



Title I News

March 2004

- **Summary of Teacher Corps Meeting**
- **Title I Funding for 2004-2005**
- **Consolidated Application Process for 2004-2005**
- **Reading First Update**
- **Director's Report**
- **Upcoming IRA Conference**
- **ND Education Committees Meet to Discuss Alternate Assessment**
- **Spring Title I Meeting Update**
- **Program Improvement Workshop Update**
- **Aide/ Paraprofessional Survey Reminder**
- **Constance McCullough Award Announced**
- **Math Month – April 2004**
- **Title I Unit Staff**
- **Upcoming Events**

Summary of Teacher Assistance Corps Meeting

The U.S. Department of Education (USDE) has established a new initiative through the WESTAT corporation to assist states in meeting the highly qualified provision in the *No Child Left Behind* Act called “Teacher Assistance Corps.” This outreach effort consists of a team of education experts, researchers, and practitioners from outside the USDE and USDE personnel who provide support to states as they carry out the highly qualified staff provision.



The “Teacher Assistance Corps” travel to states and perform on-site reviews tailored to the needs and concerns of individual states. The teams offer guidance and feedback on state efforts, address specific state challenges, and provide useful information from other states about promising practices in the field.

A five member Teacher Assistance Corps team, which consisted of two members from the field, two members from the USDE, and one member from WESTAT, came to North Dakota on February 11, 2004. The team met with Education Standards and Practices Board members, DPI personnel, and other educational leaders to discuss how our state is implementing the teacher quality provision. Janet Welk, Executive Director of the Education Standards and Practices Board, provided an overview of North Dakota’s plan and summarized the work regarding teacher quality that has been done to date since NCLB was enacted in January 2002.

The team members were generally receptive of North Dakota’s definition of highly qualified. They were particularly impressed with North Dakota’s solution to our composite degree issue established for science and social studies. They indicated that it is the most defensible that they have seen to date.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the requirements for special education teachers and what it means for them to be highly qualified. The panel reiterated that no final decisions or interpretations can be made until the IDEA reauthorization is complete.

At the close of the meeting, we asked the team, point blank, “Is North Dakota in compliance with the NCLB requirements pertaining to the teacher quality provision?” The team indicated that they did not have the charge or the authority to provide an answer to the question since their role is more to provide support and feedback as to what different states are doing across the country. They could only say that all states need to have a legally defensible answer for what they are doing when monitored by the USDE.

In summary, all who participated in the meeting agreed that the visit was beneficial. It was helpful to receive their feedback and rewarding to hear their positive comments.



Title I Funding for 2004-2005

In January 2004, Congress passed the appropriations for the 2004-2005 school year in PL 108-199. Nationally, Title I received a modest increase.

To date, we have not received an official copy of the estimated state allocations. Preliminary figures are available for each state on the USDE's website at www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/index.html?src=rt.

According to the preliminary figures, North Dakota's state Title I allocation decreased minimally. As soon as we receive the official amounts from the USDE, our department will calculate estimated federal Title allocations for the 2004-2005 school year. We anticipate that these figures will be available on our department website by late March 2004.

Consolidated Application Process for 2004-2005

Staff in the Department of Public Instruction are working on finalizing the form and review process for the 2004-2005 consolidated application for federal Title funding. There are several key changes to the consolidated application process for next year. Please note the following:

- The consolidated application is going to be due earlier so that Department staff can review them earlier and approve the applications before school starts for the 2004-2005 school year. The tentative due date is May 28, 2004.
- School district personnel will have the opportunity to submit the consolidated application electronically or by paper. We highly encourage districts to submit their applications electronically. Those that are submitted electronically will be able to be reviewed more quickly because all units will have access to the information at the same time. The paper copy will have to be routed to each unit director, which is much more time consuming than the electronic review.
- A copy of the consolidated application and revised directions and guidance will be available on the department's website by mid March 2004 for those interested in submitting the application by paper.
- Beverly Fischer is working on setting up an IVN meeting to provide a demonstration for those schools interested in submitting the application electronically.
- The directions and guidance have been significantly updated to help personnel complete the consolidated application. A list of authorized activities has been generated for the following key categories in a Title I program:
 - Targeted assistance
 - 5% set aside for teacher quality
 - School choice/supplemental services
 - Schoolwide
 - Non-public
 - Program Improvement professional development

For each of the categories that are applicable for a district, you will select the activities that you will implement for the 2004-2005 school year from a pre-generated list.

