



Title I News

May 2005

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U.S. Department of Education (USDE) Monitoring Visit

The U.S. Department of Education came to North Dakota on May 16-19, 2005 to visit and monitor the Department of Public Instruction's implementation of the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) Act. The programs within NCLB that were monitored included Title I – Part A, Title I – Part D (Neglected and Delinquent), Title I – Part B (Even Start), and Title X – Part C (McKinney – Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth).

The USDE monitoring team consisted of six individuals. In addition to visiting the department, the monitoring team visited the following districts and programs to gather information on the state's implementation of NCLB.

- Title I Programs – Bismarck and New Town Public School Districts
- Title I – Part D (Neglected and Delinquent) – Bismarck and Mandan Public School Districts
- Title I – Part B (Even Start) – Mandan and Minot Public School Districts
- Title X – Part C (Homeless) – Bismarck and Mandan Public School Districts

This monitoring visit provided a great experience for the state to review its practices and implementation on NCLB. The USDE monitoring team will generate its official report, outlining recommendations and compliance issues, within 30 business days after the visit. When this report is released, it will be posted on our Title I website.

We will provide a more detailed description of the findings in a future issue of *Title I News*.

Title I and Special Education Collaborative Summer Institutes

The State Title I and Special Education offices have been working collaboratively to prepare for this year's math and reading summer institutes.

The reading summer institute is entitled *Ideas, Ideas, Ideas...The Teacher's Toolbox for Differentiating Instruction*. This institute will be held at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck, ND, on June 13-14, 2005. The registration form is available online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/readregform.pdf. The registration fee of \$100 must be included with this form.

The math summer institute is entitled *Computational Fluency*. It will be held at the Best Western Seven Seas in Mandan, ND, on July 18-19, 2005. The registration form for this institute is also available online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/mathregform.pdf. The registration fee of \$100 must be included with this form.

More information can be accessed on the Title I website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm. Spread the word!

North Dakota State Assessment Cut Scores Released

Cut scores for the North Dakota State Assessment were originally established in the summer of 2002 for both reading and math at grades 4, 8, and 12. During March 2005, North Dakota teachers met with CTB to help re-establish the cut scores in reading and math for grades 3-8 and 11.

In April/May 2005, CTB, North Dakota's testing company applied the new cut scores from this bookmark standard setting process to the fall 2004 test data and generated reports. CTB will ship the state assessment reports directly to all North Dakota school districts.

The department has announced the release of these new cut scores. The press release outlining this information is available online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/news/050405.pdf. The chart below outlines the new cut scores that have been set.

North Dakota State Assessment Achievement Standards Cut Scores* May 2005							
Reading	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 11
Partially Proficient	579	606	619	632	644	648	679
Proficient	610	630	645	655	666	670	700
Advanced	650	670	690	696	707	714	738
Mathematics	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 11
Partially Proficient	547	586	609	627	641	654	702
Proficient	572	610	632	653	670	686	739
Advanced	632	655	672	692	706	725	775

* Presented in scale scores on the North Dakota State Assessment

Matching Book Grant Program

The Literacy Empowerment Foundation (LEF) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that currently supplies books to over 15,000 schools. LEF is a program that is dedicated to assisting educational programs by providing inexpensive children's books. LEF has several programs available for teachers, non-profit groups and reading programs. The information below provides a description of their Matching Book Grant Program.

The LEF's Matching Book Grant Program offers Guided Reading and Independent Reading Collections. Guided Reading Collections consist of six copies each of eighteen titles. Independent Reading Collections consist of one copy each of 108 titles. With each set of Guided Reading and/or Independent Reading Collections purchased at the regular price, an additional set of books will be included.

For more information on the services offered by the LEF, please visit www.lefbooks.org.

2005 Fall Regional Workshop Dates Announced

The State Title I office has set dates for the 2005 Fall Title I Regional Workshops. The first workshop will be held at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck, ND on Monday, October 3, 2005. The second workshop will be held at the Ramada Plaza Suites in Fargo, ND on Monday, October 10, 2005.

