U.S. Department of Education

Washington, D.C. 20202-5335

Annual Performance Report CFDA # 84.235E

PR/Award # H235E140009

Budget Period # 3

Report Type: Annual Performance

U.S. Department of Education
Grant Performance Report
Cover Sheet (ED 524B)

Check only one box per
Program Office instructions.

[X] **Annual**   [ ] **Final**
Performance   **Performance**
Report   **Report**

General Information

1. PR/Award #: H235E140009
(Block 5 of the Grant Award Notification - 11 Characters.)

2. Grantee NCES ID#: 3904693
(See instructions. Up to 12 Characters.)

3. Project Title: Demonstration Program/Braille Training
(Enter the same title as on the approved application.)

4. Grantee Name: FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Block 1 of the Grant Award Notification.)

5. Grantee Address:
(See instructions.)

Street: 2080 CITYGATE DR

City: COLUMBUS

State: OH Zip: 43219 Zip+4: 3591

6. Project Director:
(See instructions.)

First Name:Janet   Last Name:Rogers   Title:Program Director

Phone #: 6144100736   Fax #:   Email Address: jan_rogers@ocali.org

Reporting Period Information *(See instructions.)*

7. Reporting Period: From: To:
(mm/dd/yyyy)

Budget Expenditures *(To be completed by your Business Office. See instructions. Also see Section B.)*

8. Budget Expenditures:

	Federal Grant Funds	Non-Federal Funds *(Match/Cost Share)*
a. Previous Budget Period	107,948	0
b. Current Budget Period	46,999	0
c. Entire Project Period *(For Final Performance Reports only)*		

Indirect Cost Information *(To be completed by your Business Office. See instructions.)*

9. Indirect Costs

a. Are you claiming indirect costs under this grant? If yes, please indicate which of the following applies to your grant? ● Yes ○ No

b. The grantee has an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement approved by the Federal Government: ● Yes ○ No

The period covered by the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement is : From: 10/01/2016 To:03/31/2017 (mm/dd/yyyy)

The approving Federal agency is : ● ED ○ Other *(Please specify):*

The Indirect Cost Rate is : 6.37 %

Type of Rate *(For Final Performance Reports Only)*: ○ Provisional ○ Final ○ Other *(Please specify):*

c. The grantee is not a State, local government, or Indian tribe, and is using the de minimus rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) in compliance with 2 CFR 200.414(f) ○ Yes ○ No

d. The grantee is funded under a Restricted Rate Program and is you using a restricted indirect cost rate that either :

● Is included in your approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement ○ Complies with 34 CFR 76.564(c)(2)?

e. The grantee is funded under a Training Rate Program and:

○ Is recovering indirect cost using 8 percent of MTDC in compliance with 34 CFR 75.562(c)(2)

○ Is recovering indirect costs using its actual negotiated indirect cost rate

Human Subjects (Annual Institutional Review Board (IRB) Certification) *(See instructions.)*

10. Is the annual certification of Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval attached? ○ Yes ○ No ● N/A

Performance Measures Status and Certification *(See instructions.)*

11. Performance Measures Status

a. Are complete data on performance measures for the current budget period included in the Project Status Chart? ● Yes ○ No

b. If no, when will the data be available and submitted to the Department? (mm/dd/yyyy)

12. By signing this report, I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the report is true, complete, and accurate and the expenditures, disbursements, and cash receipts are for the purposes and objectives set forth in the terms and conditions of the Federal award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, or the omission of any material fact, may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties for fraud, false statements, false claims or otherwise. (U.S. Code Title 18, Section 1001 and Title 31, Sections 3729-3730 and 3801-33812).Furthermore, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all data in this performance report are true, complete, and correct and the report fully discloses all known weaknesses concerning the accuracy, reliability, and completeness of data reported.

Name of Authorized Representative: Chris Downey	Title: Grants Manager
Signature:	Date:

Grant Performance Report (ED 524B) Executive Summary Attachment:
Title : ExecSummary_H235E140009 File : **ExecSummary_H235E140009.pdf**

Executive Summary

The Braille Excellence for Students and Teachers (BEST) grant annual report provides information indicating the extent to which the BEST project met its' goals during Project year 3. The project focused on three goals:

Goal 1: Increase the braille competency of Ohio's educators through the provision of high-quality professional development and technical assistance that focuses on results-driven outcomes.

