

Texas Education Agency
Division of NCLB Program Coordination

Title I Committee of Practitioners
SEDL First Floor Conference Room

4700 Mueller Blvd.

Austin, Texas

Monday, September 20, 2010

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

Members Absent: Belinda Rojas, and Yushica Walker

TEA Staff Present: Erica Coppic, Rita Ghazal, Cory Green, Shannon Housson, Scott Lewis, Heather Mauzé, Ester Regalado, Vivian Smyrl, and Anita Villarreal

SIRC Staff Present: Leticia Govea, Otto Hannem, Janette Johnson, and Brandon Spenrath

Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Terri Stafford at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Stafford welcomed the COP members present and in addition welcomed ACET President-elect John Emerich.

Reading and Review of June 23 and 24, 2010, Minutes

Ms. Stafford requested the COP members review the meeting minutes from June 23 and 24, 2010.

A motion was made by Arthur De La Cruz to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Tori Austin. The motion carried.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Update – Shannon Housson, Director of the Division of Performance Reporting, and Ester Regalado, AYP Unit Manager provided an overview and update on AYP, which included the following:

- Review of draft of the Federal Accountability/AYP Update (hand-out)
Ms. Regalado presented in a TETN on August 19, 2010, which is available on the AYP website (<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/ayp/>). She discussed a comparison of the final 2009 results and the preliminary 2010 results for COP members.
- Review of the Federal Accountability Update Calendar (hand-out)

Ms. Regalado reviewed the items on the handout in relation to the AYP Accountability Development Timeline for 2011, 2012, and beyond, drawing members' attention to the upcoming November meeting when COP members will review proposed Texas AYP Workbook amendments (2011 and 2012 transition plan).

- Ms. Regalado opened the floor for questions.
- The committee asked about the possibility of receiving the modification suggestions prior to the November meeting. A draft of the modifications will be provided.

Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) Update – Mr. Scott Lewis, State Program Director Ed-Flex, Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT), TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination provided an update on HQT, including the following:

- Review of the information on New Courses that Satisfy Graduation Requirements disseminated in the Curriculum Newsletter on August 23, 2010, and updated September 1, 2010, on the NCLB website (hand-out). Mr. Lewis reviewed the list of new courses from the newly adopted Career and Technology Education (CTE) TEKS that will now satisfy graduation requirements in English, Mathematics, Science, Fine Arts, and Speech. These changes are specific to the graduation plan a student is following.
- Review of information in *the Excerpt from the Guidance for the Implementation of NCLB Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements* (hand-out). If a teacher is teaching a core academic subject class, s/he has to be highly qualified in that subject area. Mr. Lewis also reviewed the exemption from USDE to allow continuation for secondary High Objective Uniform Standard of Evaluation (HOUSE).
 - One year experience to meet regulation at time the worksheet is completed (removed 07-08 deadline). To use HOUSE, a teacher still needs one year experience; HOUSE won't work for brand new teachers, but may now be used for teachers hired since the 2007-2008 school year; and
 - Courses in CTE may now count for points toward HOUSE, although six points still need to be specific to the core academic subject. (Principle and Elements of Floral Design has presented the biggest obstacle, now that these teachers must be highly qualified in fine arts.) A new version of HQT requirements including the new HOUSE and CTE updates was released September 1, 2010.
- Review of additional information related to HOUSE:
 - Revised documentation forms for HOUSE and HQT are available on the NCLB web site.
 - Elementary House – elementary generalist or elementary HOUSE are the only avenues to be HQT. Last year the Agency opened up Elementary HOUSE for 09-10 for eligible teachers. These teachers must have a year of experience in 08-09 or earlier and have sufficient points in order to document HQ status.
 - Each ESC must conduct an annual training on HQT. TEA has updated the training materials to reflect these updates.
- Mr. Lewis opened the floor for questions.

Supplemental Educational Services Update – Rita Ghazal, State Coordinator of Supplemental Education Services (SES) and School Choice (SC), TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination, provided an update on SES.

- Review of longitudinal data from 2007 to present on SES services provided to students, including a month-by-month breakdown of SES requests. These data indicated the highest number of participants since the onset of the program. Texas has doubled the number of families requesting and the number of students receiving services. Thirty percent of LEAs achieved funding capacity before the school year was out. Parent Notification Reviews are being conducted with a few LEAs that have not yet submitted documentation. This year, 25% of campuses exited school improvement stages requiring SES; there are 66 campuses in stage 2 and 144 LEAs. Executive Summary of Evaluations (for years 07-08 and 08-09) will be posted on SIRC Website. From a preliminary review, it appears there was a positive impact in math. Ms. Ghazal also updated members on the status of the waivers that for the Agency requested from the USDE. The waiver to allow LEAs in improvement to serve as providers was not approved by the USDE until April 1, 2010.
- Ms. Ghazal provided information regarding the overview of two pilots that will be conducted (handouts):
 - Management Pilot Initiative—The goal is to reduce administrative oversight. The pilot will examine whether and how online enrolling and billing processes expedite that goal.
 - SES Provider Pay for Performance—The goal is to improve performance and achievement. The pilot will examine whether pay for performance improves performance and achievement.
- Ms. Ghazal opened the floor for questions.

