



TEAM NEWS

(Together Everyone Achieves More)

December 2009

Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead, State Superintendent, 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 201, Bismarck, ND 58505-0440

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2008-2009 School District Profile Notification

The state Title I office would like to inform you of the recent release of the 2008-2009 School District Profile (also known as the School District Report Card). The profiles are available to view at

www.dpi.state.nd.us/dpi/reports/Profile/index.shtm.

Information includes statewide school plant performance data and statewide district performance data, as well as information on the district's assessment, demographics, and the statewide district performance summary. It takes time to generate data for each of these categories; therefore, the department is just now releasing 2008-2009 information.

This serves as a prime opportunity to remind school districts that they are required to inform parents that this information is available to them. A sample letter regarding this requirement is available at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/springwkshp/profileletter.pdf on the Title I website.

Most districts choose to inform parents of the availability of this information through their school newsletter. Remember, in addition to providing a website address for the document, you must also inform them as to how they can review a written copy made available by the district (i.e., copy in school office, library, etc.).

Title I Schools List Published

With the 2009-2010 consolidated application process coming to a close, the Title I office was able to finalize its lists of North Dakota Title I and Non-Title I schools. The figures below summarize this information:

- ▶ 311 = Total Title I Schools
- ▶ 87 = Schoolwide Title I Schools
- ▶ 224 = Targeted Assistance Title I Schools
- ▶ 164 = Total Non-Title I Schools

These lists can be found at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/index.shtm on the Title I website.

Merry Christmas

FROM ALL OF US AT DPI



Director's Report

Federal Funding Update

By: Laurie Matzke, North Dakota Director of Title I

Department staff are currently working on four key federal funding initiatives:

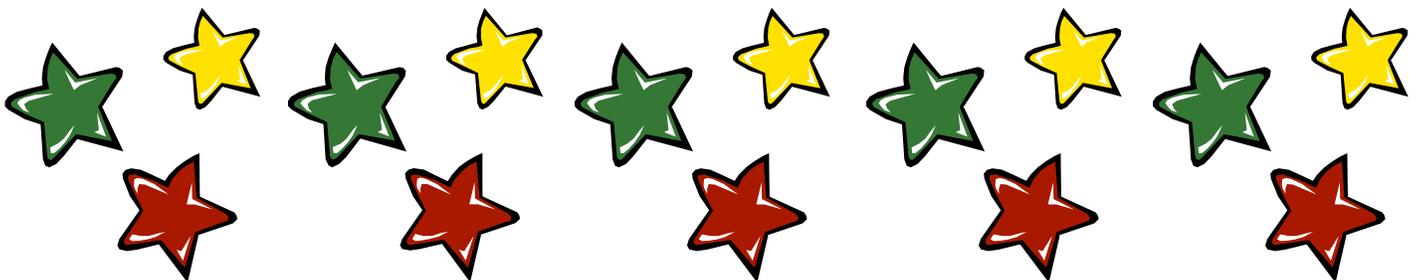
- Fiscal Stabilization – In order for states to get their phase two funding under the state Fiscal Stabilization Fund, they must submit an application. In the application, states must provide information in four key areas of education reform: (a) achieving equity in teacher distribution, (b) improving collection and use of data, (c) standards and assessments, and (d) supporting struggling schools. The due date for this application to be submitted to the USDE is January 11, 2010.
- Race to the Top State Application – The federal Race to the Top grant is a competitive, \$4.35 billion education reform program enacted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The USDE released the Race to the Top application on November 12, 2009. To qualify, states must have no legal barriers to linking student growth and achievement data to teachers and principals for the purposes of evaluation. They also must have approval from the USDE for their plans for both phases of the Recovery Act's State Fiscal Stabilization Fund prior to being awarded a grant.

The USDE will hold two rounds of competition for the grants. For the first round, it will accept states' applications until the middle of January, 2010. Applications for the second round will be due June 1, 2010, with the announcement of all the recipients by September 30, 2010.

- Title I School Improvement Grant (SIG) – Schools identified for Title I program improvement have access to additional Title I funds. North Dakota distributed approximately \$3 million in program improvement funding to schools identified for improvement in July and August 2009. We have been waiting to receive additional information regarding the \$7 million ARRA school improvement grant that North Dakota will receive.

In early December, the USDE released the final guidance and application for the Title I School Improvement Grant (SIG). A handout highlighting some of the requirements for this grant can be accessed at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/progress/additional.shtm on the Title I website. The deadline to apply is February 8, 2010.

- Federal Funding for 2010-2011 – Congress typically passes the appropriations bill for the subsequent school year's funding in December. On December 16, 2009, President Obama signed into law the spending bill for the 2010-2011 school year. The bill does not factor in the stimulus funds under ARRA. The bill level-funds Title I, Part A grants. The legislation also appropriates new Title I funds to create a comprehensive literacy program serving students from birth through grade 12. We will provide more details regarding Title I funding and the new literacy program at our Title I IVN training on January 7, 2010.



