



Title I News

September 2004

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31st Plains Regional International Reading Association Conference

Plans are under way for an outstanding Regional IRA Conference to be held in Bismarck, ND on October 6-9, 2004.

As indicated in past correspondence, the State Title I office will not be sponsoring our annual Title I Fall Conference this year and instead will hold sessions for Title I personnel in conjunction with the Regional IRA Conference. We hope that all Title I personnel will be fortunate enough to be able to attend this conference.

For those Title I personnel who have registered for the IRA Conference, the State Title I office will hold a two-hour session on Thursday, October 7 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. We will provide important updates on NCLB and specific Title I issues at this session. In addition, we will present our yearly “Caught-in-the-Act” and “Outstanding Educator” awards, and display our year-in-review slideshow. Again, you must be registered for the IRA Conference in order to attend the Title I update session. Although pre-registration has closed, it will be possible to register for the IRA Conference on site; however, there is an additional fee to register on site.

Immediately following our two-hour update session on Thursday, October 7, 2004, there is a Title I luncheon from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Richard Long, Executive Director of the National Association of State Title I Directors, will be our scheduled guest speaker. Those planning to attend the luncheon must have already registered and paid the additional fee. The Title I update session and the luncheon are both being held at the Ramkota Hotel at 800 South 3rd Street, across from the Kirkwood Mall.

Also, each program staff member of the Title I unit will be presenting during the conference. See your conference program for times and dates.

We look forward to seeing you on October 6-9, 2004 in Bismarck. For those Title I personnel unable to attend the conference, the handouts will be available on the Title I website, and we will again be hosting regional Title I meetings next spring. If you have any further questions about the conference, please contact me by e-mail at lmatzke@state.nd.us or by phone at (701) 328-2284.

Our Apology for this Late Issue of the *Title I News*

We apologize for the late date in which the September issue of *Title I News* is being released. The month of September has been increasingly hectic in the State Title I office. This issue of *Title I News* has been scaled back due to our Title I staff preparing for IRA presentations, reviewing consolidated applications, etc. The following page outlines a few of the articles we are working on for the October edition of *Title I News*.

Our Apology for this Late Issue of *Title I News* (continued on page 2)



Our Apology for this Late Issue of *Title I News* (continued)

The October issue of *Title I News* will feature the following articles:

- New feature articles specifically addressing the topics of reading, math, research and Reading First.
- Information on the Education Standards and Practices Board's (ESPB) plan to address the U.S. Department of Education policy to allow teachers in rural districts additional time to become highly qualified. The board is proposing to establish a Rural Flexibility Endorsement allowing new teachers who are highly qualified in a content area to have up to three years to complete all the requirements to become highly qualified in all areas of instruction.
- A look at some of the key *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) issues to be addressed during the 2004-2005 school year.
- A summary of the 31st Plains Regional IRA Conference and the Title I update session.
- A report on the surge of Title I after-school programs reported on the consolidated applications and how you can ensure that your school district complies with the regulations.

NCLB Legislative Committee

The *No Child Left Behind* (NCPB) Legislative Committee held a two-day hearing on September 9-10, 2004 to obtain updated information on the progress made in implementing the NCLB Act, as well as to gather information on the impact of the NCLB Act on school districts in the state.

You can access a copy of the Legislative Council's minutes on their website by logging on to www.state.nd.us/lr/assembly/58-2003/interim-info/minutes/index.html. Scroll down until you get to the "No Child Left Behind Committee" heading.

Reminder Regarding Middle School Endorsements

A Title I teacher at the middle school level who is licensed at the elementary (1-8 or 1-6) level or the secondary level (7-12) and who submits a plan of study to the Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) can be granted up to two years to complete the middle level endorsement requirements. Please be advised, before the State Title I office can issue an initial/middle school credential, the State Title I office must receive a copy of the Reeducation for Middle School Endorsement form (SFN 50106) to document that ESPB has approved a plan of study to obtain a middle school endorsement. Janet Welk, Executive Director of the Education Standards and Practices Board, must sign this plan of study.

Serving Migrant Students through Title I

The State Title I office will be sponsoring a workshop to further explain what materials and resources are available to those Title I programs that serve migrant students. This in-service will be held on October 11, 2004 at the Ramada Inn in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Only Title I teachers who serve migrant students were invited to attend.

If you have any questions regarding this workshop, please contact Sandy Peterson, Migrant Program Administrator, by e-mail at smpeterson@state.nd.us or by telephone at (701) 328-2170.



District Program Improvement Information

The NCLB regulations require the department to generate **district**, as well as school, AYP reports based on annual state assessment data. The department posted the AYP results for all **districts** in North Dakota based on the 2003-2004 State assessment data on September 16, 2004. Both school and district AYP reports can be accessed at www.dpi.state.nd.us/dpi/reports/profile/index.shtm on the department's website.

Under the prior IASA law, North Dakota identified schools but did not identify districts for program improvement. However, NCLB requires the state to identify for program improvement any district that, for two consecutive years, does not make AYP as defined by the state's accountability system.

Adequate Yearly Progress for a district is determined by aggregating the results of academic achievement measures in reading/language arts and mathematics; student participation rates in these assessments; graduation rates; and for elementary and middle schools, the attendance rates. Therefore, tested subgroups that are not large enough to meet the minimum group size at an individual school will, in many cases, reach or surpass that number at the district level, and thus, if the subgroup did not make AYP, identify the district as not making adequate progress.

When a district is identified for program improvement, the following three provisions must be met.

