

## West Virginia Department of EDUCATION

**Previous Guidance-**

OMB Circulars A-21, A-87, A-110, A-133, etc.

Super Circular/ Omni Circular





### **COFAR**

**Council on Financial Assistance Reform And Other Partners** 

Developed...





**Current Guidance-**

OMB Uniform Guidance: Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards





i.e., Uniform Guidance or UG

Issued December 2014 to eliminate duplication, streamline and provide consistency





**Time and Effort** 

Became...

**Standards for Documentation of Personnel Expenses** 





Standards are found in subparagraph (i) of section 200.430 "Compensation—Personal Services" in the Cost Principles Section of the UG



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### **Time & Effort**

## Who and Why?

Any employee paid from federal funds

Serves as a receipt for federal funds spent





### Why is T&E Typically Problematic?

A large percentage of federal funds are used for staffing

Staff turnover

Complexity

Lack of communication

Too busy. No one likes to do it





Time & Effort, er...

**Standards for Documentation of Personnel Expenses** 

A Look Back







### **Two Types of Documentation**

Employees who work on more than one cost objective complete monthly Personnel Activity Reports (PARS)

Employees who work solely on a single federal cost objective complete semi-annual certifications





### **Multiple Cost Objective**

(monthly Personnel Action Report (PAR) documentation)

Employees whose work effort is split between more than one federal program or multiple cost objectives

An employee who works on **more than one federal program,** or on a combination of a federal programs and a non-federal program, must maintain PARs that accurately reflect the **percentage of time/hours** the employee **spends** performing the **federal work activity and any other duties** 





#### **PAR Reconciliations**

Assumed versus actual must be compared quarterly

If the difference is 10% or more, adjustments must be made

If the difference is less than 10%, no action is required until year end

BUT at year end, adjustments must be made to reflect actual time spent



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Grant 123	19 #REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!				
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Quarterly Time Record											
1st Quarter (January - March)											
Year											
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	Employee										
	-				Position		_	Program(s):_			
January Grand Total			_		Febr	uary Grand	Total				
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						nowledge of those activities.					



### **Semi-Annual Certification**

Statement that an employee worked solely on activities related to a single cost objective

**Completed every six months** 

Signed by employee but highly recommend signature by supervisor too



WV Dept. Of Education				
Time and Effort Documentation	on			
Semi-Annual Certification				
	t be supported by a certificatio	ely on a single federal award or cost obje n signed by an employee or supervisory o		
I hereby certify that for the period of Title I Part B (example)	of January 1, 2016 through Jun	e 30, 2016, I worked solely on the single	cost objective of:	
(,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,				
Employee Printed Name	Title	Employee Signature	Date	
Supervisor Printed Name	Title	Supervisor Signature	Date	



New Uniform Guidance...

**Standards for Documentation of Personnel Expenses** 

**A Look Forward** 







- Compensation To prevent duplicating efforts in entities that have good internal controls, the final guidance allows for alternatives to the current reporting requirements for salaries and wages. Auditors must test these internal controls.
- Federal agencies can also now approve alternative accounting methods for salaries and wages based on the achievement of performance outcomes. This includes areas that blend funding from multiple programs.





Compensation for employees engaged in work on Federal awards will be considered reasonable to the extent that it is consistent with that paid for similar work in other activities of the non-Federal entity



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Overall, OMB has shifted the focus toward an internal control framework as opposed to requiring specific documentation and standardized forms, like the prior requirement for personnel activity reports (PAR). All charges to federal awards for salaries and wages must have recorded evidence to accurately reflect the work performed. The guidance does not state how the documentation must be maintained, allowing organizations more freedom to tailor controls and processes to their needs.





