

## MINUTES

March 5, 2021

1:30 p.m.

*(Rescheduled from February 16, 2021, due to inclement weather)*

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

### Members Present

Martha Anderson, Shirley Clark, Laura Colangelo, Melody Collier, Alex Dominguez, Pam Evans, Marilyn Harris, Angela Lengefeld, Carrie Matthews, Chris Munoz, Mary Thomas

### Members Absent

Brenda Faz-Villarreal, Mia Hall, Alexis Neumann, Jayne Tavennar, Sharon Sanchez

### 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 9:03 a.m. before the roll call and welcoming the committee and guests.

### Committee Action Items

#### Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes from the November 17, 2020, Title I Committee of Practitioners' meeting were approved as written by vote, following a motion by Laura Colangelo and a second by Chris Munoz.

### 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. The 2020-21 LEA Random Validation timeline has been adjusted due to the snowstorm last month. Review of steps that have already been completed were also shared. The documentation review is currently in progress with completion due date of March 12, and TEA will share results with LEAs by April 9, 2021.

The ESC ESSA Basic Service Compliance Reports have been reviewed and closed out, and the 2020-21 ESC ESSA Basic Service Compliance Reports for TIA, TIC, TIIA, and TIVA will be submitted quarterly. Program Managers will review the data reports and will reach out to ESCs for support.

Due to COVID, the 2019-2020 LEA Compliance Reports only collected data that are required to be reported to USDE. The 2020-2021 LEA Compliance reports will not change from 2019-20 for the most part; for TII and TIV, one additional question is being reinstated for REAP. Reporting will still not include TIC (MEP) and PNP. Correspondence was sent to ESCs with permission to share with LEAs. The information will also be shared with LEAs through Govdelivery and shared at ACET, as well as through the Statewide Trainings.

Milestones were shared regarding the DRAFT Collaborative Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CCNA) Guide, Quick Reference Sheets, Templates, and Sample Documents, including PowerPoint files, timelines, and agenda/meetings samples. The Title I Capacity Building Team will continue to assist with the development. Next Steps include unveiling the draft for ESC staff at ESSA Institute in March for feedback and incorporating it, and then sharing the draft with LEAs at ACET in April. The final documents will be shared through the Statewide Series in August. (Reminder that this is an optional tool and not required.)

The Federal Program Compliance Division will be providing Grant Compliance and Administration Statewide Training Series through the summer. Target Dates: April 2021-September 2021, with 2-4 virtual training opportunities per month. These trainings will be provided free of charge to LEAs, ESCs, and the general public. Training topics include Federal Program Compliance Program Overview and Program-Specific Training, Grants Administration Training, Federal Fiscal Monitoring Training, and Federal Fiscal Compliance and Reporting Training.

#### **Title I, COP Updates - Jaime Huerta**

Jaime Huerta, Title I, Part A Program Director, shared the following updates. The statutory requirement for the Committee of Practitioners membership has been reviewed and an analysis conducted. As a result, additional members will be added. These include: LEA Administrator (charter school), Paraprofessional, Parent, Principal (Elementary), Principal (Secondary), Private School Representative, School Board Member, Teachers (CTE), Teacher (charter school), and AMET Representative (non-voting). Although there are already some of these members on the committee, statute indicates plural so there should be more than one. As well, geographic representation will be considered to include regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 15, 17, 18, and 19, which are not currently represented. Lastly, ensuring diversity and equity in representation is a priority. Membership timeline/next steps were shared. A formal call for nominations will be sent in April 2021. TEA will conduct a review of the nominations received in May, 2021. The Commissioner will make approval(s) in June 2021. A welcome and information packet will be sent to new members in July, 2021. New member orientation will be provided in August 2021. New members should plan to attend their first meeting in September, 2021.

Jamie Goodwin, Project Manager for the Title I, Part A Capacity Building Initiative shared the TICB Website and the COP Member password protected page. Information about members receiving logins from the ESC-20 webmaster will be sent after the COP meeting. Shortened link is [www.esc20.net/TICB](http://www.esc20.net/TICB)

#### **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) II Update - Cory Green**

Cory Green, Associate Commissioner, shared the following updates. With all of the expected dollar amounts, vendors are trying to sell services and advising on the amount of money that will be available, LEAs should be cautioned that the amounts vendors quote may be calculating a little high.

ESSER II funds available are approximately four times greater (\$5.5 billion) than ESSER I (\$1.15 billion). If LEAs qualified for ESSER I, they will likely be eligible for ESSER II. The same formula tied to Title I will be used. The fact that the Legislature is in session will allow the Legislature to have input on the use of the stimulus money, will have impact on the final decision. The application availability date is unknown at this time. Many unanswered questions about timelines; division of funds or lump sums; allocations; state offset, etc. are still pending. Several statewide organizations (TASBO, etc.) are advising LEAs to plan for offset which may not be a bad idea. (ESSER allows for supplanting.) As of now, concise information is not available or confirmed.

