

**Texas Education Agency
Division of NCLB Program Coordination**

**Title I Committee of Practitioners
Tuesday, March 25, 2008
MINUTES**

Members Present: Martha Anderson, Mark Beaty, Ronald Cavazos, Mitzi Doggett, Carole Hagler, Leslie Christian (for Vicki Holland), Linda Roper, Terri Stafford, Jayne Tavenner, Michael Turner, and Mary Thomas

Members Absent: Barbara Martin, Mike McCallum, Margaret McGettrick, Richard Mik, Belinda Rojas and Margaret Parks Conner

TEA Staff Present: Cory Green, Anita Villarreal, Christina Villarreal, Didi Garcia, Annie Molina, Heather Christie, Scott Lewis

SIRC Staff Present: Sally Partridge

The meeting was called to order by Terri Stafford. The minutes from the January meeting were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as read. The motion passed.

Cory Green introduced and welcomed the new COP parent representative, Mark Beaty. Mr. Beaty is an assistant superintendent from Seminole ISD.

AYP Update – Shannon Housson and Ester Regalado, TEA Division of Performance Reporting

Mr. Housson and Ms. Regalado provided handouts. Mr. Housson provided an overview of the 2008 Federal Accountability Development of the Federal Cap on Proficient Results from TAKS-M and TAKS-ALT. Ms. Regalado went over the handout, specifically Option 1 for 1% Cap on TAKS-Alternate Assessment Results. This option would select proficient results by random assignment until the cap is reached. Ms. Regalado also reviewed TAKS-ALT Option 2 which selects proficient results by disability category and test performance.

Options for 2% Cap on TAKS-Modified Assessment Results for selecting proficient results include:

- Option 1: Random Assignment
- Option 2: Test Performance
- Option 3: Grade Level and Test Performance
- Option 4: Campus Proportion of Students with Disabilities
- Option 5: Strategically with School District Input
- Option 6: Combination Method

Four possible approaches were determined by the USDE for forming these options: random assignment, proportional, strategic, and a pre-determined school cap.

Mr. Housson said the Option 6 was not presented in January. Feedback from various groups is coming to an end of the review process and the COP view is needed comments can be taken back.

Comments were made concerning the random process (Option 1). A motion was made and seconded to select Option 1 (random process) for the TAKS-ALT. The motion passed 10-1.

There was discussion regarding the options for TAKS-M. There are more choices and more difficult to pick. A question was raised if these choices would affect Title I or non-Title I. Ms. Regalado explained that the driving force is AYP.

There also was discussion concerning the difference between Options 5 and 6. A motion was made and seconded to eliminate Options 1-4. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to choose Option 5 for the 2% Cap. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Housson shared comments received. Seventy emails were received from 50 districts: 12 chose Option 1, eight chose Option 2 for the 1% Cap. For Option 2 for the 2% Cap, 70% were for Option 5 or 6; 13 for Option 5; and 11 for Option 6.

The process will be summarized with COP taken into consideration. The summary will then be taken to upper management.

Federal Dropout Grant - Chris Caesar, TEA Division of State Initiatives—High School Initiative

Handouts were provided. Mr. Caesar gave an overview of Title I, Part H, the Federal Drop Out Grant - a \$2.5 million grant.

Communities in Schools (CIS) continues to work in smaller areas, providing a more personal learning environment and implementation of High School Redesign programs for meeting problems.

A training module has been commissioned with ESC Region 6 and will be available as in hard copy and online through Region 6. This will bring community help into schools.

Grant funding is available. Districts with a high turnover rate in administration often are not aware of these available funds.

Contact information for Mr. Caesar is 512-936-6434.

Migrant Education Program Updates – Christina Villarreal, TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination

Ms. Villarreal reviewed the State Director's Meeting hosted by the US Department of Education's Office of Migrant Education (OME) in February.