Title I Reports

Please note, the following Title I reports need to be submitted to the state Title I office:

- Title I Mid-Year Report – The mid-year financial report for Title I expenditures from July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 is due in our office **Monday, January 11, 2010**. This report should not be submitted until January as it must include all expenses through December 31, 2009.

Please note, you only need to submit the mid-year financial report for your regular Title I funds. **You do not need to submit a mid-year financial report for the Title I stimulus funds.**

The Title I Mid-Year Financial Report and Guidance will be mailed to each Title I authorized representative and can be downloaded at <http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/forms/sfn7822.pdf> from the Title I website

- ARRA Reports – Due to the unprecedented scope and importance of this investment, ARRA funds are subject to additional and more rigorous reporting requirements than normally applies to other federal grants.

There are two key reporting requirements that pertain to the ARRA funds:

- ARRA Quarterly Report – The second Title I ARRA Quarterly report was due to the department on December 15, 2009. We are pleased that once again, we had 100% of our districts submit the report. Thank you for your promptness! The next Title I ARRA Quarterly report is due on April 1, 2010.
- School-by-School Expenditure Report
 - ✘ **In addition to the quarterly reports, ARRA requires each school district receiving Title I, Part A ARRA funds to report a school-by-school listing of per-pupil educational expenditures from state and local funds for the 2008-09 school year to its state educational agency (SEA).** States must report this data to the US Department of Education by March 31, 2010. These data will be used to examine the extent to which school-level education resources are distributed equitably within and across school districts. Title I authorized representatives must work with their business manager to complete this report.
 - ✘ The template and instructions to complete this report were emailed to all administrators and business managers on December 8, 2009 and can also be accessed at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/Legislative/index.shtm on the department's website.
 - ✘ As with the quarterly reports, districts must submit the school-by-school expenditure report electronically to your Title I contact person. The due date to submit this report to the department is January 29, 2010.

The department is sponsoring an IVN training session on Thursday, January 7, 2010, to update school personnel on federal funding and initiatives as well as go over these two required ARRA reports.

Monthly Featured Articles

National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) Offers a New Resource: *Sampler Brochure*

NNPS is beneficial because its research informs policy and practice. At the same time, practitioners' work informs research studies. This marriage of research with practice encourages members of NNPS to design activities that address important goals for student success.

The NNPS *Sampler* is a new resource to increase family and community involvement in goal-linked activities that contribute to student learning and development. Each *Sampler* includes a description of the importance of family and community involvement for the selected goal and a summary of related research. The *Sampler* features ten activities including; family nights, workshops, volunteer activities, student work, and other creative activities that have been implemented by members of NNPS and reported in annual collections of *Promising Partnership Practices* over the years.

The activities illustrate how to engage diverse families and many community partners at all grade levels using the six types of involvement in the NNPS framework: *parenting*, *communicating*, *volunteering*, *learning at home*, *decision making*, and *collaborating with the community*. The field-tested activities may be used or adapted by schools' Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs) and by district leaders to strengthen their programs of family and community involvement. *Samplers* will initially be available in reading, math, and science. To explore the *Sampler* that interests you, visit their web page at www.partnershipschools.org. You may also order packets of the *Samplers* from the NNPS website.

NOTE: Each *Sampler* includes just a few of many excellent activities in the NNPS annual collections. For more ideas, visit www.partnershipschools.org and follow the links to Success Stories and to a particular edition of *Promising Partnership Practices*. Click on the goal(s) that your school, district, or state select to improve school climate and student success.

The Creator of Wikipedia Turns to Education Videos

By Sean Cavanaugh, Education Week, November 17, 2009

The co-founder of Wikipedia has launched a website designed to offer free access to thousands of education-related videos for students ages 3-18.

Larry Sanger, who helped create Wikipedia and has since left the organization, says the new site, www.watchknow.org, will allow students and teachers to sort through a library of online videos by content, and pick out what they need. Topics range from math and science to history. The site is meant to house and organize videos that are free and available online, yet which most people don't know how to find.

The site was launched in October. So far it offers 11,000 videos in 2,000 categories. The contributions have come from National Geographic and Google Videos, among many other sources.

Sanger describes it as "YouTube meets Wikipedia." He adds in a statement, "WatchKnow.org links together content from traditional sites, and also allows users of the site to improve the organization of the video categories, which makes finding the video you need much easier."

Sanger's bio says he left Wikipedia seven years ago and has since been critical of the online encyclopedia. Wikis have become popular in K-12 classrooms over the years, despite educators' and others' worries about who is writing and controlling the content, and how it can be verified.

This project is funded the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi, whose officials hope to have more than 50,000 videos on the site by the end of 2010.

