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Multiple Grants / Multiple Studies

Exploratory Conversations versus Formal §706b Study Committees

1. Can a district participate in more than one informal merger conversation, each of which is eligible for a \$5,000 reimbursement grant?

Yes. A district may participate in more than one informal, exploratory conversation as long as each conversation is pursuing different potential paths and contains at least some different districts. Each group of conversations is eligible to receive up to \$5,000 in reimbursement of fees per 2012 No. 156, Sec. 2.

2. Can a district simultaneously participate in more than one § 706b Study Committee?

No. When a district becomes part of a § 706b study committee, it has committed to a path and the exploratory phase is over. A district may not simultaneously be a formal member of more than one § 706b study committee.

3. Can a district that is part of a § 706b Study Committee simultaneously participate in an informal conversation with one or more districts that are not part of the § 706b Study Committee? If so, is the conversation eligible for a \$5,000 reimbursement grant?

When a district becomes part of a § 706b study committee, it has committed to a path and the exploratory phase is over.

Although a district that is a member of a § 706b study committee may simultaneously have informal conversations with one or more other districts that are not part of the study committee, the district is not eligible for the \$5,000 grant.

4. If District A (which is not participating in a § 706b Study Committee) has informal conversations with District B (which is a member of a § 706b Study Committee), can District A apply for the \$5,000 reimbursement grant for those conversations with District B?

No. Even if a district that is not part of a § 706b Study Committee is the entity that contracts for the services for which it seeks reimbursement, it is the entire group of conversing districts that are receiving the benefit of the \$5,000. See answer to #3 above.