The guidance will provide more specific information for both targeted assistance and schoolwide programs to help schools as they allocate their Title I funds on the consolidated application.

Reading First Update

A good core reading program is essential to the success of Reading First schools. The focus of Reading First is on the 90 minutes of core reading instruction time within K-3 classrooms. Nationally, the Rigby Literacy Program has been under close scrutiny as a core reading program for Reading First schools. According to the U.S. Department of Education, the Rigby Literacy Program is based on scientifically-based reading research and it does touch upon each of the five essential components, but the Rigby Literacy Program is not systematic or explicit. North Dakota has had to remove the Rigby Literacy Program from the list of "approved" core reading programs. The Rigby Literacy Program does have scientific research behind it and has been used within schools in North Dakota with great success. Even though the Rigby Literacy Program cannot be used as a core reading program, it can be used as a supplemental/intervention program in Reading First programs.

Director's Report

As I am out presenting at various conferences or fielding questions over the phone, I've noticed that there still are a number of *No Child Left Behind* issues that are misunderstood. For my Director's Report this month, I thought I would take the opportunity to provide clarification on several key issues that have been repeatedly brought to my attention.

- **Issue:** What are the requirements to teach middle school?

Clarification: The requirements to teach middle school are different for regular education teachers than for Title I teachers. Title I teachers are not required to have the 16 semester hours in each content area. A Title I teacher who has obtained the middle school endorsement and holds a reading and/or math credential is **only** considered highly qualified to teach **Title I** to grades five through eight in a middle school/junior high setting. Please note that although you are qualified to teach Title I in a middle school/junior high setting by meeting the requirements listed above, you may not be qualified to teach regular education in a middle school/junior high setting. The requirements for Title I teachers are available on the Title I website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/. The requirements for regular education teachers are specified in the Education Standards and Practices Board Toolkit, which can be found online at www.state.nd.us/esp.

- **Issue:** Which teachers can access the five percent set aside of Title I funds for teacher quality?

Clarification: North Dakota has permission to use the 5% set aside funds for staff other than Title I personnel. However, the following three stipulations are a condition of this approval.

- Title I personnel are to have first priority in utilizing the funds.
- The funds can only be used to help those teachers teaching core subjects. These funds cannot help teachers in non-core subjects such as PE, counseling or drivers education.
- The funds can only be used for teachers in buildings that receive Title I funds and services. Therefore, if you have only an elementary Title I program and your 7-12 students are in a separate building, then you can only assist your elementary teachers with the Title I set aside funds.

- **Issue:** What if we don't need the 5% set aside for teacher quality?

Clarification: If schools don't need the entire amount of set aside funds for teacher quality activities, they can reallocate them back into their Title I program. This information would be completed on the Budget Revision for 5% Set Aside Funding form (SFN 53674).

If the funds are reallocated back into the Title I program, they can only be used for allowable Title I expenditures.

- **Issue:** Is there a limit on the numbers of students who can take the alternate assessment?

Clarification: No. The *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) Act does not put a cap on the number of students who are allowed to take the alternate assessment. Rather, the NCLB Act caps, at 1%, the number of proficient and advanced scores that may be included in AYP determinations for each school for the students with disabilities subgroup.

- **Issue:** How does a district determine how many students can be included in the 1% cap?

Clarification: The 1% rule is based on the **total number of students tested** at the district level.

- **Issue:** When will North Dakota begin the additional testing required in the NCLB Act?

Clarification: The department anticipates implementing the 3-8 testing and switching to grade 11 for the high school span starting with the 2004-2005 school year. **However**, the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) reports won't reflect the 3-8 testing until the 2005-2006 school year. For the 2004-2005 school year, all students in grades 3-8 and 11 will be tested; however, the AYP reports will only reflect the testing results from grades 4, 8, and 11.