Goal 2: Increase the knowledge and use/implementation of braille and state-of-the-art technologies of Ohio educators through high quality professional development/learning opportunities and technical assistance that focus on results-driven outcomes.

Goal 3: Increase the competency of personnel providing quality braille materials for Ohio students who require braille through the provision of high-quality professional development training and technical assistance support.

The BEST project collects data on each grant activity keyed to a project objective, and then WordFarmers, the grant external evaluator, compiles, analyzes, and interprets the data to determine the effectiveness of the activity and suggests options for improvement for the current project year, or for Year 4 activities. Goal 1 was achieved through the accomplishment of objectives that targeted professional development (PD), technical assistance (TA), and support to educators. The evaluation demonstrated that BEST equaled or exceeded all goal expectations, including those relating to the quality, relevance, and usefulness of PD and TA services. Two objectives defined the work of Goal 2. The evaluator found evidence of the quality, relevance, and usefulness of BEST's work to accomplish these objectives. To accomplish Goal 3, the BEST project addressed three objectives. Similarly, the evaluator found evidence that BEST accomplished Goal 3. Across the three goals, WordFarmers used various forms of evidence to make determination about project performance: rating scales following PD/TA activities; pre- and post-tests, when accurate; and retrospective comparisons of prior knowledge and subsequent learning. WordFarmers will complete annual reports and a final evaluation at the end of the project summarizing data collected during the applicable reporting period, and BEST will post the report on the AT & AEM Center website, Best Grant webpage.

The BEST Director and AT & AEM project staff met with WordFarmers and developed a comprehensive evaluation plan for the grant. They developed a table of *BEST Grant Activities 2016-2017 - Project Activities –Timelines -*

Agency Responsibility 2016-2017 (Year 3). The collaborative partners will use this document to organize/report on their work throughout the project year.

The BEST Director set up BEST Leadership meetings at the beginning of the grant. The purpose of these meetings was for the collaborative partners to meet throughout the project year to discuss progress towards attaining goals of the grant and delineate agency responsibilities. The partners met in October 2016 and February 2017 and have additional meetings scheduled for June 2017 and August 2017. In addition, BEST held an Advisory Board meeting in December 2016 and April 2017.

Educators can access information about the BEST Grant professional development activities through our two listservs, social media, the OCALI (http://www.ocali.org/) website, the AT & AEM Center website (BEST grant webpage) and the OCALI online calendar of events (NEXUS). The BEST grant project has also worked with a variety of events and conferences to distribute BEST grant training events and activities information and handouts including a state-wide TVI meeting hosted by the new Outreach Center for Deafness and Blindness at OCALI which included over 35 TVI attendees, as well as attendees of OCALI's annual conference OCALICon with over 1700 attendees. Additionally, starting in February of 2017 an online registration process was made available for all BEST grant professional development opportunities. This online registration process allows easier access for potential attendees to view trainings available throughout the year and to register for those trainings at any time. Educators can attend our weeklong summer braille courses with a follow-up 12-week blended braille course; learn about the new Unified English Braille (UEB) code at a hands-on statewide UEB and Nemeth training.

U.S. Department of Education
Grant Performance Report (ED 524B)
Project Status Chart

PR/Award #: H235E140009

SECTION A - Project Objectives Information and Related Performance Measures Data (See Instructions. Use as many pages as necessary.)

1 . **Project Objective**　　　　　　　　[ ] Check if this is a status update for the previous budget period.

Provide professional development to educators.

