

# Title I Committee of Practitioners

LOCATION: American Institutes for Research, First Floor Conference Room,  
4700 Mueller Blvd, Austin, Texas 78723

Attendance option also provided via Zoom link

DATE: February 12, 2020

## Minutes

### Members Present

Martha Anderson, Shirley Clark, Alex Dominguez, Pam Evans, Brenda Faz-Villarreal, Marilyn Harris, Angela Lengefeld, Carrie Matthews, Cris Muñoz, Jayne Tavenner, Alexis Neumann, Mary Thomas, Nadine Wolf

### Members Absent

Laura Colangelo, Melody Collier, and Mia Hall

### Texas Education Agency (TEA) Staff Present

Anita Villarreal, Vivian Smyrl, Idalia Ibañez, Nez Paniagua-Jimenez

### Call to Order

Shirley Clark called the meeting to order at 9:05 am before welcoming the committee and guests. The committee reviewed the norms for virtual meetings to ensure that all members could access the “chat” feature and the “mute”/“unmute” function.

### Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes from the November 12, 2019, Committee of Practitioners Meeting were approved as written by voice vote, following a motion by Jayne Tavenner and a second by Cris Muñoz.

### Committee Discussion Items

#### **Federal Program Compliance Division Updates**

Anita Villarreal, Division Director of the Federal Program Compliance Division, shared the following updates with the committee:

**Validations:** Division staff are now in the home stretch in terms of completing the validation calendar for the 2019-2020 school year. We will bring you a report on the validations for the Title I program as soon as the results have been analyzed. This will serve as part of our needs assessment for the training that will be conducted in 2020-2021.

**Title I PFE Statewide Cluster Trainings:** We have completed four of the six Parent and Family Engagement Cluster Trainings that are scheduled for 2019-2020. These include:

- ESC Region 9—Wichita Falls
- ESC Region 3—Victoria
- ESC Region 18—Midland
- ESC Region 2—Corpus Christi

The remaining two trainings will be held at:

- ESC Region 10—Richardson (February 17-18)
- ESC Region 5—Beaumont (March 1-2)

The first day of the training, on building capacity and building relationships, is conducted by Terri Stafford and Skip Forsyth from the Title I PFE Statewide Initiative that is housed at ESC 16. In the afternoon of the first day, a school district from the host region is invited to share highlights of its PFE program. The second day, which is primarily for administrators and federal program directors, is conducted by staff in the Federal Program Compliance Division.

#### **ESEA Conference Updates—February 4 through 7 in Atlanta, GA**

This conference was attended by LaNetra Guess, who sends the following notes concerning Equitable Services to Private Schools for the committee’s information:

- USDE anticipates an open public comment segment for a Title VIII Equitable Services FAQ document in Spring 2020.
- Title VIII carryover for equitable services is still a hot (and ever changing) discussion. TEA hopes to receive more direct guidance once Title VIII FAQ is released.
- The following responses were provided by the Office of General Council:
  - LEA deadlines and consequences must be clearly defined for private schools during consultation.
  - LEA can consider equitable services declined if private school does not meet LEA deadlines.
  - There can be multiple designed equitable service options within one LEA (LEA across district pooling services and school-by-school services).

#### **Additional interesting comments from the conference:**

- USDE reinforced that the ESEA is all about achieving the American Dream and not just another funding stream.
- USDE is taking on more of a customer service role for [State Education Agencies] SEAs through its new structure and the creation of the “Office of Formula Grants.”
- As an SEA, we must strive to ensure equity of educational opportunity in all that we do.
- The Office of Formula Grants is looking at ways to streamline their processes. For example, the Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) application process has been streamlined to better meet the needs of rural schools. LEAs had to maneuver through 3 websites, a 36-page instruction

application package, and 7 documents required to complete the application package that could take up to 180 minutes to complete. The new application only requires 1 website, 1 page of instructions, 1 document to complete and the average time to complete the new application is below 10 minutes.

- The USDE showcased the Georgia DOE's process for Consolidation of Funds. They showed how the process streamlines an LEA's responsibilities in administering federal grants.
- USDE is undergoing an administrative organization and reorganization which has included a reduction in the overall size of the agency by 14 percent.
- The "Helping Infrastructure Restore the Economy Act" (S. 2672) calls for moving 90% of the positions in 10 cabinet-level departments out of D.C., including agency headquarters...the USDE would move to Tennessee.