Coming Soon from the Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC): *No Child Left Behind* Brochure

The ND State PIRC is currently in the process of printing a new and improved *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) brochure for use in Title I schools throughout the state. PIRC has revised the previous brochure by simplifying the language to improve comprehension.

The goal of this brochure is to assist Title I schools in giving parents the NCLB information in an easy-to-understand format. PIRC encourages all schools to use the brochure as a resource to help instruct parents about the NCLB information. However, we also encourage school staff to verbally share some of the NCLB guidelines with parents. Particularly, PIRC is interested in assisting parents to understand about SES, School Choice, and School Accountability. These are the measures that PIRC needs to track to meet federal regulations. In fact, to assist the PIRC Satellite Schools in obtaining the needed data, the brochure will include a perforated card on the back page. This card should be filled in by the parent and the school should send that in along with their monthly activities sign-in sheets.

The ND State PIRC encourages schools to order brochures at least two weeks in advance to assure that there will be an adequate supply for the school event. We hope this brochure will assist school staff in disseminating the NCLB guidelines.

Reading Month

In celebration of Reading Month, the Lake Agassiz Reading Council (LARC) has created a wiki and a blog! All North Dakota teachers are invited to be a part of the wiki and all North Dakota teachers AND students are invited to participate in the blog.

Reading Month is traditionally celebrated in March of each year. LARC encourages the phrase "Reading Month is Every Month". Teachers are invited to visit <http://ndreadingmonth.pbworks.com/FrontPage> and explore the resources and links on this site. A March calendar on the site includes ideas for celebrating Reading Month at school. A wiki is a collaborative web page, so teachers are encouraged to click on "join this wiki" which would allow them to become a "writer" on this site and add content to the wiki.

Please don't wait for March, visit our North Dakota Reading Month blog now! This is a moderated blog, which means that any posts made will be directed to a moderator who only approves blogs with appropriate content. Readers are encouraged to respond to various questions, including: What is the best book you have ever read? Are you a poet? When did you first realize you loved to read? Where is the best place to read? All teachers and students are encouraged to blog at <http://www1.gfschools.org/blogs/ndreadingblog/>.

Navigating Literacy in a Changing World

Lake Agassiz Reading Council (LARC) is proud and excited to host the 2010 NDRA Conference, *Navigating Literacy in a Changing World*.

Thursday evening, April 29, our conference will begin with our guest speaker Bernajean Porter. Bernajean is best known for integrating literacy and technology through Digital Storytelling. Bernajean will present a lighter look at the ongoing change in our profession with her presentation, *Change is Good-You Go First*.

Friday, April 30 will be an action-packed day for conference attendees. We will begin with our dynamic keynote speaker, Erin Gruwell. Erin will inspire us by sharing her transformative experiences with a group of high school students, the Freedom Writers.

Concurrent sessions will continue throughout the day from our many talented featured speakers. Jeffrey Wilhelm, a teacher best known for his work with adolescent readers and writers will address the needs of our secondary students. Bernajean Porter will have energetic presentations showcasing technology and literacy. Susan Stevens Crummel, children's author (*The Great Fuzz Frenzy*, *Help Me, Mr. Mutt!*), will present two sessions. Jacqueline Woodson, acclaimed children's juvenile fiction author, will present breakouts and is our featured luncheon speaker. Children Is author David Greenburg (*Bugs! Snakes!*) will also be with us on Friday. Sarah Holbrook, poet (*Wham! It is a Poetry Jam!*, *Outspoken*), will present breakout sessions and is our featured speaker at the Friday evening banquet.

Saturday, May 1 will also be a great day for conference goers! We will begin with our keynote speaker, Annette Lamb. Annette is well known for her ability to integrate technology and language arts with outstanding results in student learning. Michael Sullivan, librarian and author (*Connecting Boys with Books*, *The Sapphire Knight*), will be our featured luncheon speaker and will conduct breakout sessions as well. We are currently working out details with Dr. Terrell Young from the IRA board, to present the topic of book choice and ELL Readers.



LARC is currently working on establishing a website dedicated to the upcoming conference. All registrations and proposal submissions will be online. We hope educators across the state will be willing to share their expertise and will submit a proposal. The target date for our website to be up and functional is January 1, 2010. Be watching for a link at our website, www.gfschools.org/larc.

See you in Grand Forks on April 29, 2010!!

IDEA Updates

This month's update will review the new guidance on transportation issues released in November by the United States Department of Education (USDE). This Q and A document supplements earlier guidance from 2006 and 2008. The USDE uses these Q and A documents as a vehicle for disseminating their current thinking and interpretation of IDEA requirements related to the education of children with disabilities. The department characterizes these Q and A documents as informal guidance to state and local education agencies, parents, and advocacy organizations regarding transportation issues based upon a specific set of facts.