Performance Measure	Measure Type	Quantitative Data					
		Target			Actual Performance Data		
		Raw Number	Ratio	%	Raw Number	Ratio	%
1.1　　　　　Number of PD activities to which educators were invited.	PROJECT	7	/		3	/	

Explanation of Progress (Include Qualitative Data and Data Collection Information)

Note that during the remainder of the project year, all 7 activities will be provided. The 5 remaining activities are: Weeklong Summer Basic Braille scheduled for June 12-15, 2017; Weeklong Summer Basic Nemeth scheduled for June 19-22, 2017; Weeklong Summer Advanced Braille scheduled for June 26-29, 2017; Weeklong Summer Advanced Nemeth scheduled for July 10-13, 2017; the first 9 weeks of the 12-week Blended Basic Braille Course is scheduled for August-September 2017. Our external evaluation shows that the 3 activities provided thus far achieved an average rating exceeding 7.5 on the 8-point scales that measure quality (based on 8-9 items), relevance (based on 1-2 items), and usefulness (based on 1-2 items). This average rating was rounded to 8 for the purpose of providing a whole number rating on the APR. The external evaluator also measures relevance with 1-2 open-ended items, and qualitative analysis of responses confirms that participants see the trainings as highly relevant. The evaluator also measures usefulness by asking participants to offer ratings of their knowledge/skills before and after training. The difference is calculated as a ?t? value, which can then be converted to an effect size. The average effect size, for the activities thus far in the project year was 1.65.

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SECTION A - Project Objectives Information and Related Performance Measures Data (See Instructions. Use as many pages as necessary.)

2 . **Project Objective**   [ ] Check if this is a status update for the previous budget period.

Provide technical assistance and support to educators

Performance Measure	Measure Type	Quantitative Data					
		Target			Actual Performance Data		
		Raw Number	Ratio	%	Raw Number	Ratio	%
1.2 \n\n Number of follow-up sessions	PROJECT	2	/		2	/	

Explanation of Progress (Include Qualitative Data and Data Collection Information)

The project provided technical assistance and follow-up to the summer Braille courses.??A follow-up 12 week Blended Braille course was provided so that participants could continue to learn braille techniques through the technical support provided by the instructors throughout the 12 weeks. There was also a participant directed technology sharing session that offered participants an opportunity for technical assistance on self-selected technology as needed. Follow-ups assist educators in the use of the software and when applicable, equipment that permits them to make effective use of the knowledge and skills they obtained during the subsequent trainings.

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PR/Award #: H235E140009

SECTION A - Project Objectives Information and Related Performance Measures Data (See Instructions. Use as many pages as necessary.)

3 . **Project Objective**   [ ] Check if this is a status update for the previous budget period.

Provide avenues to communicate information and support to educators.

Performance Measure	Measure Type	Quantitative Data					
		Target			Actual Performance Data		
		Raw Number	Ratio	%	Raw Number	Ratio	%
1.3 Number of communication avenues through which the BEST project provides information to members of its Community of Practice.	PROJECT	3	/		4	/	

Explanation of Progress (Include Qualitative Data and Data Collection Information)

The four communication avenues are the AT & AEM Listserv (11 posts and 474 members), Twitter (12 posts and 193 followers), Mail Chimp (2 posts and 760 recipients), and OCALI AT & AEM Website (Best Grant related webpages- page views 1,346 & unique page views 1,025 per Google Analytics).

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Project Status Chart

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SECTION A - Project Objectives Information and Related Performance Measures Data (See Instructions. Use as many pages as necessary.)

4 . **Project Objective**   [ ] Check if this is a status update for the previous budget period.

Provide high quality professional development training to educators in Ohio serving students who are blind and visually impaired or deafblind to increase their knowledge and use/ implementation of braille and state-of the-art technologies.

Performance Measure	Measure Type	Quantitative Data					
		Target			Actual Performance Data		
		Raw Number	Ratio	%	Raw Number	Ratio	%
2.1 Average rating of the PD quality item on the rating form that participants complete at the end of a training session	PROJECT	8	/		8	/	

Explanation of Progress (Include Qualitative Data and Data Collection Information)

The data are based on ratings of 2 BrailleNote Touch trainings provided by a vendor. Evaluator?s ratings of the PD sessions in which educators participated showed that the average quality of PD provided by BEST was 7.82 on the 8-point rating scale. For the APR, we rounded this calculation to the whole number, 8. The BEST grant staff will also be hosting an AT Family Conference 5-6-2017.

