

MINUTES

DATE: September 9, 2021
9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Present

Alex Dominguez, Shirley Clark, Lauren Hodge, Mary Thomas, Jamie Goodwin, Cris Munoz, Maria E. Anzualda, Merideth Dodd, Mia Hall, Marilyn Harris, Carrie Mathews, Lisette Allen, Cora Huggins, Brenda Faz-Villarreal, Ellie Ross

Proxy: Lauren Hodge attended for Jayne Tavenner

Members Absent

Jayne Tavenner

Texas Education Agency (TEA) Staff Present

Jaime Huerta, Gerardo Ramirez, Anita Villarreal, Nicole Seltman, Idalia Ibanez, Cal Lopez, Vivian Smyrl, Nez Paniagua

Call to Order

The virtual meeting norms were shared with meeting attendees. Jaime Huerta, Title I, Part A Program Director, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. before the roll call and welcoming the committee and guests.

Committee Discussion Items

New Member & Current Member Introductions

Shirley Clark, COP Committee Chair, initiated the introductions of the committee. Members were provided an opportunity to introduce themselves.

Committee Member Recognition: Jaime Huerta, Title I, Part A Program Director, recognized Dr. Mary Thomas on receiving the Global Forum for Education and Learning: Top 100 Leaders in Education Award.

New Member Orientation Presentations

Title I COP Overview: Jaime Huerta reviewed the role of the Committee of Practitioners by referencing the ESSA Statute. He shared the required membership representation of the group, the duties, and responsibilities of the committee.

Title I, Part A: Jaime Huerta shared an overview of the program. He discussed the allocation of funds, statutory formulas, application process, a Title I, Part A provisions and assurances resource, eligibility, and program requirements. The five components of the Title I, Part A LEA program plan was shared. Additionally, the elements for a schoolwide program (SWP), targeted assistance program requirements, the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) requirement, the development of the Campus Improvement Plan (CIP), SWP School Parent and Family Engagement requirements, reporting and compliance monitoring were presented. Moreover, the different LEA reservation of funds requirement was discussed. The use of funds resource, Parent and Family Engagement (PFE) requirements, fiscal requirements, PNP equitable services, and reporting requirements were shared. Finally, the committee learned about compliance monitoring.

Title I, Part A School Improvement: Nicole Seltman, Director of School Improvement and Alice Keller, Manager of Grant Strategy and Alignment, conducted an overview on school improvement. They discussed the number of 2020 Title I served campuses, grants awarded, and the amount allocated per campus. They shared the requirements of both the ESF-Focused Support grant and the School Improvement grant, timelines, cycle years, revisions to the Effective Schools Framework, and the TIP submissions timeline. They discussed how LEAs can intentionally plan their budget using a tool on the Essential Actions page. The TIP Quality Rubric, criteria for artifacts submissions, and the required ESF-Diagnostic timeline were reviewed.

Title I, Part C: Idalia Ibanez, Program Director, shared an overview of the Migrant Education Program. She shared the intent and purpose of the program, program requirements, eligibility determination, and the number of children served. The types of services provided, distribution of the migrant population across the state and country, and MEP Supported Programs were reviewed. Moreover, the requirements for Parent and Family Engagement, fiscal requirements, the connection between the CNA and the continuous improvement cycle (CIC), provided trainings, MEP updates and online resources were provided.

Title I, Part D: Gerardo Ramirez, Program Coordinator, shared an overview of the program, the purposes of the program, LEA and student eligibility, requirements, compliance monitoring, and resources.

McKinney-Vento Act/Texas Education for Homeless and Youth Program: Cal Lopez, State Coordinator, delivered an overview by sharing how students qualify for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance, requirements for LEAs, liaison duties identified in statute, duties specific to unaccompanied youth, and program training. The technical assistance transition plan, resources, homeless student identification numbers, graduation data, and grant award details were reviewed. Moreover, funding provided by the American Rescue Plan, upcoming webinar offerings, and directions on how to sign up for updates were shared.

Private School Equitable Services: LaNetra Guess, Director, Private Nonprofit Ombudsman, provided an overview on private school's equitable services. The definition of nonpublic, the LEA's requirements in providing equitable services to eligible private non-profit schools and the types of equitable services provided were shared. ESSA programs eligible to receive equitable services, eligibility, the role of the PNP State Ombudsman, the complaint process, resources, and federal statute requirements were reviewed.

Ed-Flex: Vivian Smyrl, Ed-Flex Coordinator, provided an overview of the Education Flexibility Program. She reviewed the Ed-Flex Web Page, information regarding the waivers, background on the program, covered programs, items that cannot be waived, types of waivers available, waiver application steps, examples of previous waivers, and the waiver review process.

Purpose of the overview: Anita Villarreal, Senior Division Director of Federal Program Compliance Division, shared the purpose of providing the program overviews and how the overviews enhance the role of the COP. She explained how the committee needs to be familiar with the various programs when providing guidance and advice to the state. The impact of the committee's guidance and its effects statewide were discussed.

Title I, Committee of Practitioners Updates

Jaime Huerta introduced the Title I, Part A Capacity Building Team. The capacity building initiative was shared. Jamie Goodwin, Project Manager, Federal Programs, demonstrated how to navigate to the Title I, Capacity Building Website and details embedded in the site. She reviewed menus, the COP site, and the calendar.

Federal Program Compliance Division Updates

Celebrations: The Federal Program Compliance Division shared celebrations. Anita Villarreal expressed her gratitude on recent completion of the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) monitoring visit for Title IV, Part A, the Department of Grant Compliance and Administration (GCA) Statewide Trainings, and the Federal Program Compliance (FPC) Division Reorganization and leadership team. Didi Garcia shared the celebration of the Migrant Education Program Summer Institute. Jaime Huerta celebrated the Parent and Family Engagement (PFE) Statewide Initiative at ESC 16 and the Best Practice Expos.

2021-2022 Random Validations Programs Update: Didi Garcia, Assistant Division Director, Federal Program Compliance Division, discussed the “Big 4” program requirements, the phases of the upcoming random validations, the number of LEAs selected, alignment of the random validations, and the transition process.

Jaime Huerta, Title I, Part A Program Director discussed the 21-22 Random Validation LEA Timeline for each of the phases, the random validations handbooks, the submission packets, and the upcoming September 27 training on the random validation process.

Committee Action Items

Minutes of Previous Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2021, Committee of Practitioners Meeting was made by Cora Huggins and a second by Meredith Dodd; the minutes were approved as written.

Adjourn

Shirley Clark, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

Minutes were approved by the Committee on November 4, 2021.