IDEA regulations have identified transportation as a related service and defined it as including: travel to and from school, between schools; travel in and around school buildings; and special equipment, like special or adapted buses, lifts, and ramps. Transportation also includes travel training and instruction that develops students' awareness of the environment in which they live and skills to effectively and safely move from place to place within that environment. Travel training is an important transportation issue that IEP teams should consider when developing a student's post-secondary transition needs.

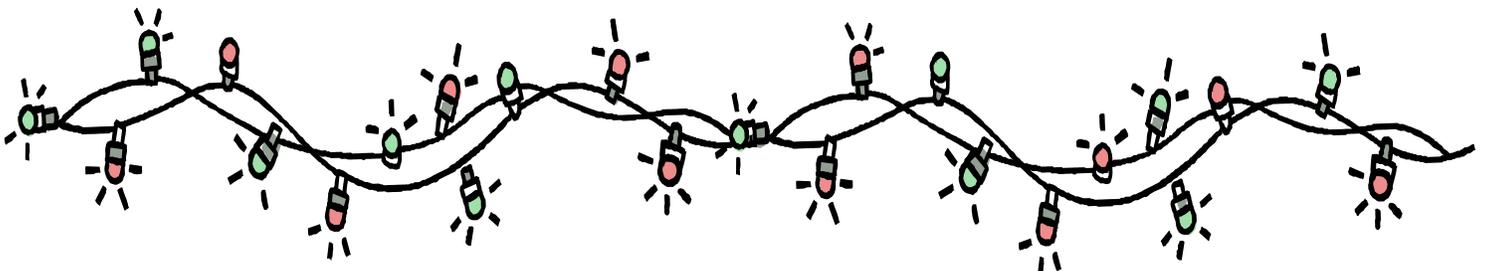
Within the general section, the USDE used four questions to provide a framework to guide the discussion. The departmental guidance defined the responsibilities of local school districts to provide transportation services to children with disabilities. A general description of transportation services that school districts must provide included those that enabled students to participate in non-academic and extracurricular activities, even those outside of normal school hours. This set of answers indicated that travel training could be considered as special education because it prepares individuals with disabilities for employment and independent living. In addition, the answers also identified a set of strategies that could be considered when determining the type of transportation services a child with a disability receives.

Other issues addressed in this document included: confidentiality, vehicle requirements, preschool, reimbursement and discipline.

For a more detailed reading of this document, visit www.dpi.state.nd.us/speced/OMB_08-0101_Transportation.pdf on the Special Education website.

Holiday Ideas:

A new website is providing parents with information on toys and games for children with special needs. Parents' Choice, the sponsor of this website, has established a partnership with the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. Kennedy Krieger is a research institute that does research on a variety of disability areas. To learn more about affordable and appropriate toys for special needs children, visit www.parents-choice.org/holiday.



Upcoming Events

× Title I IVN Update

In this IVN session on January 7, 2010, we will review the Title I ARRA reports and provide updated information regarding federal funding and other pertinent Title I issues. Go to www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm for the registration letter and form.

× 2010 Private School Audio Conference

All private schools, please mark your calendars for the 2010 Private School Audio Conference, being held on Thursday, February 25, 2010. We will keep you posted on the progress of this event in future issues of this newsletter.

× 2010 Targeting Audio Conference

Please mark your calendars now for the 2010 Targeting Audio Conference, being held on Tuesday, March 30, 2010.

× 2010 Program Improvement Workshop

The 2010 Title I Program Improvement Workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2010. This meeting is specifically for those schools and districts that have been identified for program improvement through not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). We will keep you posted on the progress of this event in future issues of this newsletter.

× 2010 Summer Symposium

Please mark your calendars for the 2010 Summer Symposium, being held on June 17-24, 2010 in Bismarck. Details for this excellent opportunity for professional development are still being finalized. Information will be available in the spring of 2010 at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

× 2010 Title I/Special Education Fall Conference

Dates have been set for October 6-8, 2010 for the 2010 Title I/Special Education Fall Conference at the Bismarck Civic Center. Please save the date for this conference as we are always striving to find ways to meet the needs of all schools in North Dakota. Your feedback from the last Fall Conference was a great way to begin planning for a better and more improved Title I/Special Education Fall Conference in 2010. Information will be available at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

Title I To Do List



Administrators

- Send notice on 2008-2009 School-District Profile.
- Request reimbursement of expenditures on a RFF form.
- Submit Mid-Year Title I Financial Report documenting all expenditures through December 31, 2009. Due January 11, 2010.
- Monitor expenditures and submit budget revisions to allow for changes.
- Compile School-by-School Expenditure Report. Due January 29, 2010.

Teachers

- Communicate supplemental instruction to support classroom to parents.
- Maintain portfolios for Title I students.
- Report assessment results to parents using Title I Progress Report.
- Send home information on how parents can support their child's education.

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