

Minutes

February 10, 2022

9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Present

Estella Lisette Allen, Maria E. Anzaldua, Laura Colangelo, Meredith Dodd, Alex Dominguez, Pam Evans, Marilyn Harris, Brenda Faz-Villarreal, Lauren Hodge (proxy member for Jayne Tavenner), Cora Huggins, Carrie Matthews, Cris Munoz, Alexis Neumann, Ellie Ross, Sharon Sanchez

Members Absent

Melody Collier, Mia Hall, Mary Thomas

Texas Education Agency (TEA) Staff Present

Cory Green, Anita Villarreal, Didi Garcia, Jaime Huerta, Idalia Ibanez, Vivian Smyrl, LaNetra Guess, Cal Lopez, Nez Paniagua-Jimenez

Call to Order

Alex Dominguez, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Jaime Huerta shared the virtual meeting norms and responsibilities with attendees. Committee and guests were welcomed. Jaime Huerta introduced the new committee chair, Alex Dominguez. Roll call was obtained by members posting their names in chat via the zoom platform.

Committee Action Items

Minutes of Previous Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2021, Committee of Practitioners Meeting was made by Lisette Allen and a second by Alexis Neumann. The minutes were approved.

Title I, Part C – Migrant Education Program LEA Reallocation

Didi Garcia, Assistant Division Director, presented the formula used to reallocate Migrant Education Program funding. A motion to ratify the decision made by TEA based on solicited comments from the members of the Committee for the Migrant Education Program (MEP) Reallocation Formula was made by Pamela Evans and a second by Brenda Faz-Villarreal. The MEP Reallocation Formula was approved.

Committee Discussion Items

Department of Grant Compliance and Administration Updates

Cory Green, Associate Commissioner, shared updates on the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER), State Fiscal Reporting Requirements, and USDE Fiscal Reporting Requirements. He shared the number LEAs who have not completed the random validation process with TEA for ESSER III. Local educational agencies (LEAs) have until the end of February to submit their documentation for TEA staff review. LEAs will then receive notification of compliance or needs

improvement. Cory also shared that any LEA receiving a needs improvement status may be required to repay funds at the end of the funding period if not corrected before the deadline.

Cory Green provided updates on the new State Fiscal Reporting Requirements. His team conducted a statewide training on the requirements two weeks ago. Since the training, his team changed the state fiscal reporting form by deleting the FTE question. The training will be re-recorded. The system will open early next week. Every time an LEA does a drawdown, it will need to submit a drawdown request. LEAs will have nine days to complete the report. TEA staff will reach out to each LEA to capture the backlog report to examine how supplemental pay is being expended. The intent is to ensure the drawdown payment correlates to the purpose of the expense.

Cory Green provided updates on USDE's ESSER I, II, III reporting requirements. He received the final data reporting requirements yesterday. His team provided an overview training on the requirements. The reports are due in May. The annual reporting form has narrative boxes. This applies to ESSER I, ESSER II, and ESSER III; there will be three separate reports for these programs. His team is hoping to open the data collection system March 1 for LEAs. The forms are due back to TEA in early April.

Fiscal reporting on the state side will become a routine. When the system opens, all ESSER drawdowns will be manually approved. LEAs will have nine days to submit their 2nd report or their request will be denied. TEA must see a correlation between the drawdown request and what the intent of the drawdown is.

Cory Green fielded questions from the committee. He confirmed that once LEAs submit the ER payment request, they will receive an email with a link to complete the form. Cory shared the reporting form is for LEAs only. This does not apply to ESCs. The state fiscal reporting form can be completed by whoever the LEAs appoint to submit that level of detail for the expenditure.

Cory Green thanked the Committee of Practitioners for their time.

Anita Villarreal, Senior Division Director, requested Cory Green to discuss movement of their department at the agency. The department staff will now be back together rather than split on two floors as they have been for the past four years.

Federal Program Compliance Division Updates

Anita Villarreal, Senior Division Director, explained the ESC ESSA Basic Services Grant is for the ESCs. TEA shares and trains the ESCs before the information is released to LEAs so the ESCs are aware of the content and prepared to answer potential questions before the LEAs receive the information. Funding for the 2020-2021 ESC ESSA Basic Services Grant is going to be reallocated into 2021-2022. Reallocation should occur by March 1st. For 2019-20 and 2020-21, there has been some leniency because COVID. It has been very difficult for ESCs to expend the funds for reasons including, but not limited to, the ESCs not being able to travel and conferences being held virtually. Upper management is considering resuming the practice of awarding reallocation funds to ESCs based on the percentage of grant funds expended. Beginning in March 2022, Anita's team will be notifying the ESC Executive Directors or designees how much funds from the 2021-22 ESC ESSA Basic Services Grant have not been expended and that unexpended funds will cause a reallocation of funds for 2022-23.

