

Title I Committee of Practitioners

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

DATE: April 23, 2020

Minutes

Members Present

Martha Anderson, Shirley Clark, Laura Colangelo, Alex Dominguez, Pam Evans, Brenda Faz-Villarreal, Mia Hall, Angela Lengefeld, Carrie Matthews, Cris Muñoz, Jayne Tavenner, Mary Thomas, Sharon Sanchez for Nadine Wolf

Members Absent

Melody Collier, Marilyn Harris and Alexis Neumann

Texas Education Agency (TEA) Staff Present

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

Call to Order

The committee reviewed the norms for virtual meetings to ensure that all members could access the “chat” feature and the “mute”/“unmute” function. Shirley Clark called the meeting to order at 9:05 am before welcoming the committee and guests.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes from the February 12, 2020, Committee of Practitioners Meeting were approved as written by vote, following a motion by Angela Lengefeld and a second by Cris Muñoz.

Committee Discussion Items

Federal Program Compliance Division Updates

Anita Villarreal, Senior Division Director of the Federal Program Compliance Division, shared the following updates with the committee:

Division Re-Organization: Based on the needs of the Division and an emphasis on compliance monitoring, the Division responsibilities were re-organized.

Title I, Part A Use of Funds Document Revision: Due to the flexibility being provided by the USDE as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, a cover page was added to the Title I, Part A Use of Funds Document. The purpose of the cover page is to serve as a reminder that LEAs access the COVID-19 FAQ documents posted on the TEA website to review the flexibility as it relates to Title I, Part A Use of Funds.

2019-2020 Title I Random Validations: Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the 2019-2020 random validation process was suspended for the following random validations: Title I, Part A PFE Policy; Title I, Part C Priority for Services; Title I, Part C MSIX; Title I, Part C PAC; and Title I, Part D Subpart 2. The following random validations were completed: Title I, Part A SNS Methodology; Title I, Part A Schoolwide Elements; Title I,

Part C Program Evaluation; Unsafe School Choice Option; and PNP Equitable Services.

Federal Program Compliance Division New Resources: The Division will be releasing Program Guides and Program Webinars on the Division web page for the following programs: Title I, Part A; Title I, Part C; Title I, Part D; Title II, Part A; and Title IV, Part A.

Spring ACET Conference Presentations: The Division will be releasing the presentation slides for the program webinars for the Spring ACET conference.

Title I, Part C—Migrant Education Program Certificate of Eligibility (ECOE)

Nez Paniagua-Jimenez, Texas Migrant Education Program (MEP) Coordinator, provided an overview of the process being used for the Migrant Education Program Certificate of Eligibility (ECOE).

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

Cory Green, Associate Commissioner, provided an update on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the projected timelines for the release of the application. Detailed guidance is forthcoming based on the release of guidance from the US Department of Education.

Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) Program Updates

Cal Lopez, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education State Coordinator, provided information related to COVID-19 guidance and resources; information-sharing systems for students experiencing homelessness; and strategies and best practices to identify and support students experiencing homelessness during COVID-19.

Committee Action Item

Ed-Flex Individual Programmatic Waiver Application

Vivian Smyrl, Director of Program Implementation, provided an overview of the Education Flexibility (Ed-Flex) program and the types of waivers available to LEAs. The Texas Title I Committee of Practitioners also serves as the Texas Ed-Flex Committee.

The Ed-Flex program applies to the following programs:

- ESSA
 - Title I, Part A (except for Section 1111)
 - Title I, Part C
 - Title I, Part D
 - Title II, Part A
 - Title IV, Part A
- Perkins

The Ed-Flex statute lists several aspects of these programs that **cannot** be waived:

- Maintenance of effort;
- Comparability of services;
- Equitable participation of students and professional staff in private schools;
- Parental participation and involvement;
- Distribution of funds to States or to local educational agencies;
- Serving eligible school attendance areas in rank order in accordance with section 1113(a)(3)
- The selection of a school attendance area or school under subsections (a) and (b) of section 1113 of

the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, except that a State educational agency may grant a waiver to allow a school attendance area or school to participate in activities under Title I, Part A if the percentage of children from low-income families in the school attendance area of such school or who attend such school is not less than 10 percentage points below the lowest percentage of such children for any school attendance area or school of the local educational agency that meets the requirements of such subsections;

- Use of Federal funds to supplement, not supplant, non-Federal funds; or
- Applicable civil rights requirements.

Ms. Smyrl reminded the committee members that they will be called upon to review and make recommendations concerning Individual Programmatic Waiver applications that the Agency receives for the 2020-2021 school year. The Individual Programmatic Waiver Application was provided to the Committee. Additionally, the waiver submission an approval timeline from previous years was provided to lead into the discussion about the direction for the 2020-2021 school year considering the current circumstances. Several options were presented.

The committee recommended the following two application windows for Ed-Flex Individual Programmatic Waivers for the 2020-2021 school year: 1) The first application window would have a September deadline, with a start date retroactive to July 1. 2) A second window with a mid-year deadline [TBD by TEA], with a start date determined on a case-by-case basis. The recommendation was approved by vote, following a motion by Carrie Matthews and a second by Mia Hall. TEA will take this recommendation under advisement in determining the type of deadline schedule to implement for the waiver applications.

Adjourn

Shirley Clark adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Committee on June 17, 2020.