

Texas Education Agency
Division of NCLB Program Coordination

Title I Committee of Practitioners
SEDL First Floor Conference Room
4700 Mueller Blvd.
Austin, Texas
Wednesday and Thursday, June 23 and 24, 2010
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Members Present: Martha Anderson, Tori Austin, Mark Beaty, Shirley Coleman, Eileen Lytle, Arthur De La Cruz, Brenda Faz-Villarreal, Annette Gregory, Richard Mik, Margaret Parks Conner, Dora Morón, Wilma Senigal-Vaughn, Michael Turner, Marsha Solana (proxy for Margaret McGettrick), Terri Stafford, and Jayne Tavenner

Members Absent: Ronaldo Cavazos, Margaret McGettrick (sent proxy), Amancio Rodriguez, Belinda Rojas, Mary Thomas, Richard Vasquez, and Yushica Walker

TEA Staff Present: Rita Ghazal, Shannon Housson, Ester Regalado, Scott Lewis, Elizabeth Minjarez, Vivian Smyrl, Christina Villarreal, and Cindy Watson

SIRC Staff Present: Gwen Davis, Leticia Govea, Janette Johnson, and Brandon Spenrath

Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Terri Stafford at 9:02 a.m. Ms. Stafford welcomed the COP members present.

Reading and Review of March 25, 2010, Minutes

Ms. Stafford requested the COP members to review the meeting minutes from March 25, 2010.

Michael Turner noted an error on the minutes. Ms. Smyrl stated she would correct the error.

A motion was made by Mr. Turner to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Mike Beaty. The motion carried.

Welcoming of the New COP Members

Ms. Stafford welcomed each new COP member individually. Each new member present introduced themselves.

Ms. Stafford also acknowledged Margaret Park Connor's retirement and recognized her years of service to the committee.

Ms. Shirley Coleman announced that she too will be retiring, but she has not yet sent a letter resigning from the committee.

Review of Rules

Ms. Stafford reviewed the rules with the new COP members:

- Visitors are welcome to observe proceedings; however, discussion is limited to official members only.
- Ex-officio members may participate in discussion; however, voting is limited to official members only.
- Members who are absent may send a representative to participate in discussion; the representative may only vote in the member's place if the member gives a written proxy.

Ms. Stafford reminded the members that the Committee of Practitioners addresses statewide issues and, although members are encouraged to draw upon their experience to advise the Agency, the committee meetings are not intended as a forum to resolve individual concerns that are specific to their districts.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Update – Shannon Housson, Director of the Division of Performance Reporting, and Ester Regalado, AYP Unit Manager

- Mr. Housson and Ms. Regalado provided the following handout regarding AYP:
 - Review of 2010 AYP Calculations.
- Mr. Housson provided a general overview of the 2010 AYP Calendar and amendment status.
 - The 2010 AYP Calendar will be released on August 4, 2010.
 - The new recommended description of a LEP subgroup is still pending approval. The new definition includes any student who has ever been defined as LEP at anytime.
- Ms. Regalado reviewed the 2010 AYP Calendar in detail with the members.
 - The information will be posted on their website under FAQ.

Title I, Part C – Migrant Education Update – Christina Villarreal, State Program Director for Migrant Education, TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination, provided a brief overview of Title I, Part C for new members.

Ms. Villarreal provided two updates regarding Title I, Part C:

USDE Monitoring Visits Update:

- TEA began the USDE Monitoring visits in May.
- USDE visited San Felipe Del Rio and the Texas Education Agency in May.
- USDE will return in December and visit West Oso ISD, Edinburg ISD, Plainview ISD, and Region 19 Shared Service Arrangement.
- The first part of the visit went well, and no problems were brought to her attention; however, Ms. Villarreal cautioned that TEA will not receive the USDE's official findings until after the completion of the December visit.
- Ms. Villarreal stated that past findings of previous USDE visits have been resolved.

Building Bridges Update:

- A brief overview of the Building Bridges program was provided.
- TEA's Title I, Part C group has started a major project to design new curriculum for 3 and 4 year olds. The current program is in need of updating and revising to include the new Pre-K standards.
- TEA has partnered with TXCC to align, design, and develop the new curriculum. Planning began in February and the curriculum writing is in progress.
- Program goals :

- Complete the home-based portion by the beginning of September.
- Determine how it will be piloted, and how it will be “rolled-out”
- Determine timeline to “roll-out” program.
- Ms. Villarreal will keep the members updated on the status and progress and will present the COP with the curriculum when it is completed.

