

MINUTES

DATE: April 10, 2025

9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Present

Lisette Allen, Lisa Edgar, Pamela Evans, Brenda Faz-Villarreal, Lauren Hodge, Carrie Matthews, Alexis Neumann, Ellie Ross, Leslee Schauer

Members Absent

Estella Anzualda, Laura Colangelo, Melody Collier, Meredith Dodd, Stephanie Dominique, Mia Hall, Laura Witte, Mark Ybarra

Texas Education Agency (TEA) Staff Present

Didi Garcia, LaNetra Guess, Jaime Huerta, Matt Lashlee, 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. Ms. Hodge thanked Marilyn Harris for her service and welcomed Lisa Edgar, Ms. Harris' replacement, to the committee.

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

Consolidated Monitoring Results

Jaime Huerta – Program Director reminded the committee that USDE conducted a monitoring visit in May of 2024. He shared the monitoring results from the visit, and the agency's responses that were submitted to USDE regarding the findings related to Title I, Part A and Title I, Part C will be presented to committee by him and Didi Garcia.

He reminded the committee that USDE does not issue findings against school districts; they issue findings against the state. The state then takes corrective action in response to the findings.

Didi Garcia – State Director for the Migrant Program shared the five areas that were examined for Title I, Part C during USDE's monitoring visit:

- provisions of services - comprehensive needs assessment (CNA) and delivery plan;
- provisions of services – program evaluation;
- migrant student information exchange – end-of-term submissions;
- migrant student information exchange – data requests; and
- program fiscal requirement – schoolwide programs.

Of the five areas monitored, three required actions, one met requirements, and one met requirements with recommendations.

Provisions of services – comprehensive needs assessment and delivery plan was one item that required action for Title I, Part C. Ms. Garcia shared that during the monitoring visit, TEA was in the process of completing their CNA through the Needs Assessment Committee (NAC). The CNA was completed in June of 2024. She shared tasks the NAC was assigned to improve this area.

The Migrant Student Information Exchange (MSIX) – end-of-term submissions was another area that required action. The MSIX is the national database for the migrant education program. There were two mandatory data elements (MDE) related to assessment scores that were not correct. The updated MDEs were uploaded by November 25, 2024, to rectify the issue.

Data requests through the MSIX database were another item that required action. Some data requests would take up to 21 days to complete. The Texas Migrant Interstate Program (TMIP) team from ESC-Region 20 has taken the lead in improving this area and is now processing data requests within the mandatory four days.

Jaime Huerta – Program Director informed the committee that Ms. Garcia reviewed the responses TEA presented to USDE regarding the migrant program, Title I, Part C. The agency hasn't heard back from USDE regarding the responses submitted for the migrant program. However, the agency has received approval from USDE on the responses for Title I, Part A. He shared the areas that met requirements for the schoolwide program requirements, which were eliminating or modifying fiscal barriers, consolidation of federal program funds and recordkeeping, schoolwide program plans, program guidance, monitoring, and waivers.

TEA did receive a finding related to the delivery of services by nonprofit or for-profit external providers. Statute requires that LEAs ensure that such providers have expertise in using evidence-based or other effective strategies to improve student achievement. Mr. Huerta shared that this item will be added to the Title I, Part A self-check section of the 2025-2026 ESSA Consolidated Compliance Report and will be subject to inclusion in the Program Monitoring Validation process conducted by TEA.

The USDE assessed the program monitoring requirements the agency conducts for Title I, Part A. Mr. Huerta shared that because there are very few campuses that operate a targeted assistance program in Texas, the agency wasn't monitoring the targeted assistance program requirements as closely as it should. As a result, the agency will add self-check items to the 2025-2026 ESSA Consolidated Compliance Report to assess if schools operating a targeted assistance program are complying with the requirements. The items will also be subject to the Program Monitoring Validations process.

During the monitoring visit, the USDE also reviewed the Title I, Part A Parent and Family Engagement (PFE) requirements. The agency met requirements for resources, technical assistance, and consultation. However, the agency received an action item in the area of monitoring, specifically monitoring of the fiscal and notification requirements. As a result, the agency will revise existing items and add items to the self-check section of the 2025-2026 ESSA Consolidated Compliance Reports, specifically related to the PFE requirements and the Parents' Right-to-Know requirements. These requirements will also be subject to the Program Monitoring Validations process conducted by the agency.

Mr. Huerta informed the committee that the agency met requirements for the Title I Committee of Practitioners (COP), state administration – eliminating or modifying fiscal barriers, and teacher and paraprofessional qualifications. Action is required for coordination of early childhood requirements, as well as the Title I LEA set-aside services for homeless children and youth.

For the coordination of early childhood requirements, this guidance was in the provision and assurances document. However, with the action item finding, the agency is going to provide additional guidance for LEAs, including a template for the required agreements between LEAs and early childhood development

agencies. The coordination requirements for early childhood will also be added to the 2025-2026 ESSA Consolidated Compliance Report and will be subject to future review during the Program Monitoring Validation process conducted by the agency.

LEAs are required to set aside an amount Title I funds to provide services to students experiencing homelessness. TEA provided a worksheet to help LEAs plan for the set-aside amount. Based on comments from the USDE, TEA has updated the worksheet to include student achievement data and chronic absenteeism to determine the needs of the students and to plan for the services provided through the set-aside amount. Mr. Huerta shared the different elements in the worksheet that will guide LEAs in calculating the homeless reservation. The LEA's process of determining the amount of the homeless reservation will also be added to the 2025-2026 ESSA Consolidated Compliance Report and will be subject to future review during the Program Monitoring Validation process conducted by the agency.

During review of 2025-2026 ESSA Consolidated Grant Application, the post-award compliance unit will be reviewing the homeless set-aside for a sample of LEAs to ensure that the amount was based on need. In addition, Title I, Part A staff and staff from TEA's Highly Mobile and At-Risk Student Programs program office will meet quarterly to monitor the homeless requirements and identify opportunities to train LEAs across the state.

The agency has conducted preliminary training during the recent Title I Compliance Academies. Mr. Huerta's team will continue to provide support during the 2025-2026 school year.

Ed-Flex Annual Report

Vivian Smyrl – Program Director shared the agency was required to submit an annual Ed-Flex report at the end of September 2024 to USDE. They did receive a response from USDE. Ms. Smyrl shared the full report during the meeting. A file of the completed report was also shared with the committee prior to the meeting along with the meeting's agenda. The report included lists of those LEAs who received the Schoolwide (SW) eligibility waiver and 15% carryover waiver, as well as performance data for the LEAs and campuses involved.

Title I COP Membership Updates

Jaime Huerta – Division Director informed the committee that six new members have been approved to join the committee. The new members will receive a letter of welcome and an information packet this afternoon inviting them to attend an orientation on May 20, 2025. Current committee members may also attend the orientation if they would like. The new members will attend their first committee meeting in June.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Jaime Huerta – Division Director shared the 2025-2026 ESSA Consolidated Grant Application Statewide Training will be held on May 29, 2025. Additionally, the agency will host a Title I, Part A Within-LEA Allocations & SC5000 Statewide Training on June 10, 2025. A news bulletin promoting the trainings will be sent next week.

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 November 7, 2024. A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting was made by Pamela Evans and a second by Alexis Neumann. The motion to approve the minutes as written passed.

The remaining meeting date for 2024-2025 will be June 5, 2025. Proposed meeting dates for 2025-2026 will be confirmed at the June meeting.

Adjourn

Lauren Hodge, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 9:38 a.m.