



- ◆ Important Information on the Middle School Endorsement
- ◆ List of North Dakota Schools that Employ the Middle School Philosophy
- ◆ Title I and Special Education Collaborative Summer Institutes
- ◆ Exploring Frontiers in Literacy
- ◆ Upcoming 31st Plains Regional IRA Conference
- ◆ Summary of Title I Spring Workshops
- ◆ Questions and Answers from Spring Workshops
- ◆ Changes to North Dakota's State Plan
- ◆ Director's Report
- ◆ 13th Annual Teaching and Technology Conference
- ◆ Reading First Update
- ◆ CSR Grant Announcement
- ◆ Online Algebra Resources
- ◆ Upcoming Events
- ◆ Title I Staff

Important Information on the Middle School Endorsement

Many Title I teachers are either currently pursuing a middle school endorsement or contemplating obtaining a middle school endorsement in order to teach Title I past grade six after July 1, 2006. The State Title I office has provided guidance on this topic in past issues of our Title I newsletters and at our recent spring workshops. This past week we received clarification from Janet Welk, the executive director of the Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB), regarding the required twenty clock-hours of field experience needed in order to obtain a middle school endorsement. **Please read the following information carefully if you are or will be working to obtain a middle school endorsement.**

To obtain a middle school endorsement, an application (SFN 50160) must be submitted to the ESPB office and must include a twenty clock-hour field experience in grades five through eight in **a school setting operating under the middle school philosophy** or successful teaching in grades five through eight in **a school setting operating under the middle school philosophy**.

Exceptions to this requirement are not permissible, as they are stated in ESPB's administrative rules. **Again, the field experience must be from a school that uses the middle school philosophy.** On page 2, you will find a list of all the schools in North Dakota that employ the middle school philosophy.

If you are interested in obtaining a middle school endorsement and have never taught in a setting that uses the middle school philosophy, you will need to contact one of the schools on the list on page 2 and inquire about the possibility of obtaining twenty clock hours of field experience in their building.

Please note, Title I teaching experience in grades five through eight at a school that employs the middle school concept **will** count towards the twenty hours of clock time. If you have questions regarding this issue, please contact one of the following individuals:

- Janet Welk, Executive Director, ESPB
(701) 328-1659
jwelk@state.nd.us
- Laurie Matzke, Title I Director
(701) 328-2284
lmatzke@state.nd.us
- Sandy Peterson, Title I Credential Administrator
(701) 328-2170
smpeterson@state.nd.us



List of North Dakota Schools that Employ the Middle School Philosophy

City	School	Phone	Contact Person
Belcourt	Turtle Mt. Community Middle School	(701) 477-6471	Louis Dauphinais
Beulah	Beulah Middle School	(701) 873-4325	Gail Wold
Bismarck	Horizon Middle School	(701) 221-3555	Rudolph Steidl
Bismarck	Simle Middle School	(701) 221-3570	Russell Riehl
Bismarck	Wachter Middle School	(701) 221-3585	James Potter
Devils Lake	Central Middle School	(701) 662-7664	Bob Gibson
Dickinson	A. L. Hagen Jr. High School	(701) 456-0020	Ron Steiner
Fargo	Agassiz Middle School	(701) 446-3205	Brad Larson
Fargo	Ben Franklin Jr. High School	(701) 446-3604	John Nelson
Fargo	Discovery Jr. High School	(701) 446-3300	Marvin Mortenson
Grafton	Grafton Central School	(701) 352-1469	Dennis Hammer
Grand Forks	Nathan Twining Middle School	(701) 787-5100	Mike LaMoine
Grand Forks	Schroeder Middle School	(701) 746-2333	Ken Schill
Grand Forks	South Middle School	(701) 746-2345	Nancy Dutot
Grand Forks	Valley Middle School	(701) 746-2360	Kevin Ohnstad
Inkster	Midway Middle School	(701) 869-2432	Nancy Brueckner
Jamestown	Jamestown Middle School	(701) 252-0317	Joe Hegland
Langdon	Langdon Area Middle School	(701) 256-5291	Richard Rogers
Mandaree	Mandaree Middle School	(701) 759-3311	Carolyn Bluestone
Mayville-Portland CG	May-Port CG Middle School	(701) 788-2281	Mike Bradner
Minot	Erik Ramstad Middle School	(701) 857-4465	James Tschetter
Minot	Jim Hill Middle School	(701) 857-4477	Leslie Anderson
Minot	Memorial Middle School	(701) 727-3300	Ken Maher
Minot	Bishop Ryan Middle School	(701) 852-4004	Jerry Voiles
New Town	New Town Middle School	(701) 627-3660	Chad Dahler
Wahpeton	Wahpeton Middle School	(701) 642-6688	Lynn Sabbe
West Fargo	West Fargo Middle School	(701) 356-2090	Robert Kaspar

