*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

***Grants Management***

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***Grants Management March Update***

These updates are also posted on the [Grants Management Website](https://www.doe.mass.edu/Grants/)

* [March Payment Request Window is open](#PaymentRequestWindow)
* [FY2019 and FY2020 Multi-Year Grant Balances](#MultiYearBalances)
* [FY2021 Multi-Year Delegation](#MultiYearDelegation)
* [FY2021 ESSA and IDEA Mid-Year Adjustments](#MidYearAdjustments)
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**March Payment Request Window is Open**

This is a courtesy reminder that the March Payment Request window is open through March 31, 2021.

This includes any FY2021 grants where an initial payment has been received, as well as Multi-Year grants for FY2020 Year 2 (use Year 2 form) and FY2019 Year 3.

**A note regarding FY2019 Year 3 request forms: The FY2019 Year 3 payment request window has some glitches. If you are unable to draw funds that are shown in the available grant balance but do not show in the Current Available to draw section, please email** **EdGrants@mass.gov****. It will take us time to get through the emails, so your patience is appreciated.**

To request grant funds, log into [EdGrants](https://edgrants.eoe.mass.edu/grantium/frontOffice.jsf) with your DESE provided user name and password. If you are new to EdGrants, please review the [Requesting Funds Reminders & FAQs](#REMINDERSANDFAQ). Don’t have a login? Please review the [User Security Controls](https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/edgrants/user-security-controls.html) information which explains how to get connected.

Locked out of EdGrants? Grants Management staff periodically checks and unlocks those who are locked out throughout the day. If you continue to find that you are locked out, please call the Grants Management main line at 781-338-6595 for assistance.

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**FY2019 and FY2020 Multi-Year Grant Balances:**

Federal Grants covered by the Tydings provision have an obligation period that covers approximately 27 months. FY2019 awards that originally would have expired September 30, 2020 were extended due to the COVID pandemic.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Grant Program** | **Federal Award Year** | **Current End Date** |
| Title I (FC: 305) | FY2019 & FY2020 | 6/30/2021 |
| Title II-A (FC: 140) | FY2019 & FY2020 | 6/30/2021 |
| Title III (FC: 180 and 186) | FY2019 & FY2020 | 6/30/2021 |
| Title IV (FC: 309) | FY2019 & FY2020 | 6/30/2021 |
| IDEA (FC: 240) | FY2019 & FY2020 | 6/30/2021 |
| Early Childhood Special Ed (FC: 262) | FY2019 & FY2020 | 6/30/2021 |
| Civics Teaching and Learning (FC: 589)\* | FY2020 | 6/30/2021 |

\*FC: 589 is a state trust funded grant, not a federal award.

**Unclaimed grant balances for FY2019 and FY2020 awards should be obligated and expended first. The FY2019 Year 3 and FY2020 Year 2 request window is open. DESE expects that these balances will be drawn in full as soon as possible. Please contact your** [**RASP liaison**](https://www.doe.mass.edu/federalgrants/liaisons.xlsx) **if you have questions regarding IDEA funds (FC 240) and the pro-share set aside.**

If all funds have been drawn for FY2019 or FY2020 multi-year grants, outstanding invoices have been reconciled/paid and all goods and services received, a final report (FR-1) should be filed in EdGrants ASAP.

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**FY2021 Multi-Year Delegation**

Most federal grants funded through the United States Department of Education (USED) contain a provision known as the Tydings Amendment.  This means the funds are awarded to states for use within a 27-month period.  The intent of this provision is to give the grantees (states) and sub-grantees (LEAs) enough time to administer effective programs and minimize the amount of funds returned to the federal government.

The EdGrants system was designed with multi-year functionality to more effectively administer Tydings grants. (Read: no more carryover re-application process!)

**Just as we did last year, DESE is going to submit multi-year delegation forms for all grantees to activate the extended period of availability. Multi-year grant recipients who typically need to enter a multi-year delegation form in May, will not need to do so for FY2019, FY2020 or FY2021 grants with balances left to claim.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Active Multi-Year Grant Programs** | **Federal Award Year** |
| Title I (FC: 305) | FY2019, FY2020 & FY2021 |
| Title II-A (FC: 140) | FY2019, FY2020 & FY2021 |
| Title III (FC: 180 and 186) | FY2019, FY2020 & FY2021 |
| Title IV (FC: 309) | FY2019, FY2020 & FY2021 |
| IDEA (FC: 240) | FY2019, FY2020 & FY2021 |
| Early Childhood Special Ed (FC: 262) | FY2019, FY2020 & FY2021 |
| ESSER I (FC: 113) | FY2020 & FY2021 |
| ESSER II (FC: 115) | FY2020 & FY2021 |

More information regarding multi-year will be forthcoming**. If you know you’d like to roll more than $100 into next fiscal year, please start planning now what you would need available to draw as of 7/1/2021 as you will have a very short window to enter the multi-year delegation in before we begin rolling $100 over for grants with balances.** If you DO NOT want us to roll any funding into the next fiscal year, you will need to let us know ahead of the multi-year window. Stay tuned for more information.

