

Texas Education Agency
Division of NCLB Program Coordination

Title I Committee of Practitioners
SEDL First Floor Conference Room
4700 Mueller Blvd.
Austin, Texas
Monday, November 15 & 16, 2010
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Members Present: Martha Anderson, Tori Austin, Mark Beaty, Arthur De La Cruz, John Emerich, Brenda Faz-Villarreal, Annette Gregory, Eileen Lytle, Dora Morón, Belinda Rojas, Wilma Senigal-Vaughn, Mary Thomas, Michael Turner, Margaret McGettrick, Shirley Clark (proxy for Terri Stafford), and Jayne Tavenner

Members Absent: Ronald Cavazos, Richard Mik, Richard Vasquez, and Yushica Walker

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

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

Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Green at 9:02 a.m. Mr. Green welcomed the COP members present.

Reading and Review of September 20, 2010, Minutes

Mr. Green requested the COP members review the meeting minutes from September 20, 2010.

Mr. Green noted the correction on page 3 (*144 campuses and 66 LEAs*).

A motion was made by Mr. Beaty to accept the minutes as corrected.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Turner

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 an overview of the AYP planning cycle for 2011 and how the change in the accountability system (TAKS-STARR) will affect the timeline and the acceptance of the proposed system. It was noted that Texas should leave our targets the same as last year. Additionally it was proposed to submit an AYP Transition Plan that will ensure consistency during the transition and present the most favorable option for Texas.

A motion was made by Ms. Morón to submit the plan to USDE as presented.
The motion was seconded by Ms. Tavenner.
The motion carried.

Ms. Regalado opened the floor for questions.

COP Capacity Building - Vivian Smyrl, State Program Director, Title I, Part D, TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination, provided a brief PowerPoint overview of Committee of Practitioners, outlining the basic purposes, functions, and federal statutory requirements of COP.

Ms. Smyrl opened the floor for questions.

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

The date for June 8-10, 2011, has been confirmed, as well as the venue: the Embassy Suites in San Marcos, Texas. The structure of the Institute is to focus on Allowable Uses of Funds (Day One) and Documenting Compliance (Day Two) across the Programs, with General Sessions and concurrent breakout sessions each day. Program-specific presentations (Day Three) will be provided as well.

The overall focus for the Management Institute is grant management and is geared at providing support and technical assistance to federal program staff but is open to all. Registration will be held on-line and offers flexibility to participants. Participants will have the option to register for days one and two, day three only, or for all three days.

Mr. Green opened the floor for questions.

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

Congressman John Kline has been named the Chair of the House Education and Labor Committee. He has indicated there may be a need to consolidate some federal programs. There are a variety of opinions as to when Reauthorization will occur and how it will look. When it does happen it will go into effect July 1st; however, USDE guidance will not be available until at least six months afterwards. Speculation is that Accountability, HQ/Highly Effective Teachers, Assessment, and AYP will remain in one format or another. Other items that look to be addressed are the English Language Proficiency (ELP) and Title III assessments and the School Improvement Designations. The states may also see ESEA and IDEA overlap in the future.

Mr. Green opened the floor for questions.

TTIPS Update –

Dorothy White, State Coordinator for the Texas Title I Priority Schools (TTIPS), TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination, provided the following updates on Cycle 1:

Handouts were provided to COP members [PowerPoint of TTIPS Quarterly Implementation Report (QIR) Webinar dated Aug-Oct 2010 (1), hard copy of QIR School Years 2010-2013 (2), and QIR Cycle 1 Instructions (3)].

The webinar was conducted by Erica Coppic regarding the implementation and monitoring of grant. The Quarterly Implementation Reports (QIR) are due November 19, 2010. All awarded campuses must submit a QIR. Ms. White reviewed the FAQ in the PowerPoint and highlighted items in the QIR instructions as well as the QIR. The QIR is available on the TTIPS website. Ms. White referred committee members to last meeting's minutes for specific numbers on LEA and campus grants awarded. Most have been NOGA'd. Some have delayed implementation. Majority of Cycle 1 schools have received cycle 1 awards.