Title I and Special Education Collaborative Summer Institutes

The State Title I and State Special Education offices have been working collaboratively to prepare for this year's math and reading summer institutes. The institutes are open to Title I teachers, Special Education teachers, as well as other teaching entities within the school system; however, priority will be given to Title I and Special Education teachers.

The math summer institute is entitled *Family Math*. It will be held at the Best Western Seven Seas in Mandan, North Dakota on June 28-29, 2004. We are currently accepting registrations for this institute. The registration form is available online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/mathreg.pdf. The registration fee of \$75 must be accompanied with this form.

The reading summer institute is entitled *Literacy through Reading and Writing*. This institute will be held at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck, North Dakota. The reading summer institute will be held on July 14-15, 2004. The registration form is available online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/readingreg.pdf. The registration fee of \$75 must be accompanied with this form.

The Title I Upcoming Events website has additional information on both of these institutes. This website can be accessed online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.



Exploring Frontiers in Literacy

The 31st Plains Regional IRA Conference will be held in Bismarck, North Dakota October 6- 9, 2004. The conference is co-sponsored by the North Dakota Reading Association, the International Reading Association, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, North Dakota Title I, and the Bismarck and Mandan Public School systems. The Reading Associations of Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota endorse it as well. The conference is co-chaired by Joyce Hinman and Michele Svihovec of Bismarck.

The conference will offer outstanding literacy learning opportunities for a wide spectrum of educational professionals and students. Who should attend? Curriculum directors, education majors, elementary, secondary, and higher education educators, home school educators, library media specialists, parents, principals, reading specialists, school board members, superintendents, assistant superintendents, teacher mentors, Title I teachers and staff.

Some of the nationally known speakers and authors include Richard Allington (IRA President and author of professional books) Claudia Busch Lee, David Chard, Sneed Collard III, Bernice Cullinan, Brett Dillingham, Gary Dulabaum, Donna Gordon, James Howe, Clay Jenkinson, Jane Kurtz, Ben Mikaelson, Amy Mossett, Jean Patrick, Margie Palatini, Janet Stevens, Kenneth Thomasma, and many more. A complete registration form which includes the conference schedule, the conference strands and topics, the site visits, and more complete information about the speakers and authors is available online at www.reading.org.

There are many folks hard at work planning this wonderful conference. Don't miss this opportunity to join your colleagues at this outstanding literacy event!

Upcoming 31st Plains Regional IRA Conference

Plans are under way for an outstanding Regional IRA Conference to be held in Bismarck, North Dakota on October 6-9, 2004. All Title I personnel are highly encouraged to attend this conference.

What about the Annual Title I Fall Conference?

Since we are fortunate enough to hold a regional conference in our area this year, we will forego our annual Title I Fall Conference for 2004. In lieu of this, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction Title I office will hold a two-hour block session during the 31st Plains Regional IRA Conference to give you an update on Title I issues in North Dakota, present our yearly "Caught-In-The Act" and "Outstanding Educator" awards, plus showcase our year-in-review slideshow. We anticipate this presentation will be held either Thursday or Friday of the convention. Also, each member of the Title I unit has submitted a call for proposal to present breakout sessions during this conference. Watch your conference program for times and dates.

Clarification

On Friday, October 8, 2004 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. there is a luncheon entitled "Title I Luncheon." Richard Long from the USDE will be speaking at this luncheon. This luncheon is a national luncheon and is different than the North Dakota Title I luncheon usually held during our Fall Conference. This year, the North Dakota Title I office will **not** be sponsoring a luncheon, but rather hold a two-hour block session as outlined above.



Registration

Registration is now open for this conference and participants are encouraged to register early as this is a regional conference open to educator's nationwide. Registration forms can be obtained at www.reading.org/meetings/regional_conf.

