

TEAM NEWS

(Together Everyone Achieves More)

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Title I Vacant Position Filled!

The state Title I office is pleased to announce that Ann Ellefson will be rejoining the Title I unit, filling the vacant assistant director's position. Ann's knowledge and experience in Title I and program improvement issues will be invaluable to the Title I unit.

The consolidated application and program improvement contact lists have been updated to reflect those districts assigned to Ann. The lists can be accessed on the Title I website at:

Consolidated Application list:

www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/Legislative/stimulus/conappcontact.pdf

Program Improvement list:

www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/progress/present/picontact.pdf

Welcome aboard, Ann!

21st Century Community Learning Center Happenings

June and July have been very busy months with renewal applications due in the state office. Grant awards went out the first week of July. Nearly 20 individuals from North Dakota, who work in the 21 CCLC program traveled to Nashville, TN to attend the 2009 Summer Institute. There were over 2,200 attendees at this conference. There were numerous breakout sessions during the conference related to after-school programming.

There will be a directors meeting July 28-30 in Bismarck at the Kelly Inn to review last year's activities and to kick off the new grant year.

Directors' Reports

ARRA Update

By: Laurie Matzke, North Dakota Director of Title I

Listed below is a status report on key issues in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA):

- Title I ARRA Applications – To date, approximately one third of the ARRA applications have been approved. Another one third have been reviewed and are close to being approved. The remaining one third are districts who either had a late start in completing the application or are waiting until school starts to get staff input into how the extra funds can best be utilized.
- Meeting with USDE Staff – On July 22-24, 2009, staff in the Title I unit attended the annual Title I State Director's Meeting in Washington, D.C. We received direct presentations from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) staff and had opportunities to visit with Title I directors from other states. States received updates on the following issues:
 - Secretary of Education Arne Duncan addressed the group. He discussed the Race to the Top, ARRA funds, and laid out his educational goals for the future. His four goals included:
 1. Have common assessments and measures nationwide
 2. Have transparent data systems to measure progress annually
 3. Plan to retain talented educators
 4. Turn around underperforming schools
 - A panel of USDE staff addressed the group on the following topics:
 - ✓ ARRA reporting requirements
 - ✓ USDE monitoring priorities
 - ✓ Guidance on uses of ARRA funds
 - ✓ School improvement funds
 - ✓ Title I waiver guidance
 - Friday, July 24, 2009, was supposed to include round-table discussions on key ARRA issues. However, the USDE staff was called back to the Department of Education and therefore unable to facilitate the discussions.
- Secretary of Education Conference Call – On July 7, 2009, Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, hosted a conference call for district superintendents to provide an update on the ARRA. The conference call spent considerable time discussing the Race to the Top ARRA funds. They reiterated that the following guidance documents were close to being released:
 - ✓ Guidance on Uses of Funds
 - ✓ Reporting Guidance
 - ✓ Title I Waiver Guidance
 - ✓ School Improvement Grants Guidance
 - ✓ Title II Part D Stimulus Guidance

There was a Q&A at the end of the call. None of the questions were relevant to issues facing North Dakota.

- Title I ARRA Waiver Guidance – On July 2, 2009, the department issued draft guidance on how to request waivers under Title I Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) specific to the ARRA funding. This guidance is for SEAs, LEAs, Indian tribes, and schools that receive funding under Title I Part A.

The ARRA Waiver Guidance is now available at www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/programs.html. The draft invites requests for waivers of certain Title I Part A requirements, lays out the process for states and LEAs to obtain waivers, and assists you with your submissions, providing examples of the different waiver requests.

North Dakota is in the process of drafting our Title I ARRA waiver request to the USDE on behalf of our school districts. We will provide a draft for you to review before it is submitted.

- ARRA Reporting Guidance – On Monday, July 22, 2009, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published *Implementing Guidance for the Reports on Use of Funds Pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* (“Recovery Act”). This guidance implements the reporting requirements included in Section 1512 of the Recovery Act for recipients of grants, loans, and other forms of assistance. The reports required by Section 1512 will be submitted by recipients beginning in October 2009 and will answer important questions such as:
 - Who is receiving Recovery Act dollars and in what amounts?
 - What projects or activities are being funded with Recovery Act dollars?
 - What is the completion status of such projects or activities and what impact have they had on job creation and retention?

The reporting guidance is not very reader-friendly. Once we have a better handle on exactly what is required and in what format, we will provide additional information to all school districts.

- Title I ARRA Website – As a reminder, in an effort to keep school personnel apprised of new developments regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the state Title I office has created a dedicated website to house all information pertaining to the additional funds that we will receive. Information regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act can be accessed at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/Legislative/index.shtm on the Title I website.

ARRA Funding and the IDEA

By: Bob Rutten, North Dakota Director of Special Education

If you're involved in public education chances are high that you've heard at least some discussion about the “stimulus funding” that is directed toward public education through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. This act was passed by Congress and the President to create jobs and to stimulate economic progress.

According to the U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, ARRA funding that was appropriated for education is also intended to build “a foundation to reform America’s schools, invest in proven solutions to help our students succeed, and cultivate a new culture of accountability for teaching and learning.” This funding, in Secretary Duncan’s words, represents “the largest one-time Federal investment in education in our nation’s history, more than \$100 billion to help save and create teaching jobs, preserve needed learning programs, and increase college access.”