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Grant Performance Report (ED 524B)
Project Status Chart

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SECTION A - Project Objectives Information and Related Performance Measures Data (See Instructions. Use as many pages as necessary.)

5 . **Project Objective** [ ] Check if this is a status update for the previous budget period.

Provide technical assistance and support relating to state-of-the-art technologies to educators in school districts by adults who are blind and/or technology experts.

Performance Measure	Measure Type	Quantitative Data					
		Target			Actual Performance Data		
		Raw Number	Ratio	%	Raw Number	Ratio	%
2.2 Number of hours of technical assistance to school districts.	PROJECT	209	/		170	/	

Explanation of Progress (Include Qualitative Data and Data Collection Information)

The number of TA requests and subsequent hours of TA services are lower than the previous year.??One explanation?for the decreased requests and hours might be that staff need less TA support because they are gaining competencies in braille and state-of-the-art technologies due to BEST Grant training and therefore need fewer TA supports to provide those services. For example, TA was not needed to set up one of the local braille production centers funded by the BEST grant this year because the person who received the equipment was able to complete the set up without support.

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Grant Performance Report (ED 524B)
Project Status Chart

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SECTION A - Project Objectives Information and Related Performance Measures Data (See Instructions. Use as many pages as necessary.)

6 . **Project Objective**   [ ] Check if this is a status update for the previous budget period.

Provide high quality professional development to educators related to the production of braille.

Performance Measure	Measure Type	Quantitative Data					
		Target			Actual Performance Data		
		Raw Number	Ratio	%	Raw Number	Ratio	%
3.1 Average rating of the PD quality item on the rating form that participants in sessions relating to braille production complete at the end of a training session	PROJECT	8	/		7	/	

Explanation of Progress (Include Qualitative Data and Data Collection Information)

Quality ratings for the 4 sessions relating to Braille production (Duxbury 1 and Duxbury 1 Follow-up and Duxbury 2 and Duxbury 2 Follow-up) averaged 7.38, which was rounded down to the whole number 7. Post-training checklists were also used (in lieu of portfolios) to gauge learning. These were piloted in PY3 in preparation for using them as pre- and post-assessments in PY4.

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Project Status Chart

PR/Award #: H235E140009

SECTION A - Project Objectives Information and Related Performance Measures Data (See Instructions. Use as many pages as necessary.)

7 . **Project Objective** [ ] Check if this is a status update for the previous budget period.

Provide technical assistance to school districts that produce braille for Ohio schools.

Performance Measure	Measure Type	Quantitative Data					
		Target			Actual Performance Data		
		Raw Number	Ratio	%	Raw Number	Ratio	%
3.2 The number of visits to school districts with braille production centers.	PROJECT	3	/		3	/	

Explanation of Progress (Include Qualitative Data and Data Collection Information)

The following school districts requested onsite technical assistance to support their braille production equipment or software during this grant period Cedar Cliff Local School District, Ohio State School for the Blind and Margaretta Local School District for a total of 24.25 hours of support.

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Project Status Chart

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SECTION A - Project Objectives Information and Related Performance Measures Data (See Instructions. Use as many pages as necessary.)

8 . **Project Objective** [ ] Check if this is a status update for the previous budget period.

Expand braille production capacities at the local school district level.

Performance Measure	Measure Type	Quantitative Data					
		Target			Actual Performance Data		
		Raw Number	Ratio	%	Raw Number	Ratio	%
3.3 Number of new Local Braille Production Centers (LBPCs) in school districts.	PROJECT	2	/		2	/	

Explanation of Progress (Include Qualitative Data and Data Collection Information)

Two LBPCs were setup. One location, Brunswick City School District received the new equipment creating a new location for a LBPC. The other setup was a replacement for an already established LBPC at Cloverleaf that serves multiple schools districts. Those districts served may change based upon the braille needs of students within that region.

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SECTION A - Project Objectives Information and Related Performance Measures Data (See Instructions. Use as many pages as necessary.)

9 . **Project Objective**   [ ] Check if this is a status update for the previous budget period.

Provide training and support to Grafton Braille Service Center (GBSC) Prison Braille Program.