Hotel Accommodations

You cannot contact the Bismarck-Mandan hotels directly to obtain a room for the Regional IRA Conference. All hotel rooms are reserved as a part of the registration process and are on a first-come-first-serve basis. Therefore, participants are again encouraged to register early.

For Further Information

If you would like further information on this convention visit the IRA website at www.reading.org/meetings/regional_conf.



Summary of Title I Spring Workshops

On Monday, May 3 in Fargo, North Dakota and on Thursday, May 6 in Mandan, North Dakota, the State Title I office sponsored our Title I Spring Workshops. Approximately 550 school personnel participated in these workshops. Copies of all of the information and handouts that were distributed are available on the Title I website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/index.shtm. If you were unable to attend and you work in a Title I program, it is highly recommended that you review the materials that are available on the website. In particular, please review the following handouts:

Title I Teacher

- Credential information in the Title I Update.
- Title I Personnel Report in the Title I Update.
- Information on the Title I Summer Institutes in the Title I Update.
- New resources available under “A Sharing Session for Teachers” (e.g., summer school guidance).

Title I Administrator

- NCLB Updates.
 - Final Financial report form in the Title I Update.
 - Monitoring process for the 2004-2005 school year in the Title I Update.
 - Consolidated Application information in the Title I Update.
 - New resources available under “A Sharing Session for Administrators” (i.e., summer school guidance, “What Needs to be Done” checklist).
-

Questions and Answers from Spring Workshops

During our May Title I spring workshops, there were a few questions that arose that could not be answered without getting further clarification. We announced that we would have a question and answer section in our May, Title I newsletter and address any unanswered questions. Listed below, please find the questions and responses to each issue recorded at the workshop.

- Q. Do the funds provided under NCLB and the funds appropriated through our State legislature pay for private school students to take the State assessment or only for public school students?
- A. Only public school students are required to participate in the State assessment. Non-public schools voluntarily may participate in the State assessment, if they so choose. For a number of years the State assessment has been provided to non-public schools without a charge. The combined effect of the State’s low student population and its minimum pricing strategy with its contractor has allowed the State to provide this service to non-public schools without any additional cost to the State. Given the State’s currently projected low student population, the department anticipates being able to continue the practice of voluntary student assessments for non-public schools.
- Q. The middle school grades currently include grades five through eight. Would/could we ever consider ninth grade as part of a middle school?
- A. Ninth grade is universally recognized as part of high school. In addition, the administrative rules and statute all currently recognize ninth grade as part of high school. There are no plans to reconsider this policy. Under current policy, reconfiguration of grade nine is not optional. It is considered part of high school.
- Q. Is music considered a “core” subject? Please clarify the requirements to teach music.
- A. Yes, music is considered a “core” subject under the arts. To teach music at the elementary level, a teacher would need a major in elementary education or a minor in music. To teach music at the middle school level (grades five through eight), a teacher would need 16 semester hours in music or a minor in music in addition to a teaching license. To teach music at the high school level, a teacher would need a major or major equivalency in music.
-

Questions and Answers from Spring Workshops (continued from page 4)

Q. What are the requirements to teach grades seven and eight in a kindergarten through eighth grade school for regular education teachers and for Title I teachers?

A. Regular Education

The answer to this question depends on whether a “self-contained” method is utilized or a “departmentalized” method is used. The decision is not affected by what grades a particular school serves. If one teacher is teaching grades seven and eight in a self-contained classroom, then an elementary education major is acceptable. However, if the departmentalized method is being employed in grades seven and eight, even in a grade one through grade eight building, then the teacher needs the 16 hours of content in each subject area taught. In addition, if a teacher only has a one through sixth grade license, then a middle school endorsement would be needed to teach grades seven and eight.

Title I

Title I staff teaching in an elementary setting, including in grades one through eight buildings, need an elementary education major and the required course work to obtain a Title I credential. However, if an elementary licensed teacher in a grade one through eight building only has a one through sixth grade license, then they would need to obtain a middle school endorsement. Elementary licensed Title I staff, teaching grades seven and eight in a middle school or junior high setting, need to obtain a middle school endorsement regardless of whether their license is a one through six or a one through eight.

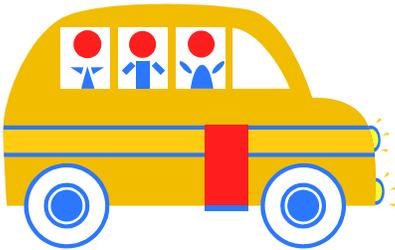


Q. Please provide clarification on North Dakota’s request to revise our definition of one full academic year to 173 instructional days.

