurred soliciting, receiving and reviewing applications for new charter schools (i.e. salary and fringe for individuals who assume these duties which may include administrative staff, business office staff, legal staff, etc.)
- costs incurred completing and analyzing charter school data for the purpose of making renewal and revocation decisions



Authorizer Operating Cost Not Included

Costs that should not be included in the schedule of authorizer operating costs include:

- salary and fringe for the teachers at the charter school
- costs of charter school transportation
- curriculum services
- food service, etc



Charter School Authorizer Reporting Requirement 2019-2020

- Information for Charter School Authorizers is located at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sms/charter-schools/information-authorizers> including the following information on the annual report:

- 1)-Annual Report Template for Authorizers
- 2)-Annual Report Technical Assistance Document

- The report for the 2019-20 school year is due December 1, 2020.
- Added Optional Function account 235000, *Charter Authorizer Operating Costs*

Please contact Chanell Crawford at chanell.crawford@dpi.wi.gov or 608-266-5880 with questions.



Resources

- **Uniform Grant Guidance-DPI Webpage**
<https://dpi.wi.gov/wisegrants/uniform-grant-guidance>
- **Written Procedures-DPI webpage**
<https://dpi.wi.gov/wisegrants/uniform-grant-guidance/writtenprocedures>



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Open Q & A

Questions
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