Director's Report – continued

- **Issue:** How do I proceed with Title I aides/paraprofessionals wanting to pursue the option of taking a State-approved assessment to meet the requirements of the NCLB Act?

Clarification: State education agencies have the responsibility for generating a list of state-approved assessments that aides/paraprofessionals may choose from to meet the requirements of the law.

It is up to the school district and the responsible parties involved to contact the companies of any approved assessments and make the necessary arrangements. Many individuals have been contacting the State Title I office in an attempt to sign up for the test. Our office is not able to set up the testing. You need to contact the companies directly. Please visit the Title I website at: www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/aides.shtm for specific information on each state approved assessment.

- **Issue:** How do I know which aides/paraprofessionals must meet the requirements as specified in the NCLB Act.

Clarification: In a targeted assistance program, the law pertains to any aide/paraprofessional employed with Title I funding. In a schoolwide program, the law pertains to ALL instructional aides/paraprofessionals in the building **regardless of the funding source**. This includes aides paid with district, Title I, special education, BIA, or other funding sources. Schools and districts that have any instructional aides/paraprofessionals who do not meet the requirements by July 2005 put their Title I funding in jeopardy.

If you would like to discuss any of the issues in more detail, please contact me by e-mail at lmatzke@state.nd.us or by phone at (701) 328-2284.

Upcoming IRA Conference

The 31st Plains IRA Regional Conference will be held in Bismarck October 6-9, 2004. The impressive roster of featured speakers includes professionals in the fields of reading, math, music, early childhood, elementary, and secondary, research, literacy and No Child Left Behind. There will be something for everyone at all levels of education.

Several authors have expressed an interest in visiting schools either prior to the conference or afterwards. The following is a list of these author names:

- Ben Mikaelson is an author from Bozeman MT who writes stories of adventure for older youth. Some of the titles are *Stranded*, *Petey*, and *Rescue of Josh McQuire*.
- Gary Dulabaum is an early childhood educator, songwriter, musician, author/storyteller from Vermont. *My teacher Rides a Harley*; *Enhancing K-5 Literacy Through Songwriting* is the title of his book and accompanying CD.
- Sneed Collard III is a nonfiction writer from Missoula MT. He received Junior Library Guild Selection for *Beaks* and the Outstanding Award for Science Trade books for *Butterfly Count*.
- Kenneth Thomasma is the author of the series called "Amazing Indian Children" and the nonfiction book titled *The Truth about Sacajewea*. He is a professional storyteller and writing workshop leader from ID.
- Joy Steiner is an educator, musician, and storyteller from Boise, ID.
- Peter and Connie Roop are authors of 65 children's books including: *Keep the Reading Lights Burning* and *Abbie*. The Roops have written science, social studies, history, biography, and fiction. The Roops' books, ranging from kindergarten through 8th grade, have won numerous national awards. Over twenty of their books are Accelerated Reader books. Connie Roop's grandparents homesteaded in the Wilton, North Dakota.

This is an excellent opportunity for school districts and libraries to plan ahead and take advantage of authors who will be in our state and desire to share their expertise with our North Dakota young people.

For further information contact Marvia Boettcher at Bismarck Public Library 222-6412 or by email at m.boettcher@mail.infolynx.org.

ND Education Committees Meet to Discuss Alternate Assessments

Under the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB), the U.S. Department of Education requires states to assess all students in terms of their proficiency toward reaching the state's high academic achievement standards. State assessments are to measure the progress of all students and subgroups of students, including those receiving special education services. Since the enactment, there has been much controversy surrounding the assessment of special education students and their status as a separate subgroup for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) identification. Because of the controversy, the U.S. Department of Education agreed to revisit the issue.