USDE Monitoring Report—Response Update – Vivian Smyrl, State Program Director, Title I, Part D, TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination, provided a brief overview of TEA's response to the Monitoring Report that the USDE issued as a result of the site visit conducted in May, 2010.

- Indicator 1.4 – NCLB School Report Card: In January 2010, the Agency released a web-based system to produce the required NCLB report cards for the state, LEAs, and campuses. The USDE has requested that the NAEP results be included on the LEA-level report cards, not just the state-level report as is currently the case. This programming change has been completed, and LEAs will see the NAEP results on their report cards beginning in January 2011.
- Indicator 2.1 – Title I Paraprofessionals: All paraprofessionals who provide instructional services in a Title I program are required to meet the qualification requirements set in statute. Of the nearly 41,000 Title I paraprofessionals in the state, 77 did not meet these requirements. Thirty-four of these paraprofessionals were covered by the waiver that allowed instructional paraprofessionals on campuses receiving Title I, Part A funds for the first time to have a six-month extension to meet the Title I paraprofessional qualification requirements (waiver approved April 30, 2010). The LEAs involved have submitted corrective action plans, TEA has reissued guidance on this subject, and

technical assistance will be provided to those still not meeting the HQ status after November 1st submission of data.

- Indicator 2.3 – Parental Involvement: The USDE found several issues related to compliance with parental involvement requirements:
 - Parent Involvement policies did not contain all the required elements.
 - Parent Notification Letters concerning school improvement status did not contain all the required elements.
 - Parents should not be required to access a web site or to contact office to obtain information on transfers.
 - Annual Title I meeting was not conducted in some LEAs as required.

The Agency is providing additional technical assistance on these issues at conferences and workshops during the 2010-2011 school year, as well as through ESCs and the statewide initiative at ESC 16. Agency staff is also reviewing its monitoring instruments for 2010-2011 to ensure that these issues are adequately addressed.

- 3.3 – Equitable Services to Private, Non-profit Schools: The USDE found that in several issues related to services to private, non-profit schools.
 - In several cases, equitable services amounts were not correctly calculated by LEAs. To ensure that LEAs make the appropriate calculations, the Agency will require LEAs with participating private schools to submit documentation of their equitable services amounts. A spreadsheet to assist with the calculations is available on the web site at: http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=2147486851&menu_id=798. The worksheet addresses the districtwide reservations, per pupil amounts, and carryover.
 - Some of the LEAs' third-party contracts did not adequately address program monitoring, evaluation, administrative costs, and timely provision of services. The Agency has requested copies of appropriate amendments to ensure compliance with these issues.
 - The Agency must also ensure that LEAs use proper inventory controls to track Title I supplies, materials, and equipment placed at participating private schools.

The Agency is reviewing its guidance and will develop a web page specific to resources related to services to private non-profit schools.

Title I Comparability of Services Requirement—Update – Vivian Smyrl, State Program Director, Title I, Part D, TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination, provided a brief update on the clarification received from the USDE concerning the implementation of this requirement.

- The USDE has indicated that districts should not be exempt solely on the basis of having fewer than 1000 students enrolled, and
- The USDE has clarified that campus groupings must be made based on broad organizational categories: Elementary, Middle, and High School. LEAs will no longer group campuses by exact grade spans. The expectation by the USDE is that this will produce fewer grade span groupings within each LEA and will result in more campuses being compared to similar campuses. For example, an LEA that has 6th grade centers, grade 7-8 campuses, and grade

6-8 campuses would group these campuses together for comparability purposes. This is very different from previous guidance.

The Agency has revised its instruction documents accordingly and posted them at the following address: http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=6996&menu_id=798. Comparability assurance forms and, if required, documentation spreadsheets are due by November 5, 2010.

TTIPS Update –

Erica Copic, State Coordinator for the Texas Title I Priority Schools (TTIPS) Grants Cycle 1, TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination, provided a PowerPoint with charts outlining the following updates:

- 417 applications
- Awarded
 - 32 Tier One
 - 22 Tier Two
 - 18 Tier Three
- 51 LEAs choose immediate implementation.
- 21 LEAs chose delayed implementation.
- The majority of LEAs chose the Transformation model.
- 3 LEAs chose turnaround (13 LEAs chose a Turnaround model of their own and 5 chose the Texas Turnaround model), 1 LEA chose restart, and none chose closure.
- Currently Completing Negotiations.

NCLB Management Institute Update – Cory Green, Senior Director, TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination provided a brief update regarding the NCLB Management Institute.