1. OME has an acting director. Alex Goniprow was given a special temporary assignment and the new acting director is Lisa Ramirez. Dr. Goniprow may come back as director.
2. Proposed Regulations that came before COP may be released by June. There were word changes, adding flexibility in other areas. Ms. Villarreal will share the new regulations as soon as they are available. The regulations will require trainings.
3. Consortium Incentive Grant. In the past Texas served as lead state for Project SMART, Math Plus, and Project MATEMATICA. The agency will apply for (a) Math Plus again as a lead state, with a renewed emphasis on literacy; and (b) an initiative for out-of-school youth as a member state.

Service Delivery Plan—a copy and overview were given in the January meeting. The application has changed significantly due to the service delivery plan. Trainings will be given to the ESCs.

This means LEAs need to have a needs assessment. When COP meets in June, Ms. Villarreal may have a model or set of tools for LEAs if they are ready. Ms. Villarreal does not want the model or tools to be burdensome for LEAS. She would like the committee to look at these tools and provide input.

Application training will include new schedules. She would like to develop some on-line video training but isn't sure if this can be done.

Highly Qualified Compliance Report Update – Heather Christie, Division of NCLB
Program Coordination

A numbered draft copy of the compliance report was passed out to members. The copies were picked up after the review. The 2007-08 report was opened for changes. A Snapshot on June 10 for 2007-08 will be used for ICR data.

Ms. Christie went over each section and accepted feedback and changes from the COP. Paraprofessionals and teachers will be reported at the beginning of the year. Mr. Green said we were cited by the USDE on paraprofessionals in two areas: (1) How did we know the data was correct and (2) The information was gathered too late (at the end of the year). Paraprofessionals was originally on Title I, Part A—district level; however, it needs to be on the campus level. For this reason it was put on the Highly Qualified Performance Report.

The dates for reporting are:

September 15	Report opens
November 1	Report closes. Feedback asked to close it after snapshot, but it should be reflective of September 15.
November 15	Principal attestation on file
December 15	Public reporting. Plans are also due
Mid-June (15, 2009)	Snapshot for ICRs

Mr. Cavazos asked if they could get a copy of the timeline. Mr. Green replied not until it was finalized by the time of the ACET conference.

A member stated that the principals are confused about how to hire and who to hire for paraprofessionals. Ms. Christie replied that it is a district responsibility.

Mitzi Doggett suggested that colleges need to have more knowledge about the Highly Qualified criteria in order to better prepare students who are becoming teachers. If you got to the SBEC site and log in under entity, you can see every test that teacher has ever taken, and if they passed it or not.

Because of the large number of items on the agenda, there was a working lunch. Lunch was delivered.

Virtual Monitoring Visit Update – Cory Green, TEA Division of NCLB Program
Coordination

Virtual Monitoring took place February 21 and 22. The Title I conference, Title II, Part D, Title IV, REAP/Transferability, and Ed-Flex were covered. During the first day, explanation was given how NCLB, formula funding, and eGrants worked together. Explanation also was given on how we monitor and adhere to Federal Regulations. This visit was different from on-site visits. Monitors on the virtual visit looked at two things: (1) the grants administration system, and (2) communication of federal guidelines to the districts. A written report is not available yet, but we will have an opportunity to respond.

Private Nonprofit School Update - Cory Green, TEA Division of NCLB Program
Coordination

Private Nonprofit Program and Fair Share need to be settled before funds are sent. We are checking for data quality in our compliance report. In some areas we ask for money spent on PNP. The USDE wants to see that in all areas. The USDE also wants to see: initial contact and consultation as two separate processes (both need to occur before money is given); inventory control; and evaluation.

Texas implements Ed-Flex Waivers more than any other state so USDE is very interested in this. They might have additional questions on the compliance report because of this.

Mr. Green referred to the January meeting regarding the questions on PNP on the consolidated application. He said they were looking at having to add a piece to the application. He said it will probably not look like the handout given to them because it will be too cumbersome. Mr. Green does not want to have separate applications again because that would be going backwards.

There was general discussion on PNP and Title II, Part A and hold harmless for Title II. An attachment will be necessary this year for PNP data. More information on this will be provided at the ACET conference. More detail will be required and an affirmation will be collected. Possibly a third page will be added to the affirmation.