There are several criteria that an organization's documentation of personnel expenses must follow. Note that these are <u>more principles-based</u>, <u>rather than rules-based</u>, <u>criteria</u>. Charges to Federal awards for salaries and wages should be reflected in documentation that must:



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- •Be supported by a system of internal controls that provides reasonable assurance that the time being charged to grants is accurate, allowable, and properly allocated.
- •Be incorporated into the official records (payroll records or journals) of the non-Federal entity.
- •Reasonably reflect the total activity for which the employee is compensated.
- •Encompass both federally assisted and all other activities compensated on an integrated basis, but may include the use of subsidiary records.
- •Support the distribution of the employee's salary or wages among specific activities or cost objectives if the employee works on more than one Federal award or splits time between Federal and non-Federal activities.
- •Comply with already-established accounting policies and practices of the organization receiving Federal awards.

- •The new principles-based, internal-controls-focused criteria allow organizations more flexibility to design internal control systems that suit their needs as long as they comply with the underlying criteria. However, the lack of specific requirements may make it harder for Federal agencies to determine whether an organization's internal controls are suitably designed.
- •If a Federal agency determines that an organization's records do not meet the standards described above, the Federal government may require personnel activity reports or equivalent documentation that supports the records.
- Pass-through entities may require continued use of PARs even though the OMB does not. Because the pass-through entities must monitor subrecipients, PARs could be considered an easier method of monitoring.
- •Organizations that are already utilizing personnel activity reports may not want to change systems if the use of PARs is already well-established and working well.

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Compliance with this framework should not necessarily require a major overhaul of reporting systems. Many organizations may already have strong internal controls over documentation of personnel compensation. Going forward, organizations should review the criteria, determine whether the existing internal control systems meet the framework, and decide whether strengthening controls over time and effort reporting to ensure compliance with the overarching requirements is required.



#### **Common Missed-Steps**

- 1. No Time and Effort System at all
- 2. Certifying the semi-annual certification on an annual basis rather than semi-annually as required
- 3. Employee or Supervisor failing to sign the form
- 4. Forms were not dated "after-the-fact"
- 5. Not including the detailed activities as required on the monthly log
- 6. Monthly log does not incorporate the employees total effort
- 7. Stipends
- 8. Supplemental pay
- 9. Substitutes
- 10. Training/Professional Development
- 11. Extended School Year



# Standards for Documentation of Personnel Expenses FAQ's –

- Q.1 Who should sign timesheets?
- Q.2 How do I submit 100% of my time when I only work three days a week?
- Q3. Can I use a substitute system?
- Q4. What about supplemental contracts, stipends, and overtime?
- Q5. Can superintendents' and principals' salaries be charged to federal programs?
- Q6. I am 100% committed to a program but I am occasionally asked a non-program question. And what about time spent at staff meetings? Q8. My duties always match my funding. So I don't need to make adjustments, right?





.431-2 Charging Payments of Unused Leave to Employees Terminating or Retiring

Q. In accordance with section 200.431(b)(3)(i), can unused leave (payments to employees that retire or are terminated) be charged directly to Federal programs?

A. No. Charging all unused leave costs for separating employees in the same manner as it had charged the employees' salary costs (i.e., directly to the activities on which the employees were working at the time of their separation) would result in inequitable distribution of the unused leave costs, because the leave costs were accumulated over the entire period of employment while working on various programs. In addition, having the last program bear the burden of these unbudgeted costs creates an unfair distribution of costs to this program. Therefore, charge payments for unused leave, when an employee retires or terminates employment, in the year of payment as a general administrative expense. However, the costs can be included in developing indirect cost rates.



.431-2 Charging Payments of Unused Leave to Employees Terminating or Retiring

A Final Word About The Elevated Role of Internal Control, ie., there is opportunity for flexibility and change -

Those processes by which you assure objectives are achieved efficiently, effectively, and with reliable, compliant reporting:

- ✓ <u>A Control Environment</u> that sets the tone for the organization.
- ✓ <u>A Risk Assessment process</u> that involves the identification and analysis of relevant risks.
- ✓ <u>Control Activities</u> that include the policies and procedures that help ensure management directives are carried out and documented.
- ✓ <u>Information and Communication</u> systems or processes that support the exchange of information.
- Monitoring processes used to assess the quality of internal control performance over time.

