

Title I Committee of Practitioners

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

DATE: October 9, 2019

Minutes

Members Present

Martha Anderson, Shirley Clark, Laura Colangelo, Ryan Blodgett (proxy for Pamela Evans), Brenda Faz-Villarreal, Marilyn Harris, Angela Lengefeld, Carrie Matthews, Cris Muñoz, Jayne Tavenner, Mary Thomas, and Nadine Wolfe.

Members Absent

Melody Collier, Alex Dominguez, Mia Hall, and Alexis Neumann

Texas Education Agency (TEA) Staff Present

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

Call to Order

Shirley Clark called the meeting to order at 9:05 am before welcoming the committee and guests. Ryan Blodgett was recognized as proxy for Pamela Evans.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes from the June 4, 2019, Committee of Practitioners Meeting were approved as written by voice vote, following a motion by Martha Anderson and a second by Angela Lengefeld.

Committee Action Item

Educational Flexibility (Ed-Flex) Program Renewal Application

Handouts: Application for the Educational Flexibility (Ed-Flex) Program, Draft Language Requested by USDE

Vivian Smyrl, Director of Program Implementation, provided the committee with copies of the Ed-Flex application that was submitted to the U.S. Department of Education in August 2019. As part of their review process, staff at the USDE have requested revised language to the section describing the state's application process for Statewide Administrative Waivers. Complying with the requested language will require the Agency to amend its application process. The proposal before the committee is to recommend that the Provisions and Assurances documents that are incorporated into the Consolidated Application for the ESSA and Perkins grants be modified to include:

- a description of the Statewide Administrative Waivers that are available under Ed-Flex;
- a statement that explains that LEAs are applying for these waivers for the applicable programs by submitting the Consolidated Application;
- a statement describing how the waivers will be evaluated; and

- a statement that the requirement for opportunity public comment on the Ed-Flex waivers is met by the same means that the Consolidated Application is made available for public comment.

A motion to recommend this change to the process by which LEAs apply for the Statewide Administrative Waivers was made by Martha Anderson and seconded by Marilyn Harris. It was passed unanimously by voice vote.

A motion to recommend the corresponding change to the wording of the Ed-Flex Renewal Application was made by Martha Anderson and seconded by Cris Muñoz. It was passed unanimously by voice vote.

Committee Informational Items

Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) Program

Cal Lopez shared updates on the TEHCY Program redesign initiatives, as well as updates on the roles and responsibilities of the TEHCY Support Center.

From 2016-2017 to 2017-2018, the state had a large increase in the number of homeless students, due primarily to Hurricane Harvey: 111,177 to 231,205. Although the statewide graduation rate for the All Students category has increased, the graduation rate for students identified as homeless has decreased. Also of concern, nearly a quarter of LEAs in Texas identify no students as homeless. To address the graduation gap, as well as improve statewide awareness of the need to identify those students who are homeless, the TEHCY has undergone a program redesign.

The TEHCY ESC grant, which was administered by ESC Region 10 in partnership with Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO), is now administered by ESC Region 13. Both entities worked together for a smooth transition. Even the hotline number remained the same in order to minimize disruption in the availability of services.

The 2019-2020 Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) ESC Grant will be available in October 2019 for all 20 ESCs. Each ESC will receive \$25,000.

The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) Conference will be held in Dallas in 2020. We hope that the presence of the national conference will help to raise awareness and will afford LEAs the opportunity to exchange ideas about how to increase identification and support of this very vulnerable population.

New TEHCY posters are being printed and will be sent to all ESCs for distribution to LEAs this fall. They have a new look to go with the new program.

TEA Contact: Cal Lopez, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education State Coordinator, cal.lopez@tea.texas.gov

TEHCY Program: [https://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Schools/Support_for_At-Risk_Schools_and_Students/Texas_Education_for_Homeless_Children_and_Youth_\(TEHCY\)_Program/](https://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Schools/Support_for_At-Risk_Schools_and_Students/Texas_Education_for_Homeless_Children_and_Youth_(TEHCY)_Program/)

Phone: 512-464-9414

Email: HomelessEducation@tea.texas.gov

Federal Program Compliance Division Updates

Handouts: Division Organizational Chart and Program Contacts, 2019-2020 Random Validation Calendar, Parent and Family Engagement Statewide Conference brochure

Anita Villarreal, Division Director for the Federal Program Compliance Division, provided the committee with an organizational chart for the division, as well as a list of the program responsibilities assigned to each staff member.