#### **Future topics that we will bring to COP**

- Reallocations to Initiatives
- Changes to 2020-2021 grant documents
- 2020-2021 Program Validations
- Implementation of suggested changes to COP meetings based on the Needs Assessment Survey

#### **Title I, Part C—Migrant Updates**

Idalia Ibañez, Texas Migrant Education Program (MEP) Manager, shared the following updates concerning the Migrant Education Program:

Project SMART: Making Mathematics Meaningful is a Texas summer math migrant program created by the Texas Education Agency in collaboration with the Region 20 Education Service Center. The goal of the program is to improve the math skills of migrant students through scientifically based instruction, technology integration, professional development, and parent involvement. Ms. Ibañez demonstrated the web portal to the committee and provided the following documents for the committee's feedback.

- 2020 Materials List for all grade bands for all units
- Grade band overviews for the math lessons in each unit
- Master Material List, Unit 2 (for all grade bands)

A sample of Mini Lessons for Grades 6-8, as well as the related Tip Sheets for Parents, were also shared.

The web portal for these resources will be available to the committee to review for the next two weeks.

#### **Title I, Part A—Updates**

##### **Title I, Part A Program Guide**

Vivian Smyrl reviewed a draft copy of the Title I, Part A Program Guide, which was shared with the committee last week. The document has been reviewed by ESC program staff at their January meeting, and we expect to send it to an ESC workgroup for a second review within the next two weeks. The plan is still for the new document to be posted online as a pdf file with live internal links to facilitate navigation and additional links to existing online resources that LEAs can use to improve the implementation of their programs.

## Ed-Flex—Updates

### Ed-Flex Renewal

Ms. Smyrl informed the committee that the US Department of Education Agency has approved the state's renewal application to continue its waiver authority under the Ed-Flex program through the 2023-2024 school year. As a result, we will be following through with plans to update the General Provisions and Assurances for both ESSA and the Perkins grant, so that the revised language as approved by the USDE is incorporated into the eGrants system.

The Ed-Flex program applies to the following programs:

- ESSA
  - Title I, Part A (except for Section 1111)
  - Title I, Part C
  - Title I, Part D
  - Title II, Part A
  - Title IV, Part A
- Perkins

The Ed-Flex statute lists several aspects of these programs that **cannot** be waived:

- Maintenance of effort;
- Comparability of services;
- Equitable participation of students and professional staff in private schools;
- Parental participation and involvement;
- Distribution of funds to States or to local educational agencies;
- Serving eligible school attendance areas in rank order in accordance with section 1113(a)(3)
- The selection of a school attendance area or school under subsections (a) and (b) of section 1113 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, except that a State educational agency may grant a waiver to allow a school attendance area or school to participate in activities under Title I, Part A if the percentage of children from low-income families in the school attendance area of such school or who attend such school is not less than 10 percentage points below the lowest percentage of such children for any school attendance area or school of the local educational agency that meets the requirements of such subsections;
- Use of Federal funds to supplement, not supplant, non-Federal funds; or
- Applicable civil rights requirements.

The Agency is considering what requirements might be waivable that could assist small and/or rural schools.

Ms. Smyrl reminded the committee members that they also serve as the state's Ed-Flex Committee, as such, they will be called upon to review and make recommendations concerning an Individual Programmatic Waiver applications that the Agency receives for the 2020-2021 school year. It may be that with the increased emphasis on working to meet the needs of small and/or rural schools, we may begin to see this type of waiver used more often. The committee expressed interest in having more information about the waiver process at future meetings.

## COP Survey Results

Anita Villarreal shared the results from the Committee of Practitioners 2019 Assessment Survey, which was conducted online earlier this year:

- Are the Agenda Items relevant to the Committee's work (Statewide Policy recommendations)?
  - 60% -- Always
  - 40% -- Most of the time
- Does the value of committee activities justify the time COP takes you away from your job?
  - 60% -- Definitely yes
  - 20% -- Probably yes
  - 20% -- Probably not
- Is the meeting format conducive to committee participation?
  - 50% -- Definitely yes
  - 20% -- Probably yes
  - 30% -- Might or might not
- If a hybrid meeting format were available, which form of attendance would you be most likely to use?
  - 50% -- In person
  - 30% -- ZOOM
  - 20% -- Other
- What type of presentation is most beneficial to the committee
  - 70% -- Both PowerPoint and paper copy
  - 10% -- Paper copy
  - 10% -- PowerPoint
  - 10% -- Other

The Agency will use the results and comments from the survey to better meet the needs of COP members. Thank you very much for your honesty and participation!

## Adjourn

Shirley Clark adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.