

## MINUTES

DATE: September 5, 2024  
9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

### Members Present

Lisette Allen, Estella Anzualda, Laura Colangelo, Pamela Evans, Brenda Faz-Villarreal, Lauren Hodge, Carrie Matthews, Leslee Schauer

### Members Absent

Melody Collier, Merideth Dodd, Stephanie Dominique, Mia Hall, Marilyn Harris, Alexis Neumann, Ellie Ross, Laura Witte

### Texas Education Agency (TEA) Staff Present

LaNetra Guess, Jaime Huerta, Matt Lashlee, Gerardo Ramirez, Victoria Rivera, Vivian Smyrl

### Call to Order

Jaime Huerta reviewed the virtual meeting norms. At 9:03 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.

Mr. Huerta introduced representatives from two organizations who are serving on the committee: Leslee Schauer representing the Association for Compensatory Educators of Texas (ACET), and Ellie Ross, representing the Association for Migrant Educators of Texas (AMET).

### Committee Discussion Items

#### ESSA Private Nonprofit (PNP) Equitable Services Overview and Updates

**LaNetra Guess – PNP Ombudsman and Program Director** shared updates to Private Nonprofit (PNP) equitable services for 2024-2025.

School districts are required to have consultations with private school officials regarding their interest in receiving equitable services. For the 2024-2025 school year, districts are submitting their affirmation of consultation forms using a new process, through the PNP Affirmations Smartsheet WorkApp.

Ms. Guess shared the ESSA programs under which private schools may be eligible to receive services: Title I, Part A; Title I, Part C; Title II, Part A; Title III, Part A – English Learners (EL) and immigrant students; and Title IV, Part A.

The timeline for PNP affirmation data submissions was reviewed. Districts have until September 30, 2024, to submit their completed affirmation forms via the PNP Affirmations Smartsheet WorkApp. If changes to a private school's participation in equitable services occur during the school year, districts are responsible for uploading revised affirmation forms. Any final changes to the PNP Affirmations are due by June 3, 2025.

Ms. Guess provided a preview of the PNP Affirmations Smartsheet WorkApp that districts and applicable Education Service Center (ESC) staff will use and shared how the data will be captured and organized on the new platform. Ms. Guess explained once a local educational agency (LEA) enters the data for its private schools in the WorkApp platform, the LEA will see all the private schools participating for the district. Ms. Guess confirmed PNPs do not have access to the WorkApp. However, PNP's will see the affirmation form during the consultation with the fiscal agent from the LEA or ESC. The LEA or ESC fiscal agent and the private school will sign the affirmation. Signed copies of the affirmations can be provided to those who operate as the head of the private school and/or a particular diocese.

PNP Affirmations for Title IV, Part B (21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers) will continue to be submitted through TEAL in the ESSA Reports platform for the 2024-2025 school year. Ms. Guess also provided a preview of this process.

Ms. Guess reviewed the responsibilities of the PNP State Ombudsman. As the PNP State Ombudsman, Ms. Guess provides technical expertise in interpreting, understanding, and implementing accountability requirements for equitable services. She provides guidance to ESCs, LEAs, and consultants who provide PNP equitable services.

As the PNP Ombudsman, Ms. Guess addresses complaints regarding consultation and/or equitable services. She assists both parties to understand what the law is regarding ESSA equitable services. Formal complaints related to equitable services that are submitted to TEA go through Ms. Guess. There has not been a complaint in a couple of years. In almost every instance, Ms. Guess is notified of the complaint before a formal complaint is filed with TEA.

Entries from the PNP Equitable Services Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document were shared. Websites where an LEA can locate Texas private schools were presented. Additionally, how an LEA can verify a private school has federal nonprofit status was provided. The burden is on the private schools to provide documentation for federal nonprofit status. Another entry shared from the FAQ document confirmed that an LEA can set a deadline for PNP school officials to indicate participation in equitable services. The deadline must be set by the LEA. If a private school decides to participate later in the school year, the LEA does not need to offer services past the deadline created. However, the LEA must ask if the private school wants to participate in following years. Consultations should occur as early as possible, in the spring or summer. LEAs need to know what programs private schools want to participate in for planning purposes. Home schools are not considered private schools unless they meet the federal definition of private schools.