Ms. Villarreal reviewed the 2019-2020 Random Validation Calendar with the committee and explained that the validation process for all the programs administered by the division have been aligned for consistency and to ensure that LEAs and ESCs are not overburdened by the process. All of the validation documents for the division's programs have a uniform format. Ms. Villarreal shared the templates with the committee. All participating LEAs will receive an announcement letter, a timeline, a coversheet, a guidance document and instructions, a copy of the checklist that TEA will use to check the documentation, and instructions for uploading the documents to the ESSA Reports application on TEAL. All template documents related to a particular validation will be posted to the web within two days of LEA notification. This alignment has been very well received, and both LEA and ESC staff have expressed appreciation for this effort.

Ms. Villarreal shared information about the Parent and Family Engagement (PFE) Cluster Meetings that will be provided around the state during the 2019-2020 school year. The Cluster Meeting is a one-day training intended for PFE coordinators, PFE liaisons, counselors, teachers, federal programs staff, school administrators and ESC staff. The emphasis of this training is on building relationships. During the afternoon, a model school from the region will be showcased. On the day following the cluster meeting, a half-day training will be offered to LEA and campus administrators on the PFE Requirements under Section 1116. The first of these trainings was held in Wichita Falls in September. The remaining dates are as follows:

- October 15-16 in Victoria (ESC 3)
- October 31-November 1 in Midland (ESC 18)
- January 27-28 in Corpus Christi (ESC 2)
- February 18-19 in Richardson (ESC 10)
- March 2-3 in Beaumont (ESC 5)

Ms. Villarreal also shared information about the upcoming Statewide Parental Involvement Conference that will be held December 12-14, 2019, in San Marcos, Texas. This conference is the largest of its type in the country, and is usually very well attended by both LEA staff and by parents from around the state.

Title I, Part A—Updates

Handouts: SNS Handbook (revised September 2019)

Vivian Smyrl shared revisions to the SNS Handbook that have been made in response to the non-regulatory guidance that was issued by the USDE this summer. The primary changes are as follows:

- Clarification that the SNS Methodology does not apply to Title I, Part C—Migrant. The funding for the Migrant Education Program is made at the state level, not at the LEA level the way Title I, Part A funding is done; therefore, Title I, Part C is not eligible to use the SNS Methodology to comply with the Supplement, Not Supplant requirement.
- Expansion of Exemptions. The ways in which an LEA can qualify for an exemption from the SNS Methodology requirement have been expanded to include LEAs that have all of its campuses participating as Title I, Part A campuses. Additionally, the guidance clarifies situations in which an LEA may exclude categories of campuses from its Methodology. The result of this will be many

more LEAs qualifying for a Statement of Exemption.

- Clarification regarding funds that are reserved at the LEA level. The new guidance specifies that the state is not allowed to require LEAs to apply the traditional presumptions of supplanting to Title I, Part A funds that are reserved at the district level. LEAs meet the SNS requirement by having a Title I-neutral Methodology for distributing state and local funds to campuses. State/local funds that are retained at the LEA level must be used in a manner that does not consider the Title I status of campuses. Title I, Part A funds that are reserved at the LEA level must be used for the intent and purpose of Title I, Part A, as described in the Consolidated application.

Ms. Smyrl discussed the status of the random validations that will be conducted for Title I, Part A during the 2019-2020 school year.

- Supplement, Not Supplant: LEAs were notified of their selection for this validation on October 3. Their submissions are due to be uploaded by October 15. Results will be shared with LEAs on December 3.
- Schoolwide Program Elements: LEAs will be notified of the selection on December 2. Submissions will be due December 17. Results will be shared on February 6.
- Parent and Family Engagement Written Policy: LEAs will be notified of the selection on February 10. Submissions will be due February 19. Results will be shared on March 31.

