

MINUTES

DATE: April 20, 2021

9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Present

Shirley Clark, Laura Colangelo, Alex Dominguez, Pam Evans, Mia Hall, Marilyn Harris, Carrie Matthews, Cris Munoz, Mary Thomas, Brenda Faz-Villarreal, Angela Lengefeld, Sharon Sanchez, and Martha Anderson

Members Absent

Alexis Neumann, Jayne Tavennar, and Melody Collier

Texas Education Agency (TEA) Staff Present

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

Call to Order

The virtual meeting norms were shared with meeting attendees. Shirley Clark, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. before the roll call and welcoming the committee and guests. The following agenda items were moved to the latter part of the agenda: Ed-Flex Statewide Administrative Waiver and ESSERs Updates.

Committee Action Item

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes from the March 5, 2020 Committee of Practitioners Meeting were approved (with revisions to include Martha Anderson and Angela Lengefeld as having attended) by vote, following a motion by Angela Lengefeld and a second by Mary Thomas.

Committee Discussion Items

Federal Program Compliance Division Updates

Anita Villarreal, Senior Division Director of Federal Program Compliance Division, and Didi Garcia, Assistant Director of the Federal Program Compliance Division, shared the following updates with the committee.

Anita recognized her team for the following activities: ESC ESSA Institute/Program Meetings, COP call-for-nominations launch, the work associated with the Collaborative Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CCNA) toolkit, the Grant Compliance and Administration (GCA) Statewide Training Series launch, and the Office of Migrant Education Annual Directors Meeting.

An update on the CCNA, upcoming GCA Statewide Training Series opportunities, and Association of Compensatory Educators of Texas (ACET) virtual conference presentations was provided.

Title I, Committee of Practitioner Updates

Jaime Huerta, Title I, Part A Program Director, shared the following updates.

An update on the COP call for nominations and committee membership was provided.

Title I, Part A Updates

Jaime Huerta, Title I, Part A Program Director, shared the following updates for Title I, Part A.

Updates related to the 2021-2022 Title I, Part A initiatives were provided, which included the ESC ESSA Basic Services – Title I, Part A (all ESCs); Statewide ESSA Title I, Part A Parent and Family Engagement Initiative (ESC-16); PFE Council Statewide Training Grant (Title I, Part A related; funded by Title IV, Part A) (ESC-16) and Statewide ESSA Title I, Part A Capacity Building Initiative (ESC-20). Information was also shared related to questions received from COP members prior to the meeting which included guidance on use of Title I, Part A funds for clerical staff.

COP members were reminded about the Statewide Title I, Part A Capacity Building Initiative Communication website launched by ESC - Region 20.

School Improvement Title I 1003 Grant and Intervention Updates

Nicole Seltman, Director of School Improvement, shared the following information concerning the Title I 1003 Grant and Intervention Updates.

Updates included information related to the following topics: 2021-2022 Accountability Context as it relates to State Accountability and the Federal Accountability Addendum; opting out of the school improvement grant for 2021-2022, 2021-2022/23 LEA school improvement grants; the timeline for the 2021-2023 Title I, 1003 ESF-Focused Support Grant (LOI); and the timeline for the 2021-2022 Title I, 1003 School Improvement Grant (Formula). A discussion was held related to how the Division of School Improvement can best leverage the opportunity to support new campuses that have not previously worked with the Division to maximize continuous improvement across the state.

The committee recessed for a break from 9:51 am – 10:05 am.

Committee Action Item

Ed-Flex Statewide Administrative Waiver

Cory Green, Associate Commissioner, advised the committee that TEA is requesting a recommendation to approve an Ed-Flex Statewide Administrative Waiver to USDE to provide pre-award as appropriate. An explanation of why the Ed-Flex Statewide Waiver is needed was shared. The waiver will not include all programs. It is only for programs under Ed-Flex (does not include Title III, School Improvement, IDEA). The Ed-Flex Statewide Administrative Waiver recommendation was approved by vote, following a motion by Pamela M. Evans and second by Dr. Mary Thomas.

Committee Discussion Item

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) Updates

Cory Green, Associate Commissioner, shared the following updates with the committee.

Updates included information related to the Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG) and a description of the MOE requirements tied to the ESSER II and ESSER III funds. Information was shared related to the anticipated date to receive the ESSER II and ESSER III applications for the next round of funds, as well as the timeline and process for private schools to apply for the next round of ESSER funds through the Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools (EANS) program.

Questions received prior to the meeting from members were also addressed to include the following topics: 2020-2021 ESSA funds, Title I, Part A 15% carryover requirements, travel using grant funds, and LEA hold-harmless for 2021-2022 and 2021-2022 entitlements.

Adjourn

Shirley Clark, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes approved by the Committee on June 15, 2021.