Two other potential stimulus type bills in Congress right now are being considered including American Recover Plan (ARP) which will allow for additional funds for education. Relief funding still being discussed and is expected to be ongoing for a while.

No additional funding is available under CoronaVirus Relief Fund. The new bill did not add additional funding. However, it did extend the life of the CRF (but the timeline has now passed). Other match program timelines have also passed (Operation Connectivity Bulk Purchase, Local Match Payments to Bulk Purchase, etc.). The Prior Purchase Reimbursement Program will start paying out in April and be completed in May.

Amendments under ESSER I to increase budget amounts (for Private Schools) were due March 1. There may be an opportunity to extended the deadline but the amendments must be turned in ASAP or the opportunity will be lost. Also, ESSER I carryover is available and will require a revised NOGA with new end date. TEA will contact ESCs and LEAs when available. (Current application stays open.) Private Schools are entitled to the extended time through the end of the grant as well.

Explanation of why the Ed-Flex Statewide Waiver is needed was given. The revised regulations took away state authority to give pre-award. TEA has submitted a request to USDE to provide a pre-award as appropriate and is still in negotiation. Because Texas is an Ed-Flex state, Texas is allowed to implement an Ed-Flex waiver, and the agency is still working on it. Note that the waiver will not include all programs, only covers programs under Ed-Flex (does not include TIII, School Improvement, IDEA). TTAA Letter/Notice will be sent out for a public comment and recommendation opportunity before submitting to the Commissioner for approval request. Without pre-award, flexibility cannot be given to the LEAs.

*Break 10:28-10:43 a.m.*

#### **Title I, Part A Program Updates - Jaime Huerta**

Jaime Huerta, Title I, Part A Program Director, shared the following updates for Title I, Part A. The 2020 ESEA National Distinguished Schools have been named. Distinguished Performance Award to Cesar Chavez Elementary, Pharr-San Juan Alamo ISD in ESC, Region 1. (Video shared.) Distinguished Progress Award to Graciela Garcia Elementary, Pharr-San Juan Alamo ISD in ESC, Region 1. The Title I Capacity Building Initiative will be working to provide virtual ceremony in the Fall.

Statewide Series will be providing trainings for ESC and LEA coming in May-August. The Title I, Part A Within-LEA Allocations training will cover Determining Poverty Counts; Identifying Eligible Schools and Allocating Funds to Eligible Schools. ESC training will be provided at ESSA institute on March 31. Training for LEAs will be provided in June. The USDE Fact Sheet on Data for Low-Income Percentages,– which came out January 4, 2021, was shared. The fact sheet highlighted the LEAs' flexibility to use best available NSLP data, which may be from SY 2019-2020 if the NSLP data from SY 2020-2021 are not available.

Changes concerning the 2021-2022 ESSA Consolidated Application SC5000 were shared.

- **Part A: 3. Total LEA Enrollment** will be pre-populated.
- **Part B: Additional Eligibility** column has been added, which includes checkboxes (no drop down) for: Individual Program Waiver, SW Ed-Flex Waiver, SW Previous Year and One Year Transition. Campus will be able to choose multiple options if applicable, in an effort to collect most accurate data. (Previously, this section was included as a part of the drop down options on the Basis of Eligibility, and only one option could be chosen.) A more in depth explanation will be provided at the upcoming trainings.

ESSA no longer includes the term “Highly Qualified” for Title I, Part A Paraprofessional Requirements as NCLB did. The agency released updated guidance for Paraprofessional requirements in late January, 2021, for individuals being funded by or in part by Title I, Part A. Section 1111(g)(2)(J) regarding state certification and licensure and Section 1111(g)(2)(M) regarding State having professional standards for paraprofessionals. Resources are available on TEA’s website.

### **Ed-Flex Annual Report – Vivian Smyrl**

Vivian Smyrl, Director of Program Implementation, shared the following updates. Ed-Flex State Annual Report for 2019-2020 was shared. This required report to the USDE was required to include data demonstrating the degree to which progress has been made toward meeting the State’s educational objectives. This included reporting the following information: total number of waivers granted for Federal and State statutory and regulatory requirements, including the number of waivers granted for each type of waiver; descriptions of the effect of the waivers on the implementation of State and local educational reforms pertaining to school and student performance; descriptions of the relationship of the waivers to the performance of schools and students affected by the waivers; and assurance from State program managers that the data reported are reliable, complete and accurate as defined by the State, or a description of a plan of improving the reliability, completeness and accuracy of such data as defined by the state.

Minor updates to Ed-Flex Individual Programmatic Waiver application were also shared, including the addition of checkboxes to indicate School Year so that the form can be used for multiple years; an updated email address for contact information, and the addition of an option for social media as a means to obtain the public comment response.

### **Adjourn**

Shirley Clark, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:19 a.m.

**COP Meeting Dates Remaining for 2020-2021** —The following meetings are scheduled to be held remotely via Zoom, unless otherwise announced.

- Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 9:00 am
- Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 9:00 am

**Minutes approved by the Committee on April 20, 2021.**