Cory Green, Senior Director, TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination noted the difference between formula and discretionary negotiations. An entity's discretionary grant is reduced if it is determined that the requested allocation is not reasonable and necessary. The grant allocation is reduced by the amount of the unallowable cost. There was much negotiation around reasonable, necessary, and allowable. Mr. Green went on to discuss the TTIPS, Cycle 2 grants. Application for cycle 2 will look a little different. Funding will be approximately \$147 million (\$80 million in roll, \$57 million available from this year's allocation, and \$10-12 million in 2008 carryover). There are 25-45 possible grantees. There are no major changes to the Cycle 2 state Application due to USDE on December 3, 2010. USDE is allowing for a "pre-implementation" period allowing for a 16- or 17-month timeframe in which to spend funds rather than the 12-months availability, available in spring of 2011 and continuing throughout the SY2011-2012. This will allow for LEAs to conduct professional development and to fund staff positions if necessary prior to the beginning of the SY2011-2012. The basic eligibility requirements were reviewed by Mr. Green. Differences between primary and secondary eligibility criteria were highlighted. The base criteria for eligibility is being identified as "persistently lowest achieving" being by being in the lowest 5% of performance or having graduation rates below 60% for two years. The secondary criteria expanded the eligibility list by allowing (at the state's discretion) schools in the bottom 20% of performance or who missed AYP for two consecutive years to become eligible.

The following eligibility options were presented to COP members for consideration:

- Retain the Cycle 1 Eligibility list, minus the schools that were awarded Cycle 1 grants.
- Retain the Cycle 1 Eligibility list, minus the schools that were awarded Cycle 1 grants, and reduce the number of schools on the list due to the secondary eligibility criteria.
- Recalculate an updated eligibility list using updated performance data.

Recalculating may correct some data for some schools that don't feel they meet eligibility. If recalculated, USDE has offered a waiver to limit eligible campuses to those campuses with a minimum number of students in the "all students" group. The intent is to avoid penalizing small schools.

Mr. Green reviewed the impact of the Funding Structure. The changes in Tier III were highlighted. Discussion regarding the fact that it may be a major issue for the Tier III schools due to the grant terminology highlighting "fully implementation" if those campuses become a Tier I or Tier II school. The state's Tier III Transformation

model does not meet the requirements of being a full reform model since it did not require the replacing of the principal.

Members discussed the benefits and drawbacks of each option. It was noted that TPM does not help with this calculation. Questions were then put to the committee for feedback and opinion.

Question 1:

- Broadest Eligibility with largest number or more targeted? The members voted unanimously that the focus should be more targeted.

Question 2:

- Retain Cycle 1 Eligibility or Recalculate with updated performance data? The members voted 8 for retention and 3 for recalculating.

Question 3:

- Implement n size on “all students” tested group? The members voted unanimously “no.”
- If so, what is appropriate n size? Members addressed this question in case feedback is required to inform future decision-making. Matching AYP would address the appropriate n size.

Question 4

- Should TEA apply to USDE to fund all three years of grant (9 awards) instead of only first year of grant (27 awards)? 7 members voted for the funding of all three years.
- Would campuses be less likely to apply for only one guaranteed year of funding? 3 members voted for 1 year funding. One member abstained.

Mr. Green noted that Reauthorization may impact the funding.

Mr. Green opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Green announced that The Texas Education Agency will host two one-hour webinars about the **Cycle 2 TTIPS** grant to gather stakeholder input. The webinars will be held on Friday, November 19, from 10 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and repeated from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. He asked that members assist in communicating information regarding the webinar. Mr. Green stated it is his intent is to have Upper Management's review of the application and then to submit the state application prior to its December 3, 2010, due date.

School Improvement Program (SIP) – Anita Villarreal, State Program Director, Title I SIP, TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination, provided a brief update regarding the SIP Applications.

All applications have completed their programmatic review and have been sent up for NOGA.

Ms. Villarreal 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.

The 2009-2010 figures have exceeded the last two years in terms of performance reviewed data. Ms. Ghazal provided updates on the two pilot projects.

Ms. Ghazal opened the floor for questions.

Even Start - Beth Thompson, State Coordinator of Even Start, provided an annual overview of the status of Even Start.

Ms. Thompson provided two PowerPoint presentations highlighting the 2009-2010 Texas Even Start Performance Data and the CSPR Data Summary of SY2008-2009. She presented 2010 performance data and a comparison of Texas 2009 performance to national Even Start performance. Ms. Thompson reviewed the target and actual performance goals and compared even start cohorts with non-even start cohorts. The data summary was put into perspective when Ms. Thompson reminded members that the SY2008-2009 was the year of hurricane Ike. There were 12 programs that were directly impacted due to Ike. She provided a breakdown by indicators and allocations. Presenting this information is required annually. Ms. Thompson reminded members that the COP is required to approve policy changes for Even Start.