Performance Measure	Measure Type	Quantitative Data					
		Target			Actual Performance Data		
		Raw Number	Ratio	%	Raw Number	Ratio	%
3.4 Number of trainings provided to transcribers at GBSC	PROJECT	2	/		0	/	

Explanation of Progress (Include Qualitative Data and Data Collection Information)

GBSC is on hold due to program shut down in the summer 2016 resulting from an alleged security breach. For more information please refer to Section V. Administrative.

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Grant Performance Report (ED 524B)
Project Status Chart

PR/Award #: H235E140009

SECTION A - Project Objectives Information and Related Performance Measures Data (See Instructions. Use as many pages as necessary.)

10 . **Project Objective**   [ ] Check if this is a status update for the previous budget period.

Measure of PD training's quality, relevance, and usefulness.

Performance Measure	Measure Type	Quantitative Data					
		Target			Actual Performance Data		
		Raw Number	Ratio	%	Raw Number	Ratio	%
GPRA1 Percentage of PD trainings that equal or exceed a 6 on a measure of quality with a range from 2 (low) to 8 (high).	GPRA		100 / 100	100		100 / 100	100
GPRA2 Percentage of PD training's that equal or exceed a 6 on a measure of relevance with a range from 2 (low) to 8 (high).	GPRA		100 / 100	100		100 / 100	100
GPRA3 Percentage of PD training's that equal or exceed a 6 on a measure of usefulness with a range from 2 (low) to 8 (high).	GPRA		100 / 100	100		100 / 100	100

Explanation of Progress (Include Qualitative Data and Data Collection Information)

GPRA Measures were implicated in several of the program measures, but the BEST project kept track separately of 3 additional GPRA measures, 1 relating to project quality, 1 to project relevance, 1 to project usefulness. The measure focused on the percentage of PD training that were of high quality, relevance, and usefulness as indicated by the receiving ratings that equaled or exceeded the cutoff of 6 out of 8 on a 8-point scale. The target of 100% represented the high bar for the project to reach; but all PD training's did achieve average quality, relevance and usefulness ratings that exceeded 6 on and 8-point scale. In project year 3, BEST met the 100% target for each of these measures.

Name of Institution/Organization
Educational Service Center of Central Ohio

Applicants requesting funding for only one year should complete the column under "Project Year 1." Applicants requesting funding for multi-year grants should complete all applicable columns. Please read all instructions before completing form.

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FUNDS

Budget Categories	Project Year 1 (a)	Project Year 2 (b)	Project Year 3 (c)	Project Year 4 (d)	Project Year 5 (e)	Total (f)
1. Personnel				$0		
2. Fringe Benefits				$0		
3. Travel				$2,729		
4. Equipment				$9,230		
5. Supplies				$15,450.37		
6. Contractual				$75,454		
7. Construction				$0		
8. Other				$0		
9. Total Direct Costs (lines 1-8)				$102,863.37		
10. Indirect Costs*				$5,967.63		
11. Training Stipends				$0		
12. Total Costs (lines 9-11)				$108,831		

*Indirect Cost Information (*To Be Completed by Your Business Office*):

If you are requesting reimbursement for indirect costs on line 10, please answer the following questions:

(1)   Do you have an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement approved by the Federal government? X Yes ____No.

(2)   If yes, please provide the following information:
   Period Covered by the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement: From: 07/01/2015 To: 06/30/2016 (mm/dd/yyyy)
   Approving Federal agency: ____ED _X__Other (please specify): Ohio Department of Education   The Indirect Cost Rate is 6.37 %

(3)   If this is your first Federal grant, and you do not have an approved indirect cost rate agreement, are not a State, Local government or Indian Tribe, and are not funded under a training rate program or a restricted rate program, do you want to use the de minimis rate of 10% of MTDC? ____Yes ____No. If yes, you must comply with the requirements of 2 CFR § 200.414(f).

(4)   If you do not have an approved indirect cost rate agreement, do you want to use the temporary rate of 10% of budgeted salaries and wages? ____Yes _X_No. If yes, you must submit a proposed indirect cost rate agreement within 90 days after the date your grant is awarded, as required by 34 CFR § 75.560.

