

Audio Transcript

Tools, Website Resources, and Virtual Communities

0:03

Narrator

CIFR supports states with a broad range of resources, tools, and training materials. Gemma Stout at the U.S. Virgin Islands Office of Special Education uses CIFR's Maintenance of State Financial Support Toolkit and tools like the Funding Flow Ideograph Tool and the Data Collection and Reporting Tool, or DCRT, for help with the high-stakes MFS requirement.

0:24

Gemma Stout

We've used the diagram for mapping out the flow of funds in the territory. We've also used the DCRT for tracking the finances through each agency, and we've also used the note tool for the MFS to help draft the procedures. That was kind of the root of how we got those procedures going.

0:44

Allison Davey

The MFS Toolkit is extremely beneficial.

0:47

Narrator

Allison Davey at the Tennessee Department of Education also uses the toolkit and specifically the DCRT.

0:54

Allison Davey

When I came into this role in 2012, I didn't even know what MFS was and I had to learn very quickly. We are now using the DCRT to collect our data, and we had CIFR representatives come in and work with us to document our procedures in how we collect MFS.

1:12

Narrator

CIFR's most downloaded tool is a customizable calculator that helps states track Local Educational Agency Maintenance of Effort, or LEA MOE. Maryellen Parrish is Washington State's Fiscal Management Coordinator.

1:25

Mary Ellen Parrish

Together we developed a template that has the capacity to have 10 years of data for all 295 districts in my state. It was just so simple, the task that had taken probably a couple days, maybe even close to a week in the past, literally took just an hour or two this year to perform the LEA calculations for all districts in the state.

1:58

Narrator

John Andrejack at the Michigan Department of Education uses a range of CIFR resources.

2:04

John Andrejack

I've been able to look at both Maintenance of Effort and Early Intervening Services products, and I have found them to be extremely beneficial and comprehensive in a way that they are good initial products for beginning people that are looking for some new information in an understandable way, but also it addresses for those who need deeper understanding.

2:26

Narrator

Mary Ann Mieczkowski at the Delaware Department of Education has found CIFR resources helpful for professional development.

2:33

Mary Ann Mieczkowski

We also utilize the Quick Reference Guides regarding each of the topics when we're providing professional learning for our LEAs. They're very handy.

2:43

Narrator

CIFR hosts regional meetings for state fiscal staff on a range of issues. Missouri's Angie Nickell.

2:49

Angie Nickell

The community of practice is very helpful. It's wonderful to hear what other states are doing in particular areas, and just have those conversations with colleagues in other states.

2:59

Narrator

John Andrejack is a member of a topical community of practice.

3:02

John Andrejack

I have been engaged with the educational service agency community of practice when states distribute IDEA funds through those educational service agencies and have found that to be an extremely beneficial group to be engaged with and to talk with.

3:20

Barbara Haake

The listserv has been helpful.

3:23

Narrator

New Jersey's Barbara Haake.

3:24

Barbara Haake

Reading the questions from the other states and getting feedback from everyone else, everyone's very very responsive.

3:32

Narrator

The Center for IDEA Fiscal Reporting provides technical assistance to state educational agencies to help them meet their federal obligation to collect and report special education fiscal data under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA. CIFR is a partnership among WestEd, American Institutes for Research, Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education at Utah State University, and Westat. Our evaluator is The Improve Group. These podcasts were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #H373F140001. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Our project officer is Dan Schreier.