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**FY2021 ESSA and IDEA Mid-Year Adjustments**

Each year DESE must adjust district allocations because we reserve funds at the beginning of the year for new and significantly expanding charter schools, and then must redistribute to districts any unused funds from that reservation.

These amendments to adjust the award totals were due to be submitted in EdGrants on 3/17/2021. Information was sent to all contacts by the Resource Allocation and Strategic Planning (RASP) unit at DESE (March 5, 2021 email).

If you have concerns that you have missed this opportunity, please contact your [RASP liaison](https://www.doe.mass.edu/federalgrants/liaisons.xlsx) ASAP for more information.

As a reminder, when you increase (or decrease) your grant award you MUST upload a revised Part I reflecting the new award total. We are not able to processes changes to award amounts without the revised Part I.

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**Vendor Web**

Confused about payments? Not sure if you received a payment? Applicants can locate information regarding any payments received by DESE (and any other state agency) by logging in to the MA Comptroller’s [Vendor Web](https://massfinance.state.ma.us/VendorWeb/vendor.asp) site. This link includes a job aid on how to use Vendor Web.

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**[FY2020 Final Financial Reports (FR-1) – past due](#FINALREPORTS)**

All grantees must file a Final Financial Report (FR-1) in EdGrants to close out the grants. Final Reports are available in EdGrants the day after the grant project duration ends.

* FY2020 grants that ended 6/30/2020 were available 7/1/2020 and were due 8/31/2020 – these FR-1s should now be complete\*
* FY2020 grants that ended 8/31/2020 are available (since 9/1/2020) and were due 10/31/2020 - these FR-1s should now be complete\*\*
* For Multi-Year grants with balances, please do not file your FR-1 until you have drawn down and reconciled all funds spent and all expected invoices.
* Please DO NOT return unspent funds less than $1.

\*FY19 and FY20 **multi-year** grants with unclaimed balances are due to be filed 60 days after final draw down. See Due Dates Chart below.

If you do not see a final report available for a specific grant project in the Submissions menu, please email EdGrants@mass.gov and ***include the project number in the email.*** You can also call the main grants line at 781-338-6595; please have the project number ready.

**Please note there are a couple of known glitches with the final report form in EdGrants:**

* If the line item is overspent by a small amount that is within the allowable thresholds, it throws the “Balance Unexpended” and the percentage columns off. We are working to correct this error. In the meantime, you can submit the final report; the “Cash Balance” section at the bottom of the report form does calculate correctly.
* **If your Final Report shows a balance to return less than $1, you do not need to return the funds.**



**Multi-Year grants:** DESE expects that Applicants will spend down their funds in full and not return money now that the multi-year feature is available in EdGrants for specific grant fund codes.

**DESE expects that before you try to file a final report, district fiscal and programmatic staff will coordinate to ensure all funds have been expended appropriately and agree on the award total.**

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**FY2021 Grants and the Part I signatures**

Per our fiscal oversight agency, the Massachusetts state Comptroller’s office (CTR), the original signature requirement has not been waived and we cannot accept an electronic signature on the Part I documents.  A grant is a type of contract.  Please see below the standard language for all signed contracts.

**Authorizing Signature for Contractor/Date**: The Authorized Contractor Signatory must (in their own handwriting and in ink) sign AND enter the date the Contract is signed. See section above under “Anticipated Contract Start Date”. Acceptance of payment by the Contractor shall waive any right of the Contractor to claim the Contract/Amendment is not valid and the Contractor may not void the Contract**. Rubber stamps, typed or other images are not acceptable**. Proof of Contractor signature authorization on a **Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing** may be required by the Department if not already on file. **Electronic or digital signatures are not authorized at this time.**

**Contractor Name /Title:** The Contractor Authorized Signatory’s name and title must appear legibly as it appears on the **Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing**.



This form is published and issued jointly by the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (ANF), the Office of the State Comptroller (CTR), and the Operational Services Division (OSD) for use by all commonwealth Departments for New Grants/Contracts and Grant/Contract Agreements or Renewals.  The policies, procedures, and legal references outlines therein, have been incorporated by reference in the Office of the Comptroller regulations, [815 CMR 2.00: Grants and Subsidies](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/11/01/815cmr2.pdf).

While we maintain these forms on file in the Department as a master service agreement between the Department (state) and the grantee, part of our agreement with CTR is to collect and maintain a Part I, which serves as a contract form for *each individual grant program*, to determine date of signature and contracted (grant award) amount on file and as such is treated as a contract form falling under the same regulations as above.