A. As stated in current regulations, only students who have been enrolled in a school for one full academic year are included in the school AYP calculations. Currently, North Dakota’s definition of one full academic year includes being enrolled beginning the first day of school for the year in which students are tested. However, we have revised our definition since we will be moving to a fall testing cycle for the 2004-2005 school year. If our request is accepted by the U.S. Department of Education, our revised definition would define a full academic year as one where a student has been enrolled at a school for a period equal to or exceeding 173 instructional days, inclusive of summer school. The North Dakota State assessment will be administered during a three week testing window beginning October 25, 2004. In essence, our revised definition would include all students who were enrolled in a school for 173 instructional days prior to October 25, 2004 in AYP calculations.

Q. For AYP calculations, who claims a student if they transfer within a district or out of a district during a one year period?

A. As indicated in the prior question, only students enrolled in a school for 173 instructional days prior to the testing window are included in the AYP calculations. If a student has been enrolled in a district for 173 instructional days prior to the testing window but transferred to another school within the district, then that student’s scores would be included in the district’s AYP report but not in any school’s AYP report. If the student was not enrolled in the district for 173 instructional days prior to the testing window, then the student’s scores would not be included in the district’s AYP but would be included in the State’s AYP calculations.



Questions and Answers from Spring Workshops (continued from page 5)

Q. If a school employs tutors, what qualifications are required?

- A. For schools that choose to employ instructional tutors to assist students during the school day (i.e., during a study hall) or during an extended day or year program, there are two options.
1. Under the first option, an instructional tutor would need to be a licensed teacher. They would need to be paid by the hour and claimed on the PER02 as a tutor in the general instruction area.
 2. Some schools have expressed interest in paying licensed teaching staff, on contract, to tutor students during the school day. If the time spent tutoring were part of the teaching contract, with full teacher benefits, then the only mechanism in place is the Title I credentialing system. Regardless of whether a teacher is paid with Title I funds, they would need to obtain an appropriate credential specific to the grade levels taught and then be recorded on the MIS03.
-

Changes to North Dakota's State Plan

The Department of Public Instruction submitted written correspondence to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) on March 31, 2004 to make amendments to the North Dakota Consolidated State Application Accountability Workbook, dated June 8, 2003. Amendments requested would allow North Dakota to utilize the recent policy decisions provided by the U.S. Department of Education.

The written correspondence to the USDE requested amendments on the following six specific issues:

1. A request to incorporate into our State Plan the new policy recently issued on participation rates. Specifically, the request will allow North Dakota to use multi-year averaging on the 95% participation rate and to omit students with significant medical conditions from participating in the State assessment.
2. A request to revise our definition of a full academic year. In 2003-2004, North Dakota began testing the high school grade span in the fall. Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, North Dakota will test all mandated grades in the fall. Therefore, we are requesting to redefine a full academic year since those students who are not enrolled in the school for one full year are not counted in the AYP calculation. Currently, our definition states that one full year begins with the first day of the current school year. Our revised definition would define a full academic year as one where a student has been enrolled at a school for a period equal to or exceeding 173 instructional days inclusive of summer school.
3. A request to incorporate into our State Plan the new policies recently issued for Limited English Proficient (LEP) students. This change would allow North Dakota to omit AYP scores for LEP students during their first year of enrollment in United States schools and would allow LEP students to be counted in the reports for two additional years after they are no longer in the LEP program.
4. The incorporation of recent federal guidance regarding the election of a local school district to determine AYP for a Title I targeted assistance school based solely on the achievement of students who are served by Title I or who are eligible to receive Title I services.
5. A request to extend the graduation cohort beyond four years for students served within provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or as provided within a LEP service program for specified LEP students. This request would help eliminate any impediment to the proper delivery of instruction for LEP students or students on an IEP.
6. A request to revise the definition of "small, rural schools" as stated under the new policy recently released on the highly qualified teacher provision. We are requesting to use the definition of rural that has been approved by the USDE to distribute Title I funds. Our method of distributing Title I funds has provided an alternative definition of small and rural. This definition of rural includes all but five of the State's largest districts.