(5)   For Restricted Rate Programs (check one) -- Are you using a restricted indirect cost rate that:
   ___ Is included in your approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement? Or ___ Complies with 34 CFR 76.564(c)(2)? The Restricted Indirect Cost Rate is _____%

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Name of Institution/Organization	Applicants requesting funding for only one year should complete the column under "Project Year 1." Applicants requesting funding for multi-year grants should complete all applicable columns. Please read all instructions before completing form.

SECTION B - BUDGET SUMMARY
NON-FEDERAL FUNDS

Budget Categories	Project Year 1 (a)	Project Year 2 (b)	Project Year 3 (c)	Project Year 4 (d)	Project Year 5 (e)	Total (f)
1. Personnel						
2. Fringe Benefits						
3. Travel						
4. Equipment						
5. Supplies						
6. Contractual						
7. Construction						
8. Other						
9. Total Direct Costs (Lines 1-8)						
10. Indirect Costs						
11. Training Stipends						
12. Total Costs (Lines 9-11)						

SECTION C – BUDGET NARRATIVE (see instructions)

ED 524

Budget Narrative: Braille Excellence for Students and Teachers (BEST) Grant

Total Expenditures for 1st half of Year 3: **10/1/16 – 3/31/17**

Personnel	$ 0
Fringe Benefits	$ 0
Travel	$ 0
Equipment	$ 9,230.00
Supplies	$ 5,188.48
Contractual	$ 31,190.23
Construction	$ 0
Total Direct Costs	$ 45,608.71
Indirect Costs	$ 1,390.57
Total Expenditures	**$ 46,999.28**

Forty-three percent of the grant has been expended. We have 6 trainings scheduled between now and the end of the budget year. Four of the trainings are week long trainings and one is a 12 week course. The remaining training is a one day conference event. We will also be providing technical assistance and support until the end of the grant cycle.

All funds will be expended/obligated by 9/30/2017.

Personnel and Fringe
No personnel and fringe costs were requested for this grant.

Travel
Original Travel Budget $2,729
Current Travel Budget $2,729

Travel Expended: $0   Remaining: $2,729

The remaining travel expenses are budgeted for travel to the following events:

Director's Travel	$2,529.00
BEST Secretary Travel to BEST Courses/Conferences	$ 200.00
Total:	$2,729.00

Due to the continued suspension of the Grafton Braille Service Center (GBSC) the grant directors travel expenditures have been less than anticipated. That portion of the travel budget may be reallocated to support contractual work if the GBSC is not reinstated before the end of the grant budget. Currently the remaining travel expenses are budgeted for travel as follows: Director's travel $2,529, BEST Administrative Assistant Travel to BEST Courses/Conference $200.

All funds in this category will be expended and/or obligated by 9/30/17.

Equipment
Original Equipment Budget $9,180
- $50.00 was moved from Supplies to Equipment to cover additional shipping charges for the braille embossers.
Current Equipment Budget $9,230.00

Equipment Expended: $9,230.00   Remaining: $0

Note: The Equipment budget for Year 4 will be increased to $9,230. This will cover the costs for the braille embossers that will be placed in the Local Braille Production Centers selected in Year 4 as per Objective 3.3.A.

Supplies
Original Supply Budget $15,500.37
- Funds moved from Supplies to Equipment $50.00
Current Supply Budget $15,450.37

Supplies Expended: $5,188.48   Remaining: $10,261.89

Funds are budgeted to purchase:
- Literary and Nemeth Textbooks and course supplies for the four week-long braille and Nemeth courses
- Software for Scanning Inservice
- Office supplies for inservice meetings
- Student materials and instructor manuals for braille courses

Note: The budget for the Supplies category was initially estimated at $15,500 however due to the suspension of the GBSC program it is anticipated the full amount will not be needed in this year of the grant. The Contractual category was budgeted $75,454 for instructor fees for the various courses. This amount was under estimated. In the past one of the grant partners was able to supplement this cost, however this year we were informed they are no longer able to provide that type of support. In order to cover instructors fees and per the Education Program Contact's 3/29/17 budget amendment approval, $7000 will be moved from the Supplies category to the Contractual category.