Title I, Part C - Migrant Updates

Handouts: 2019-2020 MEP Supported Programs

Idalia Ibañez, Texas Migrant Education Program (MEP) Manager, provided an overview of the 2019-2020 MEP Supported Programs, which included a description of each project. The contract to provide the Comprehensive Needs Assessment, Service Delivery Plan, and Evaluation is still to be awarded.

Title I, Part D

LaNetra Guess provided the committee with the following updates related to Title I, Part D:

- Random Validation for Title I, Part D, Subpart 2: LEAs will be notified of their selection for this validation on April 6, 2020.
- Parent and Family Engagement – TEA will be working with Region 16's Parent and Family Engagement Initiative to provide information specifically for parents of students in facilities on their website. In addition, there are parent and family engagement resources and tips on the National Technical Assistance Center for the Education of Neglected or Delinquent Children and Youth (NDTAC) website specific to this area.
- Transition – During the 2018-2019 validations, there were LEAs that did not meet the ESSA requirement related to transition from facility to school or from facility to work. LEAs have been provided guidance and examples. In addition, NDTAC's website has transition documents, webinars, and resources which are beneficial for districts.

Private Nonprofit (PNP) Updates

Handouts: TEA Procedure for Offering PNP Equitable Services upon Request; Title I, Part A Use of Funds Guidance for Private Nonprofit Equitable Services; Best Practices for Using Title I, Part A Funds under ESSA to Support Private Nonprofit School Needs

Ms. Guess discussed the following updates related to PNP Equitable Services.

- Random Validations for PNP: LEAs will be notified of their selection for this validation on November 1.
- Timely and Meaningful Consultation: Ms. Guess shared updated guidance from the USDE related to timely and meaningful consultation. The latest guidance highlights private school responsibilities which must occur during consultation, which is new.
- Title I, Part A Direct Instruction – The USDE guidance states that private schools receiving Title I, Part A equitable services must participate with a direct instruction program. The direct instruction program must be under the supervision of a public-school staff member. During the 2018-2019 validation, there were districts which only purchased items and materials instead of providing direct instruction. Guidance was shared with districts not meeting the validation requirement.
- TEA Third-Party PNP Providers of Equitable Services – Ms. Guess provided a summary overview of the process used to select these providers. All of the proposals have now been reviewed and vendor recommendations have been forwarded to Contracts and Purchasing Division. Once the vendor(s) are approved for the TEA list, additional information will be shared.
- USDE Title I, Part A PNP Guidance – Ms. Guess provided a summary of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that have been changed by USDE since TEA's previous guidance.

Resources

Texas School Safety Center – Ms. Guess provided the committee with an overview of the Texas School Safety Center web site (<https://txssc.txstate.edu/>), which has free resources, trainings, and webinars available to public and private schools on many school safety topics. Schools may sign up for various free training sessions which start in October.

Department Updates

Disaster Grants: Cory Green discussed with the committee the disaster recovery grants that are expected to become available to LEAs that have been affected by recent flooding. He noted that in order for a disaster to be covered by a grant, there has to be a disaster declaration by the federal government, and Congress must include the disaster in an appropriation. An additional challenge to these grants is the short turnaround that is required. In some cases there have been only two weeks from the time the grant is announced and the application deadline. During this allotted time, the agency must generate the data that determine eligibility and allocation amounts.

Recognition: Mr. Green presented the following committee members with certificates in recognition for their years of service on the Title I Committee of Practitioners:

- Ms. Mary Thomas, for 13 years of service on the committee
- Ms. Martha Anderson, for 15 years of service on the committee
- Ms. Jayne Tavenner, for 16 years of service on the committee

Unsafe School Choice Option (USCO) Update

Jaime Huerta provided an overview of the ESSA Unsafe School Choice Option (USCO) requirements. He provided information about the statewide policy, the methodology used for the identification of USCO schools, the timeline for the identification process and information about the LEA written policy requirement as it relates to persistently dangerous schools and victims of violent crimes. Additionally, he provided information about the following compliance monitoring activities currently in progress: random validation of the LEA written policy and the desk audit of victims of violent crimes data.

Adjourn

Shirley Clark adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.