The ESCs are required to provide information, training, technical assistance, and guidance to the LEAs and private schools. They can provide support regarding LEA PNP equitable services requirements for the Title I, Part A and Title VIII programs, the PS3099 schedule on the ESSA Consolidated Grant Application, the PR3099 on the Consolidated Compliance Report, and program monitoring validations. A map of the 20 service center regions in Texas was shared.

Equitable services resources provided by TEA were shared. The PNP FAQ document was updated in July. There is also an ESSA PNP Program Guide available on TEA's website.

Before the next segment, Ms. Hodge recognized Sharon Sanchez who previously served on the Title I Committee of Practitioners. Her time on the committee as the ACET representative has expired and now she is attending as a guest.

## **Federal Program Compliance Division Updates**

**Jaime Huerta – Division Director** provided updates regarding the Federal Program Compliance (FPC) Division at TEA. Mr. Huerta shared that during the 2023-2024 school year, the FPC Division provided 95 trainings with a total of 4,337 attendees. Of the trainings delivered, 68 were related to Title I COP topics that focused on Title I (Parts A, C, and D), Private Nonprofit School Equitable Services, and Supplement, Not Supplant and had 2,692 attendees. Mr. Huerta expressed appreciation to his team for all the work and dedication the last year and is looking forward to the 2024-2025 school year.

Dates for the conferences at which the FPC Division will present during 2024-2025 were provided. They are the Title I Statewide Parent and Family Engagement (PFE) Conference occurring October 16-18, 2024, in Houston; the ACET Conference scheduled October 30-November 1, 2024, also in Houston; and finally, the migrant team will be at the AMET conference set to occur November 20-22, 2024, in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Mr. Huerta also shared upcoming Fall 2024 Statewide Trainings. He explained the newbies' statewide series, which started this last year, will continue in 2024-2025. He stated the migrant team will be doing trainings regionally.

LEAs should reach out to ESCs for training and technical assistance support. ESCs receive funding to provide technical assistance and training for required activities.

The statewide initiatives that various ESCs participate in were shared. For Title I, Part A, ESC Region 20 has the Statewide ESSA Title I, Part A Capacity Building Initiative. ESC Region 16 has the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Initiative. For Title I, Part C, ESC Region 20 has the Migrant Capacity Building and Curriculum Initiative and the Texas Migrant Interstate Program. ESC Region 1 has the Migrant Education Program (MEP) Systems Initiative. Finally, Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 has projects included in the Statewide ESSA Title I, Part A Capacity Building Initiative managed by ESC Region 20.

Information regarding upcoming statewide conferences was shared. Dr. Karen Mapp will be one of the keynotes at the PFE Conference next month in Houston. Texas will be hosting the National ESEA Conference which will occur in Austin on February 19-21, 2025. This is a great opportunity for our Texas counterparts to attend. LaNetra Guess has been accepted to present along with other state PNP ombudsmen at the National ESEA Conference. The two schools selected as distinguished schools in Texas will be honored during the National ESEA Conference along with the other campuses selected nationwide.

## **Title I COP Call for Nominations**

**Jaime Huerta – Division Director** explained according to federal statute, the Title I COP is required to have certain stakeholder groups. The amount of nominations received for each stakeholder group was shared as well as the process for reviewing the nominations. The goal is to have new members attend their first meeting in November or February. Mr. Huerta shared the Title I COP also serves as the Ed-Flex committee, which reviews any Individual Programmatic Waiver applications that are received and makes recommendations concerning the waivers to the Commissioner. Mr. Huerta expressed his appreciation to the committee for the work they do.

## Committee Action Items

### 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 June 13, 2024. A motion to approve the minutes meeting was made by Pamela Evans and a second by Brenda Faz-Villarreal. The motion to approve the minutes as written passed.

Upcoming meeting dates were shared.

### Adjourn

Lauren Hodge, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 9:42 a.m.

**Minutes approved by the Committee on November 7, 2024.**