

Risk Assessment Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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1. What is the intent of the Risk Assessment?

The Risk Assessment process is a proactive approach to detecting administrative, fiscal, and programmatic strengths as well as opportunities for improvement. Risk Assessment outcomes will be used by the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) in conjunction with differentiated approaches to monitoring to provide targeted training, technical assistance, and/or necessary guidance to improve student outcomes, promote transparency in grant reporting, and ensure compliance with programmatic requirements to help subrecipients achieve and sustain successful outcomes.

2. Why must NDE conduct a Risk Assessment?

Uniform Grant Guidance 2 CFR 200.331 (b), (d), (e), requires pass-through agencies to ensure federal grants are utilized in accordance with federal guidelines and relevant regulations governing the sub-award. Additionally, the State Administrative Manual (SAM) section 3022 requires state agencies to complete a risk assessment of subrecipients before issuing a subaward agreement. Guidelines allow NDE the flexibility to develop grant specific risk assessments and address various grant requirements.

3. What are the Risk Factors?

Risk Factors were broken into five categories determined to be significant indicators of risk that may adversely affect the ability of an entity to achieve its objectives. The categories include Audit Performance, Academic Achievement, Reporting Timeliness and Accuracy, Grant Management and District and School Strategic Planning. Each category included the analysis of several data sets.

4. What are the Risk Indicators?

There are a total of twenty-four Risk Indicators included in the assessment. The specifics of these indicators can be found on the NDE website, under Districts/Risk Assessment. The Indicators are based on a series of fiscal year programmatic and fiscal data sets that are already public knowledge provided by the NDE Student Report Card to the Local Education Agencies (LEA's) such as Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) scores. The same data sources will be consistently used to assess all LEA's. Each subrecipient's assessed risk level (low, medium, or high) will be determined by a scoring system and rubrics. The Subrecipient Risk Assessment will be conducted each fiscal year; thus, risk levels may change from year to year.

5. How are indicators scored?

The specific rubrics for the twenty-four indicators are listed in detail on the NDE website: District/Risk Assessment/Rubrics.

6. What is a Risk Score?

The Risk Assessment is based on a points scale, the higher the points, the higher the risk level. Points are accumulated based on the analysis of multiple data sets within the specific twenty-four (24) identified risk indicators. Maximum points represent the highest possible total points available from all Risk Indicators. A risk score is the points divided into maximum points, which were individually assigned for each entity to ensure an accurate depiction of potential risk. The higher number of points represent a greater risk.

7. What is a risk level and what does it mean for an entity?

The risk level is the ranking of the risk score into low, medium, and high categories. The risk level is calculated for each entity to determine potential risk. The objective is to ensure transparency and accountability and mitigate potential vulnerabilities. NDE will use these results to provide technical support to each subrecipient and fosters healthy dialogue that will drive student academic improvements.

From a monitoring perspective, a low risk will be monitored a minimum of once every four years, a medium risk a minimum of once every two years and a high risk a minimum of once a year.

8. How does a subrecipient access their results of the risk assessment?

Each subrecipient will be provided a comprehensive report detailing their risk assessment results via email.

9. When will the annual risk assessment be available to all subrecipients?

The annual risk assessment will be provided to each subrecipient in the Spring of each year.

For FAQ updates, please see the NDE website: Districts/Risk Assessment

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