Ms. Thompson opened the floor for questions.

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.

2010-2011 Validations are currently underway. Thirty-nine LEAs received a request from the Agency for copies of their 2009-2010 Parent Notification Letters regarding classes taught for four or more weeks by a non-HQT. Of the 39, there are two LEAs that have insufficient documentation. The deadline for a new 2010-2011 validation, Comprehensive Needs Assessments, is approaching. HQT Focused Data Analyses (FDA), Continuous Improvement Plans (CIP), and letters are due to the Agency by December 15, 2010, for LEAs that report less than 100% HQ. A total of 350 campuses did not submit by the November 1, 2010, deadline or reported teachers assigned to classes that did not meet the HQT requirements. Based on information submitted in September, for the SY2010-2011 at the elementary level 99.8% classes were taught by HQ teachers and at the secondary level, 99.37% classes were taught by an HQT. Mr. Lewis went on to address the impact of the 4x4 graduation requirements on certain Career and Technical Education teachers, reminding members that some CTE classes now require a Highly Qualified teacher in Science, Math, or Fine Arts. Statewide, on schoolwide and targeted assistance campuses, .3% (99 paraprofessionals) and .6% (2 paraprofessionals) did not meet the HQ paraprofessional requirements.

Mr. Lewis opened the floor for questions.

Title I Monitoring Validations/ICR and ICA Updates – Vivian Smyrl, State Program Director, Title I, Part D, TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination, provided a brief update on validations, the Initial Compliance Review, and Initial Compliance Analysis.

Random validations of the Program review checklists for Title I, Part C; Title I, Part D; and Title III, Part A are scheduled to be conducted in the next few weeks. The validation will look at 12% of the participants.

Initial Compliance Analysis was due October 22, 2010, and review of submissions is to begin next week. A crosscheck between this year and last year's indicators will be conducted to ensure that LEAs did not miss the same indicator two years in a row. If they do, some additional corrective action will be required.

Initial Compliance Reviews (ICRs) due to late submissions will be re-run in NCLB Reports to review the data to determine which indicators were actually "not met." LEAs that have actually missed any of the indicators that were previously marked "missed due to late submission" will be required to submit an additional Compliance Analysis that addresses those indicators.

Ms. Smyrl opened the floor for questions.

Variance Reports– Vivian Smyrl, State Program Director, Title I, Part D, TEA Division of NCLB Program Coordination, provided a brief overview of the newly developed variance reports.

The Agency has developed a set of variance reports that will check data quality and look at valid reason for variances. Comparisons will examine the year-to-year data, as well as PEIMS report to Compliance report data. Variances greater than 25% will be flagged for LEAs to verify that data are correct. The report is based on a minimum size requirement of 30. From preliminary figures there will be approximately 812 LEAs required to respond. Ms. Smyrl reviewed the variance response form with members. The Agency anticipates a letter posted November 22, 2010 as well as a statewide mail-out informing LEAs of this requirement. The deadline for submission is January 12, 2010.

Ms. Smyrl opened the floor for questions.

State Literacy Team - Kathy Stewart, TEA Division of Curriculum, provide information regarding the newly formed State Literacy Team.

Ms. Stewart provided COP members with a handout and gave an overview of the new program. The Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy (SRCL) program was authorized and funded as part of the FY 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act to support the development of a comprehensive literacy program for students from birth through grade 12 in each state. A total of \$697,000 was set aside for creating or maintaining a State Literacy Team composed of individuals with the required expertise in literacy development and education for children from birth through grade 12 and to assist states in developing a comprehensive literacy plan. Initial funding will support the forming of a Literacy Team, and a second set of funds will be made available to LEAs. Competitive applications will be available in the spring 2011. Ms. Stewart asked individuals to email her or contact Heather Mauzé if they or anyone they know is interested in serving on the team.

Ms. Stewart opened the floor for questions.

SES Provider Application Training/Review – Leticia Govea, SIRC SES Program Coordinator, provided the a training refresher to all members and an in-depth training to the proxy reader. Ms. Govea’s staff provided COP members with applications for review.

Application Reading began at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Members reconvened for SES Application Readings at 8:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.