Even Start Update – Ms. Elizabeth Thompson, Assistant Director and State Even Start and Family Literacy Coordinator Texas LEARNS, provided the following handouts and updates regarding Even Start:

- Texas Even Start – Indicators of Program Quality (IPQ) Revisions to be Effective 7/1/2010 – Training Schedule Ms. Thompson provided a brief overview of the Even Start program and the program’s four components for new members.
- New accountability measures that were approved by the COP members in September of 2009 will be effective July 1, 2010.
- An update on activities and trainings was provided.
- The trainings will also be provided on DVDs.
- They are currently revising the data collection process for Even Start.

Homeless Update – Ms. Barbara James, Project Director of the Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO), provided the following handouts and updates regarding Homeless:

- Highly Mobile, Highly Poverty Students = Students in Homeless Situations PowerPoint (handout)
- Texas Homeless Education Office Brochure (handout)
- Texas Homeless Education Office Poster (handout)
- Posters and brochures are required to be posted in every school. Her office will provide the posters and brochures at no cost to any district which calls and requests them.
- Reviewed the definitions of homelessness and the funding options available.
- “Unofficial” estimate is that there are approximately 190,000 homeless students.
- Determinations of whether health care can be provided with Title I funds must be made on a case-by-case basis when all other funding options have been exhausted.
- The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Conference is scheduled for November 6-9, 2010, in Houston.
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Supplemental Educational Services Update – Rita Ghazal, State Coordinator of SES and SC, TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination, provided the following information concerning Supplemental Education Services:

- SES figures have increased since January.
- The numbers of participating students as of June 22, 2010, are more than the past three years combined.
- One in three eligible students is requesting services.
- 60% of fundable students are being served.
- Nine out of ten requesting services are receiving services – those that are not receiving services have a various reasons as to why they are not.
- The last day to receive services for 2009-2010 is August 22, 2010.
- The state was required to allocate \$117 million towards SES; to date it has allocated \$139 million.
- The statewide expenditures to date are \$64 million.
- There are some programmatic changes that are being implemented:

- The statewide enrollment form is being revised to be more “user-friendly”, and
- The amendment process is being reviewed and a modification is being considered so that providers may change items besides contact information without having to reapply.
- There are some flaws, but the SES group is working to adjust the system to address the flaws.
- The external evaluations are due this summer.
- Ms. Ghazal introduced the new SIRC Staff – Brandon Spenrath and Janette Johnson.
- The SIRC staff is now providing online trainings for Districts and Providers.

NCLB Management Institute Update – Vivian Smyrl, State Program Director, Title I, Part D, TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination, provided a brief update regarding the NCLB Management Institute.

There were approximately 600 participants, and the conference was very well received. Agency staff is scheduled to meet next week to debrief concerning the conference and make recommendations for future consideration.

TTIPS Update –

Ms. Smyrl provided a brief update of the TTIPS Grants.

The reading review is currently taking place. There are 417 applicants. The grants should be awarded around July 1st. Most applications are for the transformation model, but there are a few turnaround and restart.

USDE Monitoring – Exit Conference Update –

Ms. Smyrl provided a brief update of the USDE Monitoring visit that occurred in May for Title I, Part A; Title I Part D, and Homeless education grants.

TEA has not yet received the “draft” report from the USDE, but it is expected to arrive soon. Once the draft report is received, TEA will be able to make corrections to names and places. Once the final report is received, TEA will have a thirty-day period in which to respond.

A few issues were mentioned as potential findings by the USDE during the exit conference:

- Calculation of equitable service amounts, the content of third-party contracts, monitoring by the LEA of the third-party contractor, and inventory of Title I property at the private non-profit locations were some of the issues that may be cited by the USDE related to services to private schools.
- Documentation issues related to parental involvement were also a concern: written policies, required annual meetings, parents’ right to know, parent compacts, and providing information about transfer opportunities as part of school improvement notification.
- There was a small issue with the NCLB Report Cards. USDE would like the statewide NAEP results to be listed on the district report cards, as well as the state report card. Currently the NAEP results are only on the state report card.
- USDE expressed no concerns in regards to Homeless and Title I, Part D.

There are two issues that remain to be resolved from the previous USDE visit concerning the Title I Comparability of Services requirement.

1. The USDE has indicated that districts should not be exempted solely on the basis of having fewer than 1000 students enrolled, and
2. The USDE has provided a gradespan grouping example that has 6th grade centers, grade 7-8 campuses, and grade 6-8 campuses in one group.