The Department of Public Instruction will provide additional information as soon as we receive a response to our letter.

Reading First Update

Academies

The North Dakota Reading Academies are usually four days long and are professional development trainings that can help school districts meet the challenge of *No Child Left Behind*. The academies are broken up into grades K, 1, 2, and 3 (i.e., Kindergarten North Dakota Reading Academy, First Grade North Dakota Reading Academy). The academies are built on scientifically-based reading research that includes explicit and systematic instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. They highlight grouping, monitoring student progress to inform instruction, and provide interventions for struggling readers.

The Department of Public Instruction has sponsored the academies for the staff of the Reading First schools for the last two summers. Staff from Reading First schools are mandated to attend. Administrators from other schools have inquired as to whether their staff could also attend these academies. The State Reading First office plans to make the academies available to other staff throughout the state; however, for the summer of 2004, there is not enough space in the academies to open it up to staff other than those from Reading First schools.

There is another option for schools that are not Reading First schools. On the Reading First website, there is a list of North Dakota trainers that may be able to train staff within a school or area of North Dakota. For a list of possible trainers and contact information, go to the Reading First website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/reading/index.shtm, scroll down to Professional Development, and click on "Trainers for North Dakota Reading Academies."

DIBELS Training

A DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) Training is scheduled for August 2-4, 2004. The DIBELS measures were specifically designed to assess three of the five big ideas of early literacy: Phonological Awareness, Alphabetic Principle, and Fluency with Connected Text. The measures are linked to one another, both psychometrically and theoretically, and have been found to be predictive of later reading proficiency. This training is open to anyone who is interested. There is limited space and priority will be given to staff in Reading First schools. There is no fee to attend. For more information, check the Reading First website at the end of May.

CSRD Grant Announcement

The State Title I office has recently announced that applications are being solicited from all areas of North Dakota for schools interested in implementing a CSRD program. Applicants must demonstrate their ability to provide a research-based program for students on a comprehensive level. These applications must be received in the Title I office no later than July 7, 2004.

For more information on this grant opportunity, please contact Nita Wirtz, Program Administrator, Title I/CSRD at the Department of Public Instruction at (701) 328-1876 or nwirtz@state.nd.us or visit the Title I website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/csr/index.shtm.

Online Algebra Resources

- **Algebra worksheets**
www.edhelper.com/algebra.htm
- **Algebra at Math.com**
www.math.com/homeworkhelp/Algebra.html
- **Operation Order Algebra Game**
www.funbrain.com/algebra
- **Interactive Mathematics Miscellany and Puzzles on Arithmetic and Algebra**
www.cut-the-knot.org/algebra.shtml
- **Pre-Algebra Games**
www.gamequarium.com/prealgebra.html
- **Basic Skills Practice Game**
<http://208.183.128.8/basic/math-algebra.html>



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: tneumiller@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-4646

Nita Wirtz
Program Administrator
Neglected & Delinquent,
CSRD Programs
E-mail: nwirtz@state.nd.us
Phone: (701) 328-1876

Ann Ellefson
Program Administrator
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

Online Directions for SBRR

- June 2-3, 2004 Grand Forks, ND
- For more information please contact Paula Rogers at (701) 254-2354 or
Connie Bjerke at (800) 342-8230.

Teaching and Technology Conference

- June 7-10, 2004 Bismarck, Minot and Grand Forks
- For more information regarding the TNT Conference please visit
www.bismarckstate.edu/cce/tnt.

Title I/NCLB Update – NDCEL Summer Conference

- June 16, 2004 Concurrent sessions at 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m.
- For more information regarding the NDCEL Summer Conference please visit
www.ndcel.org.

Title I and Special Education Collaborative Math Summer Institute – Family Math

- June 28-29, 2004 Mandan, ND
- Information is available at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

Online Directions for SBRR

- July 13-14, 2004 Devils Lake, ND
- For more information please contact Paula Rogers at (701) 254-2354 or
Connie Bjerke at (800) 342-8230.

Title I and Special Education Collaborative Reading Summer Institute – Literacy through Reading and Writing

- July 14-15, 2004 Bismarck, ND
- Information is available at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

Training the Trainer on DIBELS

- August 2-4, 2004 Bismarck, ND
- Information will be available at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

Title I/NCLB Update – Title I IVN Session

- August 19, 2004 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Registration information will be mailed and posted on our website at
www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