Anita also shared that customer service is a number one priority for her and her team. Anita shared the resources that are available for the Federal Program Compliance Division, including the FAQs. Previously, FAQs were updated monthly; currently, they will be updated as needed. Additional tools include the Use of Funds one-pager, voice-over presentations, and the CCNA toolkit.

Anita discussed her division's 2021-22 reporting metrics and goals. Her team provides a report to Deputy Commissioner Mike Myer quarterly and provides a report to Commissioner Morath annually. The report includes the number of trainings provided and evaluation data that are aggregated.

Didi Garcia, Assistant Division Director, explained the 2021-22 LEA Compliance Reports. The last year the full compliance reports were completed was for the 2018-19 school year. When the pandemic started, the agency greyed out sections on the reports in order to make the reporting less cumbersome for the LEAs. Moving forward into 2021-22, all sections of the compliance report are being reopened. The format, color, and functionality of the reports are also being updated to model the current ESSA Consolidated Application. The program implementation questions are being reinstated as a program compliance self-checks. The Compliance Report for the Rural and Low-Income Schools program will not be in the new format. Didi reviewed the 2021-22 LEA Compliance Reports timeline and what the revised compliance reports will look like in eGrants.

Jaime Huerta, Title I, Part A Program Director, provided the 2021-22 Random Validations Updates. He reviewed the timeline, the two Random Validation phases, and the programs included in the 2021-22 Random Validations process. On April 26, TEA will share the results of the random validation with the participating LEAs via email.

Title I, Part C – Migrant Education Program—Priority for Service

Idalia Ibanez, Program Director, reviewed the Priority for Service (PFS) requirement for Title I, Part C. She discussed the criteria used to determine the priority children served and shared the recommended changes to the Priority for Service (PFS) Action Plan Template. The PFS Report is now on the platform called "Texas – New General System (TX-NGS)." Idalia also reviewed the four steps in the PFS Implementation Process and the roles of the LEA and ESC.

Title I, Part A Updates

Jaime Huerta, Program Director, shared updates on Title I, Part A. He shared the logistics of the 2021 ESEA National Distinguished Schools recognition. The selected schools will be recognized during the ESEA National Conference in February and during on-site campus ceremonies in April. Jaime reviewed the criteria used to determine how campuses received the awards for Distinguished Performance and Distinguished Progress. Putegnat Elementary with Brownsville ISD was selected for Distinguished Performance. John & Olive Hinojosa Elementary with Rio Grande City CISD was selected for Distinguished Progress.

Jaime shared a fact sheet USDE sent on January 12, 2022, regarding data collection for low-income percentages. He shared data LEAs can use to determine low-income students for School Year 2022-2023. Jaime shared Parent and Family Engagement Celebrations. A little over 1500 people attended the 2021 Virtual Parental Involvement Conference. For the first time, the Texas Council on Parent and Family Engagement presented at the virtual parent conference. He reviewed the PFE Cluster

Trainings, Summits, and Best Practice Expos. He informed the committee that the Title I, Capacity Building team is developing Title I, Part A Newbies Online Training Series Modules.

McKinney-Vento Act/Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program

Cal Lopez, State Coordinator, shared McKinney-Vento 101 Resources and the process that the liaisons use to document services they provide to the families. Cal shared the immunization flow chart, sample school of origin transportation letter, the dispute resolution process, and FAQ resources. Her team worked in collaboration with TASB on the resources. She also shared the McKinney-Vento Infographics and Posters including state-level graduation information.

Cal Lopez shared updates on the ARP Homeless I Grant. She shared Phase I and Phase II allocations and the total award for the state. Cal explained how the ARP Homeless I grant was distributed in two supplemental grants: the TEHCY Supplemental and ESC Capacity Supplemental. She displayed 2021-2022 data on the number of TEHCY subgrantees by region. A breakdown of the two supplemental grants was provided. She indicated the purpose of the TEHCY Supplement grant is to provide infusion of funds to increase capacity with staff, implement a data-driven plan and provide wrap-around services to mitigate learning loss. She reviewed the ESC Capacity building and ARP Homeless I Supplemental Grants. They are analyzing the data to work with LEAs, especially those who have low numbers of students identified as homeless. She shared the list of McKinney-Vento Liaison Contacts by region. They will have a one-day meeting with liaisons to see what additional resources are needed.

Cal Lopez shared information on the 2021-2024 ARP Homeless II Grant. She also shared factors contributing to the under identification of homeless students because of COVID-19, as well as data comparing the number of identifications for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 by region. Cal shared the timeline for the 2021-2024 ARP Homeless II Federal eGrant, and informed the committee about the ARP Homeless II Grant Statewide Webinar, which is scheduled for Friday, March 4th at 10:00 a.m. Cal thanked her team for everything they have done throughout the process.

Adjourn

Alex Dominguez, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

Minutes approved by the Committee on April 7, 2022.