This is very different from previous guidance, and TEA has requested further clarification from the USDE before modifying the guidance and instructions for the 2010-2011 comparability determinations.

ARRA – Statewide Administrative Waiver (roll) – Vivian Smyrl, State Program Director, Title I, Part D, TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination, provided the following handout regarding the 15% Limitation on Carryover Funds.:

- Proposed Ed Flex Statewide Programmatic Waiver Overview.

Ms. Smyrl reviewed the handout with the members, explaining that the waiver was similar to the current waiver for regular Title I, Part A funds. The intent of the proposed waiver is to treat the Title I, Part A—ARRA funds the same way.

A motion was made by Eileen Lytle to accept the proposed waiver. The motion was seconded by Shirley Coleman. The motion carried.

Ed-Flex Waiver Applications – Mr. Scott Lewis, State Program Director Ed-Flex, HQT, TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination, presented members with four Ed-Flex Waiver Applications for review and consideration.

- Aldine ISD
- La Porte ISD
- Humble ISD
- Dumas ISD

Discussion ensued regarding possible evaluation criteria.

The committee took time to review and consider Aldine ISD's request.

- A motion was made by Margaret Parks Conner to accept the Aldine ISD's waiver request for the term of 3 years with evaluation criteria requiring that all campuses served and the district meet AYP each year of the waiver. The motion was seconded by Tori Austin. The motion carried.

The committee took time to review and consider Dumas ISD's request.

- The committee had questions regarding Dumas ISD's request, but Mr. Lewis was unable to reach district staff. The request was tabled until the district could be reached.

The committee took time to review and consider La Porte ISD's request.

- A motion was made by Arthur Dela Cruz to accept the La Porte ISD's waiver request for the term of 2 years with evaluation criteria requiring that all campuses served and the district meet AYP each year of the waiver. The motion was seconded by Mark Beaty. The motion carried.

The committee took time to review and consider Humble ISD's request.

- A motion was made by Richard Mik to accept the Humble ISD's waiver request for the term of 3 years with evaluation criteria requiring that all campuses served and the district meet AYP each year of the waiver; and. The motion was seconded by Mark Beaty. The motion carried.

Ed-Flex Waiver Applications (continued from earlier in the day) – Mr. Scott Lewis, State Program Director Ed-Flex, HQT, TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination

Mr. Lewis reached Dumas ISD by telephone and provided the members with the answers to their questions.

- A motion was made by Richard Mik to accept the Dumas ISD's waiver request for the term of 3 years with evaluation criteria requiring that all campuses served and the district meet AYP each year of the waiver. The motion was seconded by Margaret Parks Conner. The motion carried.

Title III AMAOs Standards Setting – Ms. Elizabeth Minjárez, State Coordinator Title III, TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination, provided the following handout regarding AMAOs Standards Setting:

2010 Title III AMAO Standards Setting – Title I Committee of Practitioners' Meeting – June 23, 2010.

A brief overview of the program was provided to the members.

Ms. Minjárez explained that the objective was to set new standards.

Ms. Minjárez pointed out specific items for consideration:

- Minimum group size
- Calculation methods
- Title III – ideas
- The Standards themselves.

The handout was reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Shirley Coleman to accept all of the proposed TEA recommendations and standards. The motion was seconded by Margaret Parks Conner. The motion carried.

COP Meeting Dates for 2010-2011 – Terri Stafford, Chair of the Title I Committee of Practitioners, provided the following handout regarding the COP Meeting Dates for 2010-2011:

Proposed Meeting Dates for 2010-2011.

It was noted that June 14-15, 2011, are not on Monday and Tuesday. The date was corrected to reflect June 13-14.

The committee accepted the dates, with the understanding that they may be subject to change due to room availability and unforeseen calendar considerations. A list of meeting dates will be posted as soon as room locations are finalized.

SES Provider Application Training/Review – Leticia Govea, SIRC SES Program Manager, and Gwen Davis, SIRC SES Program Specialist, provided the following handout and review:

SES Provider Application Training/Review:

- Manual – Committee of Practitioners – Application Reading

Ms. Govea and Ms. Davis reviewed the manual, the rubric, and how it relates to the application. They provided training for the members stressing that readers must ensure there is a correlation between the subjects and grade levels the providers are wishing to serve, the research being presented, and the program design.

Application Reading began at 2:30 p.m.

Last Application on June 23 was returned at 6:30.

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Continuation of SES Provider Application Review

7:30 a.m. – First application was picked up for review.

1:30 p.m. – Last application returned.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30, June 24, 2010.