

TEAM NEWS

(Together Everyone Achieves More)

January 2010

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

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New Literacy Initiative

On December 16, 2009, President Obama signed into law the spending bill for the 2010-2011 school year. The legislation appropriates new funds to create a comprehensive literacy program serving students from birth through grade 12. This new program is meant to replace the Reading First program, which has been eliminated. Some highlights of the new program include:

- \$250 million was appropriated for literacy grant programs to provide effective literacy instruction for children from birth through grade 12.
- From the total allocation, \$10 million is reserved for a state formula grant program to support a State Literacy Team with expertise in literacy development. The team will be required to develop a comprehensive State Literacy Plan. Each state will receive at least \$150,000 for the State Literacy Team.
- From the total allocation, \$235 million is reserved for competitive state grants. States must subgrant at least 95% of their grants to local educational agencies or other nonprofit providers of early childhood education.
- State educational agencies may reserve up to 5% for state leadership activities, including technical assistance and training, data collection, reporting, and administration.
- Subgrantees will be local educational agencies, except that grants for "early literacy" services may be made to other nonprofit providers of early childhood education that partner with a public or private nonprofit organization or agency with a demonstrated record of effectiveness in improving the early literacy development of children from birth through kindergarten.
- Grant recipients must use the following guidelines when spending the funds:
 - At least 15% for children from birth through age 5;
 - At least 40% for children from kindergarten through grade 5; and
 - At least 40% for students in middle and high school, with an equitable distribution between the two grade ranges.
- Funding may be used for professional development, screening and assessment, targeted interventions for students reading below grade level, and other research-based methods of improving classroom instruction and practice.

The state Title I office will provide additional information as we receive updates from the USDE. A new webpage has been created to share and disseminate information regarding this literacy initiative. All information pertinent to this grant can be accessed at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/initiative/initiative.shtm on the department's website.

Director's Report

Title I Report – Information on Required Student Performance Strategist

By: Laurie Matzke, North Dakota Director of Title I

Due to the enactment of House Bill 1400 in the 2009 North Dakota Legislative Session, a new section to chapter 15.1-07-32 of the North Dakota Century Code was created outlining the requirements for a mandatory student performance strategist for every North Dakota public elementary school. The department's Approval and Accreditation office recently generated guidelines regarding this newly required position, which can be accessed at www.dpi.state.nd.us/approve/guidelines.pdf on the department's website.



We have received many phone calls regarding this new position, in particular questioning whether any of the Title I requirements apply. Please reference the chart below for a comparison of Title I targeted assistance, Title I schoolwide, and the student performance strategist requirements.

	Title I Targeted	Title I Schoolwide	Student Performance Strategist
Title I Credential Required	Yes	Depends on the job description	No
Student Selection Process	Yes	No	No
Grade Levels Served	Locally decided PreK-12 available	Locally decided PreK-12 available	K-3
Subjects	Reading and Math	Reading and Math	All
Parent Involvement Requirements	Yes	Yes	No
Additional Assessments Required to Measure Progress	Yes	No	No

Two questions that have been regularly asked include:

Q: Are there any other options for schools that have adequate staff through Title I funding to help non-proficient students?

A: The amount of Title I funding that a particular school receives varies significantly across the state. Many schools are not able to assist all students who may need help with the Title I funding that they receive and this new student performance strategist could greatly assist with these students. However, some schools receive a significant amount of Title I funds and may be able to adequately assist all students needing extra help. The state law does address this scenario. Section 15.1-07-32 states that an elementary school may hire a tutor (i.e., student performance strategist) or an instructional coach. Therefore, schools have the option of using their required FTE for an instructional coach if they prefer. Resources regarding instructional coaching are available at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/coaches.shtm on the Title I website.

Q: For schools with small numbers, are there any suggestions on how a district can meet this requirement?