In December 2003, the U.S. Department of Education released final regulations on alternate achievement standards and alternate assessments for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The final regulations provided clarification on two significant issues pertaining to the use of alternate achievement standards and alternate assessments. First, the final regulations provide an opportunity for states to adopt out-of-level testing as an "alternate assessment" for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Second, the final regulations confirm that a 1.0 percent cap will remain for the number of proficient and advanced scores from students taking an alternative assessment that can be counted toward AYP. In other words, States may use student scores from alternate assessments (including, if the state chooses, out-of-level assessments) in the calculations of AYP. However, only 1.0 percent of the proficient and advanced scores can count towards AYP.

Because of these new allowances, all states need to revisit their alternative assessment policies and consider revising their State plan for meeting NCLB regulations. The Department of Public Instruction has established a team of educators from across the state to review the final regulations released in December 2003 from the U. S. Department of Education and to make recommendations to the state superintendent on revisions to our state's plan.

On February 5, 2004, educators from the state's Standards, Assessments, Learning & Teaching (SALT) Team and the state's newly formed Committee on Out-of-Level and Alternative Assessments gathered at the Capitol in Bismarck to begin discussions on what these new regulations will mean for North Dakota students and schools. Much of the day was spent understanding the significance of the new federal regulations regarding alternative achievement standards and the significance of the 1.0 percent cap. There was also much discussion on the use of out-of-level testing as a means of measuring students against alternate achievement standards. The issue is an extremely complicated one, and everyone agreed that, before any decisions are made, more discussion is needed to determine the best approach for students with significant cognitive disabilities. In the end, no decisions were made and the committees agreed to continue to meet over the next several months.

Spring Title I Meeting Update

The State Title I office is hosting spring Title I meetings in Fargo, North Dakota on May 3, 2004 and in Mandan, North Dakota on May 6, 2004. All Title I personnel, principals, and superintendents are invited to attend one of the two meetings.

The meetings will start with an overview of the progress made to date regarding the *No Child Left Behind Act* in North Dakota. Additionally, information will be provided on the Title I monitoring process for the 2004-2005 school year, the upcoming Title I-Special Education Collaborative Summer Institutes, and the final financial report and personnel report due for all Title I schools.

There will be breakout sessions for Title I teachers and Title I administrators in which we will share the latest resources available to strengthen the various components of your Title I program. Personnel will be divided by targeted assistance and schoolwide status for a recap on the regulations governing Title I programs.

The meeting will conclude with Terry Fleck, a.k.a. the "Attitude Doctor," a motivational speaker who will shed new light on the various aspects of change we have encountered since implementing the requirements of the *No Child Left Behind Act*.

Registration information will be posted online soon and mailed to all Title I personnel. Hope to see you there!

Program Improvement Workshop Update

On Monday, April 19, 2004, the State Title I office is sponsoring the annual program improvement workshop.

The workshop will provide a summary of the requirements under the *No Child Left Behind Act* as well as outline what is required from schools once they are identified for Program Improvement. Topics to be covered include:

- Program Improvement plan requirements
- School Choice and Supplemental Services
- Corrective Action
- Additional Funding for Program Improvement
- Technical Assistance for Program Improvement schools
- Additional resources

Program improvement schools and schools who did not make AYP on the 2003 AYP report are required to attend the workshop. A registration form and more information will be sent to all schools at a later date and will be posted online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

Aide Paraprofessional Survey Reminder

Please note: In January 2004, all Title I authorized representatives were sent information about a Paraprofessional Survey. Every school district receiving Title I funding must complete and submit the survey, even if they do not employ any aides/paraprofessionals within their school district. The survey consists of questions regarding the requirements for paraprofessionals as defined in the *No Child Left Behind Act*.

The due date for completed surveys was **February 26, 2004**. If you have not faxed or sent your survey, please do so immediately. The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction must input and calculate all responses, and then submit a response to the USDE by March 31, 2004.

Please return completed surveys to: Nita Wirtz, Title I Program Administrator, Department of Public Instruction, 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 201, Bismarck, ND 58505-0440 or fax them to Nita's attention at (701) 328-4770.

The survey is available online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthoriz/020204memo.pdf.

