

## MINUTES

DATE: November 7, 2024

9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

### Members Present

Merideth Dodd, Brenda Faz-Villarreal, Marilyn Harris, Lauren Hodge, Carrie Matthews, Ashley McKelvey-Windham (Proxy for Stephanie Dominique), Ellie Ross, Mark Ybarra

### Members Absent

Lisette Allen, Estella Anzualda, Laura Colangelo, Melody Collier, Pamela Evans, Mia Hall, Alexis Neumann, Leslee Schauer, Laura Witte

### Texas Education Agency (TEA) Staff Present

Didi Garcia, Jaime Huerta, Idalia Ibañez, Matt Lashlee, Nez Paniagua, Gerardo Ramirez, Victoria Rivera, Vivian Smyrl

### Call to Order

Jaime Huerta reviewed the virtual meeting norms. At 9:02 a.m. Lauren Hodge called the meeting to order.

### Welcome

#### Welcome and Roll Call

Lauren Hodge, Committee Chair, welcomed all. For roll call, Ms. Hodge instructed members to type their name and the LEA or organization they are affiliated with using the chat feature on zoom.

### Committee Discussion Items

#### Title I, Part C Updates

**Idalia Ibañez – Program Director** provided an overview of the Texas Migrant Education Program (MEP). Ms. Ibanez shared the migrant program evaluations for 2022-2023. The evaluation process, which takes a year to complete, was finished in August 2024. Ms. Ibañez discussed the reasons for evaluating the migrant programs: to help educators, parents, and community leaders find out what works and what doesn't; to evaluate the success of education initiatives; to identify highly successful practices; to help programs target areas for improvement; and to show what programs are doing to achieve excellence. Ms. Ibañez explained the areas the implementation evaluation section addresses: migratory student services, parent and family engagement, professional development, and fidelity of strategy implementation (FSI).

A comparison of the number of eligible Texas MEP students to the number of served students from 2014-2015 to 2022-2023 was shared. Ms. Ibañez reviewed the percentage of migratory students served during 2022-2023 for various services. Priority for Service students are migratory children who made a qualifying move within the one-year period and who are failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet the State academic standards, or dropped out of school. Parent and family engagement offerings, as well as staff professional development (PD) opportunities, were provided.

Texas MEP has 14 strategies for implementing services to migratory students that address reading and math instruction, professional development for MEP staff, support services, training and resources for parents, coordinating with other programs, early literacy instruction, and services to secondary-age migratory students and youth.

TEA provided a Fidelity of Strategy Implementation (FSI) tool for LEAs to evaluate their projects. Mean ratings from staff on FSIs for each strategy ranged from 3.7 to 4.1 (out of 5.0). Seven of the 14 strategies were rated at the “proficient” level.

Ms. Ibañez shared the 2022-2023 performance results evaluation. This section addresses Texas MEP student progress toward the STAAR reading and math assessments, graduation and dropout rates, and progress toward the Texas MEP Measurable Program Outcomes (MPOs). A graph displaying the percentage of migratory and non-migratory students scoring at met or exceeding on the STAAR Reading and Mathematics Assessments from 2016-2017 to 2022-2023 was provided. Graduation and dropout rates for migratory and non-migratory students during the 2022-2023 school year were shared. Eleven of the eleven MPOs were met for 2022-2023.

### **2024-2025 Program Monitoring Validations Process**

**Jaime Huerta – Division Director** provided an overview of the redesign of the program monitoring validations process. Feedback from the Education Service Centers (ESCs), Local Education Agencies (LEAs), and the public was taken into consideration during the redesign of the process. Rationales for the new process were shared. One rationale for the new process stemmed from USDE’s monitoring visit that occurred in May 2024. USDE provided feedback to the agency that we need a more robust subrecipient monitoring process. Another reason for the new process is that the agency is returning to the pre-pandemic paradigm. Lastly, the USDE determined that although requirements were specified in the program-specific provisions and assurances, TEA was not technically reviewing them except for those items that were part of the Self-Check section of the compliance report. Our focus will be on continuous improvement throughout the monitoring process.

In prior years, an LEA was selected for one program and one requirement. This year, LEAs have been selected on a consolidated review of all programs being monitored. Previously, because of the algorithm TEA used, LEAs were subject to selection each year. With the new process, LEAs will be selected once during a five-year period. Once an LEA has participated, then that LEA will not be in the selection pool for the balance of the five-year period. TEA will not be publishing a 5-year list.

Mr. Huerta reviewed the process regarding how LEAs are selected to participate based on their 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 ESSA Consolidation Application submissions. LEAs that participated in the 2023-2024 Random Validation process will be excluded from the LEA Selection Pool for 2024-2025. The selection parameters were shared. LEAs selected to participate in the 2024-2025 Program Monitoring Validation Process will be required to submit 2023-2024 documentation for the applicable programs. LEAs that reported “Not in Compliance” for at least 1 program compliance self-check item for any program on the 2023-2024 ESSA Consolidated Compliance Report will be excluded from that particular program in 2024-2025. LEAs that redirected 100% of funds under Funding Transferability and/or REAP in 2023-2024 will not be required to submit documentation for the program from which funds were redirected (only applies to Title II, Part A and Title IV, Part A).