The Comptroller’s office is piloting the use of electronic signatures but we as a Department have not been authorized at this time to accept anything other than originals or scanned uploads of the original Part Is for each program grant.

To assist getting the Part I signed and uploaded properly for FY2021 grants we have put together the following options as an assist to our grantees:

* Email the PART I to the authorized signatory and have them scan and email it back to upload into the EdGrants Application Submission.
* Have the authorized signatory sign, upload the enter grant into EdGrants with all docs forward from the applicant’s program personnel.  (Some districts already operate this way.)
* Obtain an email from the authorized signatory authorizing the grant applicant to sign during this time and scan and upload the Part I with applicant’s signature; send the authorizing email to the proper program unit overseeing the grant. They should forward the email to Grants Management once they approve the grant in EdGrants.  (We do not want these emails until we have the grant to process, please).
* Convert the signed document to PDF using an iPhone or Android:
	+ iPhone users can take a picture of the signed [Part I and convert it to a PDF](https://www.igeeksblog.com/how-to-convert-photos-to-pdf-on-iphone-ipad/).
	+ Android  users to take a picture of the signed Part I and convert to a PDF using [Google Drive, or](https://www.androidpolice.com/2020/05/28/create-convert-pdf-phone-camera-android-free/) [Microsoft Office Lens](https://www.androidpolice.com/2020/05/28/create-convert-pdf-phone-camera-android-free/).

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**FY2021 Initial Payment Info**

Payment Request windows are not available until the grant has been programmatically approved and processed in EdGrants and an automatic **Initial Payment** has been issued by DESE.

Once grants management receives a programmatically approved grant from the program unit administering the grant, an encumbrance is set up on MMARS (the state’s accounting system) via EdGrants. If you cannot see a Project Record Card or a Payment Request available during the draw-down window, it is likely because your grant has not yet finished processing and an initial payment has not yet been sent.

When the encumbrance clears MMARS to final status, DESE will issue an automatic initial payment in the amount of 10% of the budgeted amount of the grant. **To ensure smooth initial payment, we ask that grantees hold off on requesting budget line item amendments until you have received your initial payment. Amending your grant before initial payment can delay encumbrance setup and payment release.**

**[How to check the Project Record Card to view payments, payment notices and how to Request Funds.](http://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/edgrants/requesting-funds.docx)**

Please find all EdGrants user documents [here](http://www.doe.mass.edu/Grants/edgrants.html).

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**Community College / Sherriff’s Department ISAs**

The [EdGrants: User Guides, Information and Training](https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/edgrants.html) section of the Grants Management website has been updated to include tools and information regarding Interdepartmental Services Agreement (ISA) process.

*Fringe Rates for Correctional Facilities:*

**Approved** FY21 Fringe Rate on **State** grants is 1.94% of AA and CC payroll (D09).
Fringe Rate on **Federal**/**trust accounts** is 38.32% of AA payroll and 1.32% of CC payroll

*Fringe Rates for State Colleges/ Universities****:***

**Approved** FY21 Fringe Rates on **State/Federal/trust accounts** is 38.32% AA payroll and 1.94% of CC payroll

The state sets these rates, not the Department. Rates and charge backs can be reviewed at [MA Comptrollers](https://www.macomptroller.org/fiscal-year-updates).

Please see FY2020 Final Financial Report (FR-1) due dates which have passed. All grantees must file an FR-1 in EdGrants to close out their grants.

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**EdGrants Users**

DESE requires a user request form be submitted for all new users and edits to existing users. Please review [EdGrants: User Security Controls](https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/edgrants/user-security-controls.html) for more information and a copy of the Front Office User Request Form.

It is the Applicant/LEAs responsibility to update user access as needed, including deactivating user access no longer needed.

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**Requesting Funds Reminders & FAQs**

*Sherriff / State Agency Departments* who receive grant funds (all fund codes) directly through MMARS accounts via ISAs do NOT need to request grant funds using EdGrants.

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Payment Request windows will only be available once your grant has been programmatically approved, processed and an automatic **Initial Payment** has been issued by DESE.

If you cannot see a Project Record Card or a Payment Request available during the draw-down window, it is likely because your grant has not yet finished processing and an initial payment has not yet been sent.

**[How to check the Project Record Card to view payments and payment notices](http://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/edgrants/requesting-funds.docx)**

[**How to Request Funds**](http://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/edgrants/requesting-funds.docx)

Please find all EdGrants user documents [here](http://www.doe.mass.edu/Grants/edgrants.html).

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If you need assistance, please contact Grants Management at 781-338-6595 or email EdGrants@mass.gov. **Please reference your grant project number or fund code and Applicant number (LEA Code) when you call and/or email.**

**Due to high volume, it can take up to a week for response.**

Thank you,

Grants Management