A: Schools must have one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) student performance strategist for every four hundred students, in average daily membership, in grades K-3. For schools with a small number of students in grades K-3, it may be more challenging to meet this requirement. Some possibilities may include:

- Schools may have someone already on staff that does not have or need a full-time job, (i.e., .25 FTE), and could assume this role as well, at an additional .25 FTE. One possibility would be to use a principal, librarian, or other staff member to meet this requirement.

- Schools could share a student performance strategist with a neighboring school, if they are within a close proximity.
- A REA could hire a student performance strategist and this individual could serve multiple schools with relatively small FTE requirements.
- If a school has a very small FTE requirement for the student performance strategist and there is no one on staff who could assume the role, another option could be to reduce the Title I FTE time (and portion of their salary paid with Title I funds) and have the Title I teacher assume the responsibilities. These percentages would have to be documented on the district's Title I consolidated application.

If you have questions regarding the student performance strategist, please contact Linda Paluck at lpaluck@nd.gov or (701) 328-1718. If you have questions pertaining to Title I, please contact Laurie Matzke at lmatzke@nd.gov or (701) 328-2284.

Prairie Public Courses

Prairie Public's TeacherLine offers educators the opportunity to advance their careers and enhance their skills with high-quality, standards- and research-based graduate-level courses. These online courses are flexible to fit into busy schedules and have no scheduled login requirements. Weekly assignments can be completed whenever and wherever it's convenient. Take advantage of being able to participate from the warmth of your home or school, without the added expense and hassle of driving during the winter months!

Enroll in *Math in Everyday Life for Grades K-5* beginning February 17, 2010. Make mathematics “real” for your young students with a fresh look at problem solving, calculators, and the Internet in the classroom. Review the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) calculator-usage and problem-solving standards for a framework to design lesson plans, address content, and meet state standards. Then, develop a “walking field trip” through tasks found in students’ daily lives.

This course has been approved for a North Dakota Title I math credential renewal when taken for graduate credit through NDSU.

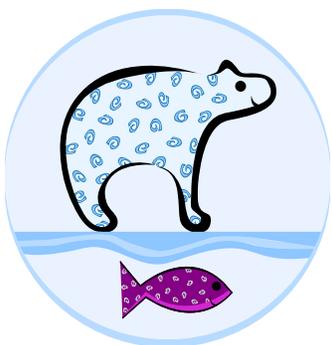
Visit Prairie Public's website at www.prairiepublic.org/education/educators/teacherline/sessions/ for more class details, to view the class syllabus, and to register. You can also contact Prairie Public at education@prairiepublic.org or at 701-239-7551.

Title I IVN Training

Early this month, the state Title I office hosted a Title I IVN training. This training informed authorized representatives, Title I coordinators, and business managers of the changes made to the Title I ARRA Quarterly Report. The USDE has changed this report again and, as a result of these changes, we provided a step-by-step review of the report. During this training, we also provided updated information regarding federal funding and other pertinent Title I issues.

All IVN handouts and the revised Quarterly Report are available at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/present.shtm on our website. We received many positive comments regarding the new on-line streaming method and will definitely use this method again when we have future Title I IVN trainings.

If you were unable to participate in the actual training or did not have a chance to view the streaming option on the NDSU website, you have the opportunity to check out a DVD of this training from the Title I office. If you wish to check out a DVD, please contact Patty Carmichael at pcarmichael@nd.gov or (701) 328-3264.



Monthly Featured Articles

21st Century Learning Centers Funding Update

Sunday afternoon, December 13, 2009, the U.S. Senate voted 57 to 35 to approve the FY 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Conference Report. President Obama signed the bill into law on Wednesday, December 16. The legislation includes a \$35 million increase for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative, bringing the total funding for 21st CCLCs to \$1.166 billion. Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Cochran, leaders of the Senate Appropriations Labor, HHS, Education Subcommittee, as well as the House Appropriations Labor, HHS, Education Subcommittee Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt, are to be commended for their leadership which will help 35,000 more students access quality after-school programs in 2010. While we are delighted that more students will be able to benefit from after-school programs that enhance learning, keep students safe and help working families, it is important to remember that more than 18 million students would enroll in an after-school program if one were available to them.

Student Roles and Responsibilities in the Secondary Transition Planning Process

Transition planning is mandated for all students with disabilities age 16 and older through the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). Transition planning and services focus on a coordinated set of student-centered activities designed to facilitate the student's movement from school to post-school activities. Transition planning is a student-centered activity that requires a collaborative effort. Responsibilities are shared by the student, parents, secondary personnel, and post-secondary personnel, all of whom are members of the transition Individualized Education Program (IEP) team.

The student's participation, along with support from other team members, is central to transition planning and decision making. All transition planning must begin with and continue to be focused on the student's postsecondary goals. This includes asking the student to identify their preferences and interests and to attend meetings on transition planning. Encouraging and training the student to lead their IEP meeting will facilitate increased self-advocacy skills.

Go to www.nichcy.org/informationResources/Documents/NICHCY%20PUBS/ST1.pdf for an excellent resource, *The Student Guide to the IEP*.

To contribute to successful transition planning, the student should:

- Understand his or her disability and how it impacts his or her learning.
- Establish realistic goals.
- Know how, when, and where to discuss and request needed accommodations.
- Develop and use social skills.
- Seek instructors and learning environments that are supportive.
- Identify and access resources that will provide needed support.
- Select courses that meet post-secondary environment requirements.
- Maintain an ongoing personal file that includes school and medical records, IEPs, current résumé, and sample academic work.
- Explore post-secondary options and entrance requirements, if applicable.



Early Childhood Programming

The Department of Public Instruction has seen an increased interest in preschool programming over the past few years. Now, with the enactment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and increased federal funding, even more districts are interested in pursuing preschool programming. The department fully endorses and supports quality early childhood programming.

Guidance on using Title I funds to establish a preschool program can be found at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/earlychild/index.shtm on the state Title I website. A current list of Title I preschools and the Preschool Monitoring Tool are currently under construction at this time, and will be made available on our website upon completion.

School-By-School Expenditure Report



Just a reminder that the Title I ARRA school-by-school expenditure report is due soon.

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 managers 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. Also included on the website is a Checklist on Definitions of School-Level Expenditures. This checklist must also be submitted along with the completed template.

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.

If you have questions on the school-by-school expenditure reporting process, please consult with either your Title I contact person, Stephanie Gullickson at sgullickson@nd.gov or 701-328-2176, or Laurie Matzke at lmatzke@nd.gov or 701-328-2284.

State Fiscal Stabilization Phase II Plan Submitted

In order for states to get their phase two funding under the state Fiscal Stabilization Fund, they had to submit an application. In the application, states provided information in four key areas of education reform:

1. achieving equity in teacher distribution;
2. improving collection and use of data;
3. standards and assessments; and
4. supporting struggling schools.

This application was submitted to the USDE was January 11, 2010. The completed application can be accessed at www.dpi.state.nd.us/stimulus/stabilization.shtm on the department's website.



IDEA Updates

This month's IDEA update will serve as a "Save the Date" announcement for an exciting upcoming event, the 7th Annual Assistive Technology Expo on April 15, 2010. This event will provide up-to-date information to attendees on an important requirement of IDEA, assistive technology.

Assistive technology is not just for students being served under IDEA; it is for anyone who has difficulty hearing, seeing, speaking, learning, working, remembering, or performing everyday tasks. The 7th Annual Assistive Technology Expo is the place to learn about how assistive technology can help any individual with these difficulties. Make plans to attend this important conference, which will be held at the Ramada Plaza Suites in Fargo, North Dakota.

