



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

*Check only one box per Program Office instructions.*  
 Annual Performance Report     Final Performance Report

**General Information**

1. PR/Award #: H235E140009                      2. Grantee NCES ID#: 3904693  
*(Block 5 of the Grant Award Notification - 11 characters.)                      (See instructions. Up to 12 characters.)*
- 3 Project Title: Braille Excellence for Students and Teachers (BEST)  
*(Enter the same title as on the approved application.)*
4. Grantee Name *(Block 1 of the Grant Award Notification.)*: Educational Service Center of Central Ohio
5. Grantee Address *(See instructions.)*: 2080 Citygate Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43219
6. Project Director *(See instructions.)* Name: Janet Rogers                      Title: AT&AEM Center Director  
 Ph #: ( 614 ) 410 - 1736    Ext: (    ) Fax #: (    ) -                        
 Email Address: jan\_rogers@ocali.org

**Reporting Period Information *(See instructions.)***

7. Reporting Period:    From: 10 / 01 / 2017    To: 03 / 30 / 2018                      (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 <i>(Match/Cost Share)</i> |
|---|---------------------|---|
| a. Previous Budget Period   | 108,809.89          |   |
| b. Current Budget Period  | 52,204.29           |   |
| c. Entire Project Period<br><i>(For Final Performance Reports only)</i> |                     |   |

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

9. Indirect Costs

- a. Are you claiming indirect costs under this grant?  Yes     No  
 If yes, please indicate which of the following applies to your grant?
- b.  The grantee has an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement approved by the Federal Government:  
 The period covered by the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement is from: 10 / 01 / 2017 to: 09 / 30 / 2018    (mm/dd/yyyy)  
 The approving Federal agency is: ED    Other *(Please specify)*: \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Indirect Cost Rate is 6.37 %  
 The Type of Rate *(For Final Performance Reports Only)* is:  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).
- d.  The grantee is funded under a Restricted Rate Program and is you using a restricted indirect cost rate that either:  
 Is included in its approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement; or  
 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); or  
 Is recovering indirect costs using its actual negotiated indirect cost rate reflected in 9(b).

**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.

David A. Vurda  
Name of Authorized Representative:

Title: CFU/Treasurer

  
Signature:

Date: 3/28/10



**U.S. Department of Education  
Grant Performance Report (ED 524B)  
Executive Summary**

OMB No. 1894-0003  
Exp. 08/31/2020

PR/Award # (11 characters):   H235E140009  

**(See Instructions)**

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 4. 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 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.

BEST 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 and upcoming Year 5 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, WordFarmers 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; and retrospective comparisons of prior knowledge and subsequent learning. WordFarmers will complete annual re-ports 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 2017-2018 – Project Activities – Timelines – Agency Responsibility 2017-2018 (Year 4). 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 2017 and February 2018 and have additional meetings scheduled for June 2018 and August 2018. In addition, BEST held an Advisory Board meeting in February 2018, with the next meeting scheduled for August 2018.

Educators can access information about the BEST Grant professional development activities through our two listservs, social media, the OCALI website, the AT&AEM Center website (BEST Grant webpage), the Outreach Center for Deafness and Blindness website (Outreach website) 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 the state-wide TVI Networking 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 1,900 attendees.

Additionally, the online process for professional development access has improved the communication to the members of its Community of Practice with over 1,200 web page views per Google Analytics.