1. If the state identifies a district for program improvement, the state must promptly notify the parents of each student enrolled in the schools served by that district and explain the reasons for the identification.
2. If the state identifies a district for program improvement, the district must develop or revise a program improvement plan, no later than three months after the identification. In developing or revising this plan, the district must consult with parents, school staff, and others.

The Title I unit provided technical assistance schools and districts through an IVN training session on Thursday, September 30, 2004. The training provided information to school personnel on the requirements that must be addressed by schools and districts in program improvement, such as the program improvement plan and the annual report. The information presented at this IVN session is available on the Title I website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/present.shtm.

3. When a district is identified for program improvement, it must reserve not less than ten percent of its Title I, Part A funds for high-quality professional development that is specifically designed to improve classroom teaching for instructional staff. These set aside funds may be utilized district wide and should specifically target the area(s) that led to the district program improvement identification.

Information pertaining to the program improvement status of all public school districts in North Dakota, based on the recent release of the 2003-2004 statewide AYP data, is listed below.

Number of districts that did not make Adequate Yearly Progress on the 2002-2003 North Dakota State Assessment data.	33
Number of districts that did not make Adequate Yearly Progress on the 2003-2004 North Dakota State Assessment data.	32
Number of school districts identified for program improvement for the 2004-2005 school year.	14

The list of the 14 school districts that are identified for program improvement for the 2004-2005 school year can be accessed at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/progress/current.shtm on the Department of Public Instruction Title I website.

For more information, contact Laurie Matzke, Title I Director, Department of Public Instruction, 600 East Boulevard, 9th Floor, Bismarck, ND 58505-0440, lmatzke@state.nd.us, (701) 328-2284.



Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) is Moving

Effective October 1, 2004, the Education Standards and Practices Board will be moving out of the Capitol to 2718 Gateway Avenue, Suite 303, Bismarck, ND 58503. The offices will be closed from September 29-October 1st.

New Address

Education Standards and Practices Board
2718 Gateway Avenue, Suite 303
Bismarck ND 58503
Fax: (701) 328-9647

New Telephone Numbers

Jean Bechhold – (701) 328-9641
Sheila Wald – (701) 328-9642
Diane Weber – (701) 328-9643
Debra Jensen – (701) 328-9644
Beverly Sandness – (701) 328-9645
Janet Placek Welk – (701) 328-9646

The ESPB website is currently being updated with new information and will remain at www.state.nd.us/espb.

Fall Reading Course Offered

The course listed below will be offered during the fall of 2004 at Lake Region State College in the Chautauqua Gallery. This course meets the requirements for Title I teachers who will need the coursework *Reading in the Content Area* for obtaining a reading credential. It is also one of the four courses needed to obtain a middle school endorsement for those Title I teachers who plan to teach Title I past the sixth grade after July 1, 2006.

This course will be offered for two graduate credits from the University of North Dakota. This course may also be used for renewal of your reading credential.

<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Course Dates</u>	<u>Course Times</u>
Reading Content Area	November 5, 2004	5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Reading Content Area	November 6, 2004	9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Reading Content Area	November 19, 2004	5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Reading Content Area	November 20, 2004	9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Reading Content Area	December 3, 2004	5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Reading Content Area	December 4, 2004	9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Paula Rogers and Vicki Held will be the instructors for this class. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact Paula by e-mail at Paula.Rogers@sendit.nodak.edu or by telephone at (701) 256-3270. You may also contact Vicki by e-mail at Vicki.E.Held@sendit.nodak.edu or by telephone at (701) 226-5539.

PeopleSoft Conversion

Effective October 1, 2004, the state will be converting from the current Samis System to PeopleSoft. PeopleSoft is the new software program that will be used to process payments to school districts. We have been training on the new coding procedures and the system. We ask for your patience as we merge into the new process.

Your business manager should have received correspondence from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and from our Accounting Office in the Department of Public Instruction regarding receiving your payments via direct deposit. You must respond to the information you have been sent regarding this new process and indicate whether you would prefer to receive your payments by direct deposit or by mail. For additional information regarding this issue, please contact the OMB Office at (701) 328-2680.



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Consolidated Applications and Electronic Budget Revisions

The State Title I staff is working hard to review and approve your Title I portion of the consolidated application for federal Title funding. A majority of the applications have now been approved.

Most schools submitted their consolidated application electronically. In the past, when errors were found in a school's budget, we would contact you and often make changes to the paper version of the application from our office. However, we can no longer make changes to your electronic application. Rather than requiring you to "un-submit" and then "re-submit" your electronic application, when an error is found or a change needs to be made, we will be discussing these changes with you and then approving the electronic version of the application with the understanding that you will make the approved changes using an electronic budget revision.

When the application is approved, based on a revised budget from the original, you will receive a copy of the revised budget from the State Title I staff person that you have been working with during the review process. This form will have two columns; the first being the budget you submitted on the electronic application and the second column shows the revised budget that has been approved. If you receive a revised budget form during the approval process, you will not be able to access your Title I funds until you completed an electronic budget revision. Copy the second column exactly when you submit this revision.

Again, we are working hard to review and approve consolidated applications. If you have questions on your application, feel free to contact the State Title I office at (888) 605-1951, and we will do our best to update you on your application's status.

Upcoming Events

31st Plains International Reading Association (IRA) Regional Conference

This conference is for all educators with a special interest in reading.

- October 6-9, 2004
- Bismarck, North Dakota

Information is available online at www.reading.org.

National Title I Conference

The National Title I Conference focuses on a wide variety of issues of importance to Title I practitioners at all levels. This is the only national conference devoted solely to the Title I program.

- January 29 – February 1, 2005
- Atlanta, Georgia

Information is available online at www.titlei.org.