- Review of the June 2010 Management Institute (MI) shows that overall it was well received. Registration was capped at 600; had just over 500 participants. Responses on evaluations were generally positive. The date of Institute presented challenges due primarily to location and space constraints. TXCC did receive year 6 funding and will be assisting with the MI for 2011. Survey sent out to query when participants would like to have the MI – top three choices were: 1) April (during TAKS); 2) 2nd week in June; and 3) June 8-10, 2011. The planning committee is working on securing a location to accommodate as many people as possible.
- The focus for MI 2011 will be on the basics of federal programming. The Institute will be open to anyone, but will have a focus on meeting the needs of newer program staff.
 - Day 1 – allowable uses of funds across programs
 - Day 2 – documenting compliance
 - Day 3 – ½ day targeted on specific programs–Title III, Parent Involvement, Private, Non-profit, and School Improvement Program
- The format will include a General session with repeated breakout sessions that may be of interest.
- The Agency will be requesting input from COP members and ESC staff during the planning process. At November meeting, the COP will have agenda item requesting input.

Reauthorization Appropriation Update – Cory Green, Senior Director, TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination provided the following information concerning the USDE funding projections:

- Everyone agrees reauthorization won't occur before the November elections, and the results of the elections will influence the timeline. There are questions whether or not ESEA and IDEA will be integrated. Expect to hear more conversations about standards (core). Expect to see a move or shift away from AYP.
- Expect to see it to be allowable to increase in capacity and/or funding of administration at state level. The state tables reflect appropriations that are projections on administrative proposal.
- Rewarding Title I, Part A schools that are doing well and expanding Title I, Part A to target high schools. Texas serves many secondary schools with Title I, Part A which differs from other states.
- The SIP will probably change to focus on the bottom 5% of campuses. Supplemental Educational Services (SES) and School Choice (SC) may be available for those bottom 5% only; in the blueprint there was no talk about SES/SC. SC very well may be phased out because of the low numbers/results. Significant changes may be in the School Improvement Grant.
- May join national Title I Association www.titlei.org – general member.
- Title II – renaming it; change focus on job-embedded professional development. Other possible changes may be a move to more discretionary funding. We can expect any new grants coming out to be discretionary.
- Title III – changing some assessment items in terms of proficiency, dates.
- Across the board we expect to see more discretionary opportunities for sub-recipients.

Other – Cory Green, Senior Director, TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination provided the following information concerning various issues:

- Reallocation of School Improvement Funding
 - Funds off the top are sent to SIRC; SIRC pays TAPS and CAMS directly. The Agency must estimate the number of schools served and how much travel is associated with each site visit.
 - Each year the Agency has School Improvement funds left over. Funds were allocated to SIRC that weren't needed. So with that funding, the Agency is going to try a small strategic planning initiative or pilot program with a select group of LEAs to work on strategic planning for school improvement.
- Funding
 - Residual ARRA funding –There is a 27-month funding availability for ARRA funds. The Agency has not heard anything about USDE taking back funding or providing additional funds.
 - Title I funds-

- Planning allocations for Title I, Part A – Division of Formula Funding handles maximum planning amounts. Maximum entitlement goal is February to have that out to the LEAs.
 - The formula is the same, but census data are now updated every year. Larger numbers of LEAs are seeing greater difference in funding amounts from year to year.
 - USDE's numbers posted on their budgets online are rarely close. Contradictions occur because statute requires them to post early. Part of what is posted is based on projections on their proposed budget. Proposed Title II budget reflects some may be some formula – some discretionary.
- Monitoring
 - The state can expect to see a big focus on private schools and parent involvement because of USDE monitoring visits. Private schools have had the exact same funding three visits in a row. The Division will be focusing on compliance issues.
 - Parent Involvement Conference – November 4, 5, 6, 2010 will focus on parent involvement issues that were reflected in findings.
 - Timeline for future visits:
 - Office of Inspector General (OIG) Audit will call in September to schedule review of uses of Title I, Part A funds,
 - USDE will be back in December to look at Title III,
 - Six states will be selected for SIG grant – some have gone from three years to four years, and
 - Even start will be desk monitored.
- Auditors will take exception if LEAs buy materials late in the grant period. “Late” is being defined as “close to end” of the period. OIG audit cited LEAs for stockpiling laptops.
- Annual Meeting Title I, Part A cannot just be added on to a PTA Meeting, or merely be a meeting/breakfast with the principal. To meet the statutory requirement, the meeting must reflect a Title I, Part A focus.

SES Provider Application Training/Review – Leticia Govea, SIRC SES Program Coordinator, provided the following:

- 31 appeals were submitted by SES providers. This was an opportunity to appeal only items that were cited for denial, not a new submission. Every appeal application has a first and second reading.
 - 15 appeal from new SES applicants
 - 16 renewal from previously approved SES applicants
- Ms. Govea provided training to new members.

Application Reading began at 12:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00