Private School Services are very important to the USDE.
Mr. Green asked for suggestions on how to have the PNP data submitted. Discussion followed.

Program Effectiveness Review (PER) Update – Cory Green, TEA Division of NCLB
Program Coordination

Because of compliance issues, every level of PBMAS is moving toward placing the PER on the 2008-09 Compliance Report. Every LEA selected was supposed to send in documentation of support for the PER Validation this past year. In most cases, it was insufficient. We are working on a close-out letter and also working on template tools to assist districts in keeping documentation.

There will be training through the ESCs for detailed documentation requirements to include PNP and campus planning training. Districts with insufficient documentation will be required to attend. Ms. Doggett recommended a list of trainings be sent to the superintendents and principals because small schools do not have a federal program director.

Other

Reauthorization will probably not happen before the presidential election. Bills and public input are still being heard. The Secretary of Education has stated that if reauthorization does not happen, they will make changes through policy guidance, letters, rules, and pilot programs.

USDE is offering a pilot project of differentiated Title I Program flexibility for 10 states. This will give flexibility to schools in SIP if a campus missed AYP for one student. The deadline is in May to apply. There are four criteria to meet in order to apply. Priority will be given to states with over 20% of their schools in SIP (Texas does not meet this percentage). Also, in order to qualify, the state should have no major monitoring findings. If Texas is eligible, we may apply.

In calculating Title I funds, USDE changed a piece of census data used for allocation. State appropriations were calculated on the new data. Texas had the largest increase. The allocations USDE releases next week will be wrong—it will be too high. State administration and charter schools will still need to be taken out. The State takes 1% for state administration.

Last Meeting

At the SES provider reading, over half of the members left. A motion was discussed to make staying until 3 PM a requirement. Mr. Green is going to send a letter that COP

meetings are from 9 AM to 3 PM. If travel is impossible, then the member needs to resign at the June meeting.

COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

Initial Compliance Review (ICR) - Didi Garcia, Division of NCLB Program Coordination

2008-09 ICR Comments were reviewed. Time for comments on the proposed ICRs closed on March 19. The comments were given to committee. Time was given to review the handout.

There was a lot of discussion on #4 regarding the LEA reservation of funds as a percentage of current year maximum entitlement. Ms. Hagler asked if there was a reason the set aside for homeless is a percentage because there is nothing in statute about it. Mr. Green said it is easier to approve the application with a percentage.

Regarding #33, SIP campuses expending at least 75% of the current year SIP current year SIP allocation, Mr. Green said only one comment was received. This year we are looking at a huge amount of funds not spent. Best practices indicate carry over be no more than 25%. Mr. Green said the paragraph about spending 75% of SIP funds can be included.

Ed-Flex Statewide Student Performance Review – Scott Lewis, Division of NCLB Program Coordination

The state's assessment was reviewed to ensure we can maintain the state waivers. On the 2007 and 2008 State Performance Report, every assessment went up, so no action by COP is needed at this time. This is the time of year for the Ed-Flex waivers. Applications will be accepted through June 1. COP will see these applications at the June meeting. Applications will then be sent to the Commissioner.

SIP – Anita Villarreal, Division of NCLB Program Coordination

Handouts were given to committee members. Ms. Villarreal said that the agency was aware of the stress caused by the late AYP. We are trying to help in every way we can. To review the history, refer to the packet for potential SIP campuses. This year, the division will send out two packets—first potential for those campuses that miss AYP for the first time - for new campuses only. There was a review of the letter and attachments. Ms. Villarreal said the note regarding spending the 75% will be added. The second letter is for those campuses identified for SIP in 2007-08. The front of the letter looks the same except for the last paragraph. In 2008-09 no campuses will exit. The only way to exit is to choose not to take Title I funds. The committee reviewed the letters.

Meetings for Next Year

Mr. Green stated that it was now time to start planning for the meetings for next year. He asked members to look at September 16 and a time in November. The dates should be emailed to Ms. A. Villarreal by Wednesday, April 2.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM.