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Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Report Release

The Department of Public Instruction issued **preliminary** Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) reports on August 22, 2003. The reports are posted on the Department's secure On-Line Reporting System under the 2002-03 AYP Report and can be generated as a pdf format at the following address: www.dpi.state.nd.us/ors under "Other Reports/AYP Reports." Contact your district administrator if you do not have authority to access this report.

Upon this release, the Department requested that school districts review and validate demographic and special codes data that was submitted for the March 2003 state assessment. In addition, any school identified as not having met AYP entered into an automatic appeal process. This process entails an additional review to correct and validate any errant information that may affect a school's AYP status.

Due to an internal audit of the rules that govern the AYP process, a significant change has been made to the 2002-2003 AYP reports. Since the 2001-2002 school year was meant to be baseline data only, the Department is not going to use that data to make any first-time AYP identifications. On September 11, 2003, a memo from the Department on this issue was sent via e-mail. The memo urged school personnel to review the updated AYP reports, which reflect changes made due to not using the 2001-2002 data.

In addition, the Department now provides instructions regarding the interpretation of these AYP reports. These instructions should aid educators and the public to better understand the major components of the AYP reports. These instructions can be accessed at www.dpi.state.nd.us/testing/account/AYPINST.pdf.

The Department will release and make public the final AYP information on Wednesday, September 17, 2003. Waiting until Wednesday will allow participants at the Department's Educational Improvement Conference to return to school before the final AYP information is released.

Please note that all schools are required by law to share and disseminate this information to parents and community members. Sample letters are available on the Title I web site at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthoriz/index.shtm. Look under the heading "Testing and Adequate Yearly Progress."

Student Selection Tool

Title I services should be made available to those students who are not working at grade level and are not meeting grade level standards. To assist Title I teachers in determining which students to serve, the State Title office contracted with seven North Dakota teachers to create a sample student selection tool. This tool can be used to assess where students are performing and help determine if Title I services are needed. The teachers who created this tool referenced the North Dakota standards and grade level expectations when developing the assessments. A sample student selection tool was created for each grade level K-6 in both reading and math.

Student Selection Tool continued on page 2.

Student Selection Tool (continued)

Please do not feel obligated to use the sample student selection tool when determining your caseload. This tool simply is a sample, an assessment that may be used to assist in the selection process. The tool could also be used as one of the three local assessments required for Title I students.

For several reasons, we are experiencing a delay in the official website release of this tool. These reasons include: there are several high priority website projects within the Department (e.g., official AYP release), there have been some complications in getting copyright permission letters from companies for some of the reading passages, and the Department has an extensive proofing protocol. Your patience is appreciated in awaiting the official release of this tool. The sample student selection tool will be available online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/index.shtm under the Title I resources section. Please check back for its official posting.

How Will North Dakota Define Highly Qualified?

The *No Child Left Behind* Act is federal legislation which makes significant changes in education. One of the key components in the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) Act is the highly qualified staff provision.

The Department of Public Instruction and the Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) have been working to define “highly qualified” since the new bill was enacted on January 8, 2002. The Education Standards and Practices Board has been the main entity responsible for defining “highly qualified” because of the Board’s licensing authority. During the spring 2003 Legislative session, H.B. 1489 was introduced by the Education Standards and Practices Board and passed.

The Education Standards and Practices Board held a meeting in May 2003 and conducted regional workshops in July 2003 to share with school personnel the progress made thus far to define “highly qualified” in North Dakota. A copy of ESPB’s working definition of “highly qualified” for North Dakota teachers can be accessed on the Title I web site at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthoriz/qualified.shtm.

In preparing for the start of school year 2003-2004, it was unclear what the Department of Public Instruction’s role is in defining what course titles fit the NCLB “core” content areas. Therefore, the Department of Public Instruction has requested an Attorney General’s opinion as to specifically what the Education Standards and Practices Board’s role is and what the Department of Public Instruction’s role is in defining “highly qualified” and provide an interpretation of the language in HB 1489 regarding licensure and accreditation.

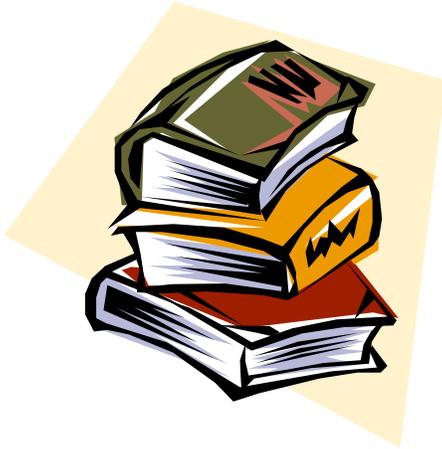
Meanwhile, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction was required to submit our final state plan to the U.S. Department of Education on September 1, 2003. This plan required states to report baseline data on LEP students, persistently dangerous schools and the number of courses being taught by “highly qualified” teachers according to the federal definition. The state plan also requires us to submit our definition of “highly qualified” in North Dakota.

The pending Attorney General’s opinion may have an impact on how North Dakota defines “highly qualified.” For the September 1 submission, it was decided that we would submit the definition that the Education Standards and Practices Board has been working on since *No Child Left Behind* was enacted. However, there is no data collection in place to report on the number of courses being taught by “highly qualified” teachers according to the Education Standards and Practices Board’s definition. Therefore, an operational definition was used to submit baseline data on the “highly qualified” provision. A detailed description of the operational definition can be found in the state plan, which is available to view on the Title I web site at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthorize/index.shtm.

So, where do we go from here? Well, we will wait for the Attorney General’s opinion to be released and will wait to see what the USDE’s response will be to our “highly qualified” definition submitted in our state plan. The answer to those two issues will pave the way for how we proceed on defining “highly qualified” in North Dakota.

Reading First Update

Six districts, which include eight school buildings, have begun their first school year as Reading First schools. The second round of competitions is scheduled this fall, with the due date for Reading First applications being October 30, 2003. The State Reading First office anticipates funding 12 more school districts. An NDRF Grant Writing Workshop is scheduled for September 26, 2003 in Bismarck to assist interested districts with their Reading First application. To find out if your district is eligible and/or to obtain a registration form for the workshop, check out the Reading First website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/reading/index.shtm.



The ND Reading Academy is scheduled for October 3-4, 2003 in Bismarck. The ND Reading Academy is usually a four-day training. The academy is a professional development training that can help school districts meet the challenges of *No Child Left Behind*. The academy is built on scientifically-based reading research that includes explicit and systematic instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. It also highlights grouping, monitoring student progress to inform instruction, and provides interventions for struggling readers. Only kindergarten and first grade academies will be covered at the October 3-4 training, and because of the condensed time frame of two days versus the usual four-day training, only half of the materials will be covered. Next summer the full four-day trainings will be available for grades K, 1, 2, and 3.

The ND Reading Academies are mandatory for all staff who work with grades K and 1 in Reading First schools. Anyone from any school is welcome to register; however, staff in the Reading First schools will be given priority. There is a \$60 registration fee for each participant, which covers the cost of the materials, breakfast, and lunch. Registration forms can be found on the Reading First website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/reading/index.shtm.

Title I Fall Conference

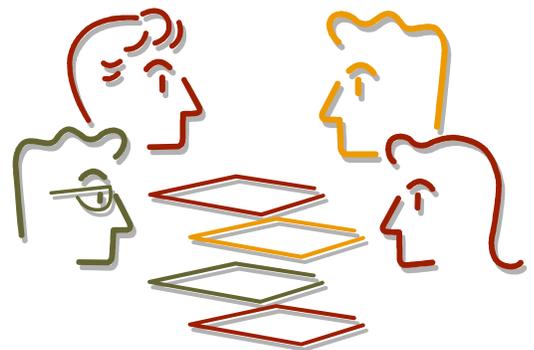
The 2003 Title I Fall Conference has been scheduled for October 15-17, 2003 at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck (formerly the Radisson Inn). Room reservations are available through contacting the Ramkota at 1-800-782-9422.

This year's conference will start with a pre-conference seminar held on Wednesday, October 15, 2003. The featured speaker for the pre-conference seminar is Donna Gordon from San Diego, California.

The conference includes sectionals on reading, math, assessment, technology, and other miscellaneous topics.

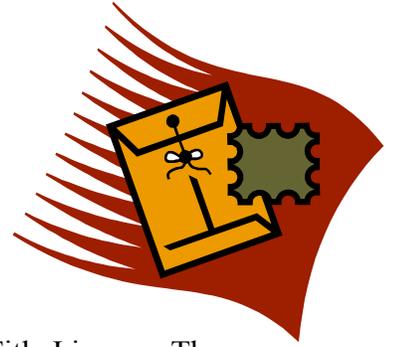
Registration information was sent in the Title I August mailing. You can also find information on this conference on the Title I website at <http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm>. If you are interested in attending this conference, please register as soon as possible. The deadline for registration is September 24, 2003.

If you have any questions regarding the conference, please contact Missy Schiller, conference coordinator, in the Title I unit. You may contact her by telephone at (701) 328-2254 or by e-mail at mschiller@state.nd.us.



August Mailing

In late August, a mailing was sent from the Title I office to all Title I authorized representatives, Title I coordinators, and Title I teachers across the state. This mailing contained a wealth of information pertinent to all those involved with Title I programming. Bulleted below are the highlights of the mailing. You can also access the entire mailing online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/mailings/index.shtm.



- **School Support Team** – Exemplary Title I educators have been identified and asked to be representatives on the Title I School Support Team. These individuals are extremely knowledgeable about the Title I program and Title I issues. The department encourages all schools to utilize these team members when crossing your own Title I hurdles. They are there for your assistance. More information on the School Support Team can be found online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/resource/support/index.shtm.
- **Title I Fall Conference** – The Title I Fall Conference will be held in Bismarck, North Dakota at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel on October 15-17, 2003. Further conference information and the registration form is available online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.
- **Outstanding Title I Educator** – The State Title I office strongly encourages you to consider nominating your Title I teacher for the Outstanding Title I Educator Award.
- **Title I Reallocated Funds** – Title I schools may apply for additional funding through the Title I reallocated funds program. The application for these funds is to be submitted to the Department by September 24, 2003.
- **Schoolwide Planning Workshop** – Title I schools who desire more flexibility with their funding may want to consider becoming a schoolwide Title I program. If this is true for you, please consider attending the Schoolwide Planning Workshop on September 29, 2003. Registration information can be found online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.
- **Title I Monitoring** – The Title I program will be conducting independent monitoring visits for the 2003-2004 program year. Please refer to the mailing for a further description of these changes.
- **Sample Student Selection Tool** – Over the course of the summer, the State Title I office contracted with several teachers to develop a sample student selection tool that may be used by Title I teachers to help determine their student caseload. These samples will soon be available online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/index.shtm under the resource section.
- **Technical Assistance Survey** – The intent of this survey is to gather information on the technical assistance needs of Title I teachers, coordinators, and authorized representatives.
- **Title I IVN Session Update** – The State Title I office hosted an IVN session on August 18, 2003. The mailing included a short summary of highlights of the IVN session.

As stated above, the entire August mailing can be accessed online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/mailings/index.shtm.



Director's Corner

As we begin another school year, we are all struggling to comply with the issues brought forth in the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) Act. Schools are currently reviewing and validating the accuracy of the initial AYP report data. The final AYP reports are scheduled to be released the week of September 15-19, 2003. In addition, many schools are surveying staff to determine which teachers need to begin taking coursework or utilize the state portfolio option to become highly qualified by July 1, 2006.

Senator Conrad sponsored an official public hearing on NCLB on August 27, 2003. A state and local panel presented testimony to the Senator on issues pertaining to NCLB. This testimony will be shared with the Senate Budget Committee. Senator Conrad was very receptive to the concerns expressed by the panel members and reiterated his support in securing funding for NCLB. Interestingly, Senator Conrad asked all seven panel members whether they would vote to:

1. Get rid of NCLB.
 2. Keep the law as it is.
- Or
3. Keep the law but make changes.



All seven panel members said they would vote to keep NCLB but make necessary changes in order for schools, districts, and states to realistically comply with the law.

September is a hectic month in the State Title I office as well. State Title I staff are reviewing consolidated applications and providing feedback to school personnel on the three Title I forms that were submitted with the application.

In addition, we continue to plan for our annual Title I Fall Conference. We have many excellent presenters lined up and always look forward to honoring our Outstanding Title I Educator and Caught-in-the-Act recipients. Please register early if you plan to attend as space is limited. Registration information can be obtained online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

New Names But Not New Faces

You will recognize two new names in the State Title I office. Sandy (Aune) Peterson and Ann (Grausam) Ellefson of the Title I unit said their marriage vows on August 9, 2003 and August 23, 2003, respectively.

Please make note of their new contact information.

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Mary Ann Mousel
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Office Fax: 701-328-4770
Toll Free: 1-888-605-1951

Upcoming Events

NDDPI Conference on Educational Improvement

September 14-16, 2003 Bismarck, ND Best Western Ramkota Hotel

On line registration is available at www.dpi.state.nd.us/survey/edimprov.shtm or you may contact Patricia Laubach at (701) 328-4525 or plaubach@state.nd.us.

Reading First Grant Writing Workshop

September 26, 2003 Bismarck, ND State Capitol

For more information please contact Gail Burkett at (701) 328-2285 or gburkett@state.nd.us.

Schoolwide Planning Workshop

September 29, 2003 Bismarck, ND Kelly Inn

More information is available at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

Reading Academies

October 3-4, 2003 Jamestown, ND Daktoa Inn

For more information please contact Gail Burkett at (701) 328-2285 or gburkett@state.nd.us.

Title I Fall Conference

October 15-17, 2003 Bismarck, ND Best Western Ramkota Hotel

More information is available at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

NDEA Fall Conference

October 23-24, 2003 Grand Forks, ND

More information is available at www.ndea.org/new.html.

North Dakota Parent Involvement Resources

Resources Developed by the State of North Dakota

- **A Parents Guide to NCLB**
<http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/brochurs/nochild.pdf>
- **Information On Title I**
<http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/brochurs/info.pdf>
- **Math Strategies and Ideas**
<http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/brochurs/math.pdf>
- **Parent Involvement Information**
<http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/brochurs/parent.pdf>
- **Reading Strategies and Ideas**
<http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/brochurs/reading.pdf>

Autumn Splendor
By Elise Natalie Brady

There's a little twinge of sadness
When Summer disappears,
But Autumn brings new gladness
And joys this time of year.