Constance McCullough Award Announced

On Wednesday, February 18, 2004, Dr. Obiajulu Emejulu and Pam Rettig, a Title I teacher in Bismarck, were given the wonderful news that they had been awarded the Constance McCullough Award for their project, "Winning the Girl Child and Boy Child to Literacy and Literacy Empowerment."

The Constance McCullough Grant Award is a highly competitive grant that is awarded annually by the International Reading Association. Only one award is given each year worldwide! The grant must be submitted simultaneously from North America and a third world country. The main purpose of the Constance McCullough Award is to assist in the investigation of reading-related problems outside North America. This award represents a specific means for working toward three recently articulated goals of IRA: 1) advocacy, 2) professional development, and 3) emerging global issues. The total of the grant was \$5,000.

Pam will travel to Nigeria this summer to team-teach with Dr. Emejulu for two weeks. They will provide their first teacher in-service ever! The plan they based the grant upon involves the purchase of ten tents. These ten tents would be used first for teacher trainings, then as staff rooms for professional sharing and finally, as centers for student writing clubs. It is believed that the military tents could hold up for seven to ten years in the desert climate of the savanna. They believe that by reaching 100 teachers and with each of them having 60 to 70 students a day, the echoes of their teaching will touch 6000 to 7000 students each year.

UNICEF has offered, along with the local government, RAN, to provide funds to keep this project going once they have it up and running. What a wonderful opportunity to promote literacy worldwide and help children far, far away!

A heartfelt congratulations goes out to Dr. Obiajulu Emejulu and Pam Rettig for taking the time and initiative to write the grant!

Math Month – April 2004

This month, keep your eyes peeled for our first annual Math Month Packet. The April 2004 Math Month theme is *Mathematics for All*. The packets will be mailed in March to each school district in North Dakota. The packet envelope will have a red **MATH MONTH** stamp on the front. Be sure to be on the lookout for this packet!

The State Title I office would like to thank Darlene Bondley, Junella Feickert, Kathy Fettig, and Pam Rettig, all of the Bismarck Public School system, for their efforts and great ideas displayed throughout this packet!

Title I Unit Staff

Laurie Matzke

Director
E-mail: lmatzke@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-2284

Gail Burkett

Asst. Director
Reading First Program
E-mail: gburkett@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-2285

Tanya Lunde-Neumiller

Asst. Director
Schoolwide Program
E-mail: tlneumiller@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-4646

Nita Wirtz

Program Administrator
Neglected & Delinquent,
CSRSD, 21st Century Programs
E-mail: nwirtz@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-1876

Ann Ellefson

Program Administrator
Even Start, Homeless Programs
E-mail: aellefson@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-2292

Sandy Peterson

Program Administrator
Migrant Education,
Math and Reading Credentials
E-mail: smpeterson@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-2170

Mary Neigum

Fiscal Officer
E-mail: mneigum@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-2281

Missy Schiller

Administrative Assistant
E-mail: mschiller@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-2254

Patty Carmichael

Administrative Assistant
E-mail: pcarmichael@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-3264

Mary Ann Mousel

Administrative Secretary
E-mail: mmousel@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-2282

Office Fax: (701) 328-4770

Toll Free: (888) 605-1951

Upcoming Events

Title I Targeting Workshop

- March 16, 2004 Bismarck, ND

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

NDCTM – Spring Math Conference

- March 26-27, 2004 Grand Forks, ND

For more information, please visit
www.sendit.nodak.edu/ndctm/spring2004.information.html.

NDRA – Spring Conference

- April 15-17, 2004 Minot, ND

For more information, please visit <http://ndreadon.utma.com/intro.htm>.

Title I Program Improvement Workshop

- April 19, 2004 Bismarck, ND

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

Title I Spring Meetings

- May 3, 2004 Fargo, ND
- May 6, 2004 Mandan, ND

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

49th Annual International Reading Association (IRA) Convention

- May 2-6, 2004 Reno, NV

For more information, please visit www.reading.org/2004.

Title I and Special Education Collaborative Math Summer Institute

- June 28-29, 2004 Mandan, ND

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

Title I and Special Education Collaborative Reading Summer Institute

- July 14-15, 2004 Bismarck, ND

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