Scenarios showing how LEAs will be selected in the 2024-2025 Program Monitoring Validations Process were shared.

Mr. Huerta shared the formula used to determine the number of LEAs selected to participate in the 2024-2025 Program Monitoring Process statewide for each program. TEA took 20% of LEAs within an ESC Region to determine which LEAs will participate. The number of LEAs within an ESC Region affects the number of LEAs selected per region.

Requirements selected for the 2024-2024 Program Monitoring Validations process were reviewed. When LEAs submit the SC5003, which is the Formula Grants Consolidated Schedule, they are certifying and

agreeing to all the program requirements. All the requirements covered by the monitoring process stem from the ESSA Program-Specific Provisions and Assurances. Responses LEAs submitted on the 2023-2024 ESSA Consolidated Compliance Report will be considered as well. LEAs will submit documentation for the requirements for the prior-year, 2023-2024.

A timeline for the 2024-2025 Program Monitoring Validation process was provided. LEAs will receive an email by November 14 notifying them of their requirement to participate. Sample letters were shared.

After the review process, LEAs will be assigned one of three different compliance statuses, notifying them of the results of the monitoring review. The statuses are “met requirement,” “approaching compliance,” or “improvement needed.” If an LEA receives “Improvement Needed,” the LEA will be referred to a compliance officer at TEA. The Agency has created the “approaching compliance” status to encourage the continuous improvement process. LEAs receiving “Improvement Needed” will be referred to the Agency’s Federal Compliance Officer to engage in the non-compliance resolution process. Notification letters of the results of the monitoring process will be accessible through the Smartsheet WorkApp. The agency is trying to ensure that historical documents are available in the system and that LEAs have access to them.

Mr. Huerta shared the various resources available online for LEA regarding the 2024-2025 Program Monitoring Validations process.

## Ed-Flex Updates

**Vivian Smyrl – Program Director** explained USDE has asked for an annual report of the state’s Ed-Flex program. The report is currently being developed. Ms. Smyrl shared information captured in the Ed-Flex Annual Report. The agency is currently in the process of gathering the information related to last year’s waivers and related student performance data. The report is due to USDE by December 6, 2024.

## Title I COP Membership Updates

**Jaime Huerta – Division Director** explained the delay in processing nominations for membership on the Committee of Practitioners (COP). The revised timeline for COP membership was shared. Nominations are currently being submitted to the Commissioner. New additional members will join the committee during the next year.

## Upcoming Training Opportunities

**Jaime Huerta – Division Director** provided information related to the upcoming AMET 2024 Conference, which will be held November 20-22, 2024, in Corpus Christi, Texas. Mr. Huerta also shared information concerning the regional cluster meetings to be provided by the Parent and Family Engagement Initiative at ESC-16. The regional cluster meetings will occur in various regions throughout the state. The National ESEA Conference will be February 19-21, 2025, in Austin, Texas. Registration is now open for the Title I Compliance Academies, which will be held March 27-28, 2025, in Corpus Christi, and April 1-2, 2025, in Austin. The 2025 National Migrant Education Conference will be held in San Francisco, California on April 13 – 16, 2025.

## Committee Action Items

### ESSA Consolidated Compliance Report Proposed Revisions

**Didi Garcia – Assistant Division Director** oversees the submission of the compliance reports. There will be changes to the 2024-2025 ESSA Consolidated Compliance Report that LEAs will submit in 2025-2026. The following programs will have changes: the PR1000 Title I, Part A; the PR1200 Title I, Part C; and the PR3099 PNP School Equitable Services.

Ms. Garcia shared the proposed changes, for each applicable program.

The proposal is to add two compliance items to the PR1000 - Title I, Part A. Both additions for the compliance items on the PR1000 are related to campus allocations. One is regarding documentation the LEA has regarding how it allocated its Title I, Part A funds to campuses. The other proposed addition to the PR1000 is a compliance item regarding the 125% Rule.

The proposed change to the PR1200 – Title I, Part C – Migrant is adding the Fidelity of Strategy Implementation (FSI). The proposal is to add the four goal areas to the compliance report in order to collect information on how the strategies were implemented.

The PR3099 - PNP School Equitable Services is going through a major transformation. The proposal is to take out sections on the PR3099 that TEA is now collecting via the PNP Smartsheets WorkApp. Additionally, Part 1A will be pre-populated for LEAs. If Part 1A and Part 1B are not the same, the LEA will be asked to provide an explanation for the difference. Another proposed change on the PR3099 is to have LEAs complete self-check compliance items indicating if they applied on their own or were a fiscal agent, with the option of LEAs to select “N/A” if not applicable. For shared services arrangements, the fiscal agents will report whether all members are in compliance, and will list any member district that is not in compliance.

A motion to approve the proposed items was made by Brenda Faz-Villarreal. Carrie Matthews seconded. The motion to approve the proposed changes to the compliance report was passed.

## **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Lauren Hodge, Committee Chair, confirmed with the members that they had reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting which was held on September 5, 2024. A motion to approve the minutes meeting was made by Brenda Faz-Villarreal and a second by Carrie Matthews. The motion to approve the minutes as written passed.

Upcoming meeting dates were shared.

## **Adjourn**

Lauren Hodge, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.