A significant portion of the new ARRA funding is directed for Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). North Dakota will receive more than \$27 million to ensure that children with disabilities, including children aged three through five, have access to a free appropriate public education that will help prepare them for further education, employment, or independent living.

Earlier this year the NDDPI provided guidance for North Dakota schools about the requirements for utilization of these funds. A point that was emphasized repeatedly is that the President “has made clear that every dollar spent under the ARRA will be subject to the most stringent standards of accountability and transparency.” This summer staff from the Fiscal Management Office and the Office of Special Education at the ND Department of Public Instruction have been receiving and processing local applications for use of funds for the IDEA under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

One of the greatest challenges for special education administrators has been to assure that their applications for use of these special funds align with core reform goals outlined by the U.S. Department of Education. Possible uses of the

ARRA IDEA recovery funds, based on the core reform goals, served as the focus of guidance created by the NDDPI Office of Special Education. Appropriate possible uses of the ARRA IDEA funds include:

- Obtain state-of-the-art assistive technology devices and provide training in their use to enhance access to the general curriculum for students with disabilities.
- Provide intensive district-wide professional development for special education and regular education teachers that focuses on scaling-up, through replication, proven and innovative evidence-based school-wide strategies in reading, math, writing, and science, and positive behavioral supports to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.
- Develop or expand the capacity to collect and use data to improve teaching and learning.

AYP Dissemination Requirements

Under the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) Act, all districts and schools are required to send correspondence to the parents of each child enrolled in the district and/or school regarding its Adequate Yearly Progress status. It is imperative that correspondence be included with the AYP reports to explain them to parents.

Federal law mandates that this notification take place in a timely manner. For schools and districts identified for program improvement, this notice must take place prior to the first day of school. For schools that are required to offer school choice, the notice must be sent 14 calendar days before the first day of school. For schools and districts NOT identified for program improvement, this notice must take place at the start of the school year (i.e., as part of welcome back letter or August newsletter).

There are various samples of parent notification letters for schools and districts available on our website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthoriz/notification.shtm. The state Title I office has created communication toolkits for both schools and districts.

Final Allocations Posted

The Department of Public Instruction has received final Title I allocation amounts from the U.S. Department of Education for the 2009-2010 school year. School district allocations have been recalculated for all of the Title I programs. Final allocations are posted on the department's website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/grants/NCLB.shtm. Stephanie Gullickson, grants manager, distributed an email to administrators announcing that final allocations have been posted.

The consolidated application on the STARS has been automatically updated to reflect the final allocation amounts. Districts must review their consolidated application and ensure that their budgets do not exceed the district's final allocation.

New Administrators' Workshop

The Department of Public Instruction and the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders is sponsoring its annual two-day workshop for first year and new-to-the-state superintendents and elementary, middle level/junior high, and secondary school principals. This workshop will be held in the Brynhild Haugland room at the State Capitol on Thursday, August 6, and Friday, August 7, 2009. Registration will begin at 8:00 am on August 6 and the workshop will conclude at approximately 3:30 pm on August 7.

The state Title I office is scheduled to present information on Title I at a breakout session. We will provide new administrators with information on key Title I issues at 2:45 on Thursday, August 6, 2009.

Please visit www.dpi.state.nd.us/approve/admin.shtm for registration information and forms. If you need additional information, please call Carol Harmsen (701) 328-2266.

Monthly Featured Articles

Early Childhood News

States are increasing their pre-kindergarten options and this is pushing school administrators to think outside their programs to be able to provide high-quality early learning opportunities for more children. Collaboration among public schools, Head Start, child care and faith-based organizations can address many challenges including the need for facilities and more comprehensive services. There are conferences and summits offered throughout North Dakota this fall to offer school districts different options when planning for the early childhood educational needs of their community.

August 4, 2009: Pre-Kindergarten Summit

Engaging Excellence: Opportunities for North Dakota's Preschool Children

ND Heritage Center, Bismarck

To register please email lein_roberta@bah.com

October 7-9: Department of Public Instruction Title I/Special Education Fall Conference

Civic Center, Bismarck

Information will be available in August 2009 at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm

October 9-10: ND Association for the Education of Young Children and the ND Head Start Association 2009 Annual Conference: Pursuing Patterns in Early Childhood

Seven Seas Hotel and Water Park, Mandan

To register please copy and submit one form per participant from www.ndaeyc.org or www.ndheadstart.com

Upcoming Events:

2004 Scott Foresman Lesson Maps and Template Training Grades K-1 and Grades 2-3

- August 3-6, 2009 in Bismarck, ND

Information can be found at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events/reg_frms_maps.pdf

2009 Title I and Special Education Fall Conference

- October 7-9, 2009 in Bismarck, ND

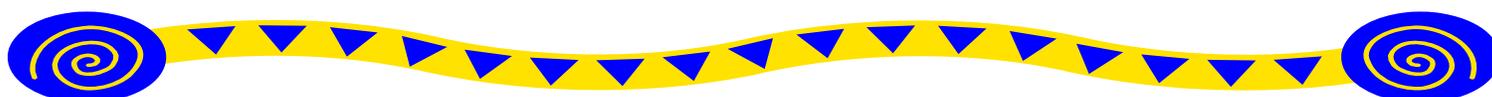
Information will be available in August 2009 at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm

Title I To Do List

Administrators

- Submit the Title I ARRA Consolidated Application
- Submit the Title I Regular Consolidated Application
- Prepare AYP Dissemination Letter

Enjoy the Rest of Your Summer!



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