All funds in this category will be expended and/or obligated by 9/30/17.

Contractual
Original Contractual Budget $75,454
Current Contractual Budget $75,454

Contractual Expended $31,190.23   Remaining $44,263.77

Funds are budgeted to implement the following trainings and activities:
- Family Conference – May 6, 2017 $ 4,028.00
- 4-Summer Braille Courses June & July 2017 $17,537.40
- Braille Course Instructor fees* $ 9,060.00
- College Credit for Ohio Teachers - Summer Braille Courses $ 6,300.00
- 12-Week Blended Basic Braille Course 2017 $ 3,560.00
- Scanning for Braille, Large Print and Audio $ 304.50
- External Evaluation by WordFarmers $ 5,250.00
- BEST Technical Assistance Consultants Support and Training $ 5,384.75

TOTAL $51,424.65

*Note: Due to unanticipated changes in funding support from one of our collaborative partners, a budget amendment was approved on 3-29-17 to support the instructors' fees for the upcoming braille courses. Additionally, a small amount of funds from the Travel category will also be used for instructor fees.

All funds in this category will be expended and/or obligated by 9/30/17.

Construction
No construction costs were requested in this grant.

Indirect Costs
6.37% Rate $5,967.63

Expended: $1,390.57   Remaining: $4,577.06

All funds in this category will be expended and/or obligated by 9/30/17.

Additional Information - Braille Excellence for Students and Teachers (BEST) PR/Award #: H235E140009

The collaborative partners for the BEST Grant are:

American Council for the Blind of Ohio (ACBO)

Assistive Technology & Accessible Educational Materials Center (Formerly, the Center for Instructional Supports and Accessible Materials (CISAM))

Ohio Center for DeafBlind Education (OCDBE),

Ohio Department of Education – Office for Exceptional Children (ODE-OEC), and

Ohio State School for the Blind

There were changes within the leadership of BEST grant. Most notably, Paula Mauro who was the project director for the BEST grant retired from her position within the AT & AEM Center, a center of the Center for Sensory Disabilities (CSD) on December 30th 2016 after many years of serving as the BEST grant Project Director. Jan Rogers the Program Director of the AT & AEM Center was appointed and assumed responsibilities as BEST Grant Project Director. Jan and Paula had an opportunity to work together for several months to plan for the transition of the BEST grant leadership. All activities have continued as planned without interruption. Additionally, there were changes on the BEST Leadership Team with the addition of Jennifer Govender from the Outreach Center. The BEST Advisory Board changes included the addition of Heather Herbster from the Outreach Center and Sarah Bouni who is replacing Wendy Stoica from the Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children. Although there have been changes in the BEST Grant leadership, Advisory Board and Leadership Team these changes have not effected the grant performance or functionality and the grant is still well represented by all of the collaborating partners.

As was mentioned in the previous budget year the Grafton Braille Service Center was suspended in July 2016 due to a prison security breach. We are continuing to attempt to reestablish that program with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections and the Ohio Penal Industries. At the time the program was suspended it had over 20 highly trained braille transcribers with a variety of certifications who were providing braille for Ohio students and benefited from BEST grant support for training, technical assistance, and braille equipment support. We are hopeful to get this valuable program back into operation in the near future. When the program is reestablished those transcribers will need additional training and technical assistance to regain their braille skills which can be provided through BEST Grant training and technical assistance activities.

During the school year, the BEST Grant contracts with the Ohio State School for the Blind Student Concessions to provide working lunches during the training for the BEST Grant workshop attendees. OSSB Student Concessions is a vocational program that trains high school students with visual impairments in the food service business. In the program students: order food items; take inventory; process billing and statements using a computer; prepare menus and food – lunches and dinners; deliver prepared food to customers; and prepare food set-up and takedown onsite.

BEST provides accessible formats of all handouts at all professional development activities when needed – large print, braille, digital, or audio depending on the needs of the participants. BEST posts information on the website so that other agencies have access to the information and the ability to replicate the grant activities.

After the collection and analysis of all data, a BEST Year 3 Annual Performance Evaluation Report will be written by WordFarmers and posted by BEST on the BEST website.