Assistive technology (AT) helps people do many things such as: remembering to take medication, hearing on the phone, reading, communicating, accessing the computer, and controlling their environment. This expo offers presentations and exhibits on all types of AT devices and services for people of any age and ability to help them live, learn, work, and play. This event is for anyone interested in AT for themselves, a friend, family member, student, or client. Whether you have a child with a learning disability, a parent with memory loss or you need help staying in your own home and getting back to work, this expo is for you!

The day includes a morning of presentations by AT providers and vendors. There is a registration fee of \$30 for these sessions and lunch. Scholarships are available to individuals with disabilities on a first-come, first-serve basis.

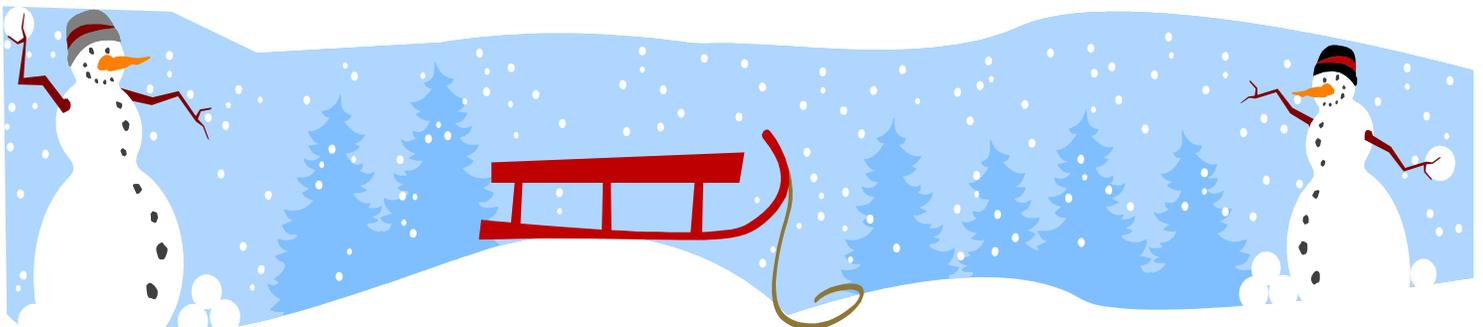
From 11:00 am – 6:00 pm, over 60 vendors and service organizations are expected to be represented the AT EXPO Exhibit Hall. This area is free and open to the public.

Staff from IPAT, the ND State AT Program, will also be available the day of the expo to demonstrate a range of specialized telephones that are available through the ND Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Service.

In the afternoon, the Shriners will hold a free Orthopedic Care Clinic to screen children for eligibility to receive free care at Shriners Hospitals. This clinic will be just down the hall from the AT Expo Exhibit Hall at the Ramada Plaza Suites.

This event is a combined effort of volunteers and organizations. The current planning committee organizations include: Connections of Moorhead, IPAT-Interagency Program for Assistive Technology, Anne Carlson Center, Fraser, Ltd., Job Service North Dakota, MN STAR, ND Protection & Advocacy Project, SEHSC Regional Aging Services, and West Fargo Public Schools.

More information on presentations, vendors and how to register for this event can be found at www.atexpo.org or by contacting Daphne Meyers at daphne@atexpo.org or 877-760-2939 or 701-235-2330.



Upcoming Events

✦ **2010 Private School Web Ex 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.

✦ **Response to Intervention (RTI) Year 1 Schools, Training Day #3**

Western ND: Seven Seas, Mandan on February 28, 2010
Eastern ND: Grand Forks Education Center on March 1, 2010

✦ **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.

✦ **2010-2011 Schoolwide Planning Workshop #1**

The 2010-2011 Schoolwide Planning Workshop #1 will be held on Wednesday, May 5, 2010 in Bismarck. Information will be available in the spring of 2010 at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

✦ **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

- Submit Mid-Year Title I Financial Report documenting all expenditures through December 31. Due January 12, 2010.
- Notify parents of the release of District and School report cards and profiles.
- Submit School-By-School Expenditure Report. Due January 29, 2010.

Teachers

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



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