Additional correspondence, a tentative agenda, and a registration form will be mailed to all Title I personnel at the beginning of the school year.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Updates

Please note the following updates regarding key provisions in the NCLB Act:

▪ **2004-2005 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Reports**

The department will again create an official Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) report for every school and district in the state for the 2004-2005 state assessment data. The information will be shared with school personnel confidentially through the Online Reporting System (ORS). We anticipate that the building level AYP reports will be available on the ORS by mid July. The district AYP reports should be available to review on the ORS system by mid August. The AYP reports will reflect the new cut scores from the bookmark standard setting process that took place this past spring. It is imperative that school personnel review the information on the AYP reports for accuracy. After school personnel have been given an opportunity to review and provide input on the AYP reports, they will be publicly released and made available on the department's website. The department is hoping to have the official, public AYP reports released statewide by late August 2005.

▪ **Teacher Quality Provision**

✓ Out-of-State Applicants

The Education Standards and Practices Board held their monthly board meeting on Thursday, May 12, 2005. One of the many discussion items included reviewing the requirements for the out-of-state applicants. For the 2005-2006 school year, the board voted to accept teaching experience from other states for out-of-state applicants applying for teaching positions in North Dakota. Therefore, new to the profession applicants hired to work in a program supported with Title I funds, who have teaching experience either within state or out-of-state, do not have to take the Praxis II test.

✓ Praxis II Test Sites

For personnel who need to take the Praxis II test, the next testing date is June 11, 2005. Following is a breakdown of where the test is being offered on June 11, 2005.

- 03764 University of Mary, Bismarck
- 03766 Dickinson State University, Dickinson
- 03753 University of North Dakota, Grand Forks
- 03749 Valley City State University, Valley City

For additional information on the Praxis II test, log on to

www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthoriz/quality.shtm and look under the "Resources" heading.

▪ **New Flexibility on the *No Child Left Behind Act***

Last month, the US Department of Education announced that two percent of all students being tested could take a modified test and have their scores count toward adequate yearly progress. This two percent is in addition to the one percent flexibility policy covering students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

U. S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings also stated that a states' demonstration of progress and effective implementation of the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) may merit new flexibility for states in their efforts to raise student achievement and make accountability more meaningful. The Department of Education will use each state's progress in meeting the *No Child Left Behind Act* when considering the approval of state plan amendments.

Secretary Spellings said that this is the start of "a more workable, common sense approach" to implementing the *No Child Left Behind Act*.

Log on to www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/edpicks.jhtml?src=ln to access information pertaining to these recent announcements. We will provide additional information and clarification on these new issues in the next month's Title I Newsletter.

Director's Report

As we get closer to the start of summer, staff in the State Title I office are gearing up for our annual summer activities. The following list summarizes some of the many projects that we will be working on over the summer months:

- Consolidated Applications – The tentative due date for submission of the consolidated applications is May 27, 2005. However, we anticipate that applications will continue to be submitted in June and July. Some school districts would prefer to wait until they know their official carryover or AYP status before submitting their consolidated application. We have made it a top priority to review consolidated applications so that we can have the vast majority of them approved before school starts in the fall. Please make sure and review the handout that was distributed at the Title I regional workshop in April. The handout lists several key reminders and tips to keep in mind as you complete the consolidated application. This document can be accessed at <http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/conapp.shtm> on the Title I website.
- Final Title I Allocations – After talking to USDE staff, it appears as though we will not receive our final state Title I allocation until mid June. Therefore, it will be late June or early July before we are able to post final Title I allocations on our department website. We don't anticipate that the final allocations will be significantly different from the estimated allocations. Beverly Fischer will send out an e-mail when they have been posted. Our office will also announce it in our Title I newsletter when they are available.
- Title I In-services – Over the summer months, our unit will be sponsoring our annual Reading and Math Summer Institutes. Information and registration forms are available on our Title I website under the "Upcoming Events" tab. In addition, we are planning to offer Title I fiscal training for Business Managers over the IVN network in August. This will be the same training that was provided for Title I Administrators at our spring workshop in April. Title I Authorized Representatives who were unable to attend the regionals are highly encouraged to participate in this fiscal training. We will also be busy planning our Fall Title I Regional Workshops for all Title I personnel.
- Follow-up Information to AYP Release – The department anticipates that the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) reports will be made available to school personnel in July to review. Once the AYP information is officially released on our department website, the Title I office will follow up with program improvement information. We will provide written correspondence to all schools and districts in program improvement informing them of their status and responsibilities. In addition, we will communicate with schools and districts who have not made AYP for one year but have not been identified for program improvement. We will issue a statewide news release the end of August and share information on the status of program improvement schools and districts for the 2005-2006 school year.
- Title I Projects – There are a number of projects that Title I staff will be working on over the summer months. We intend to share this information with Title I personnel through written correspondence in the fall as well as at our Fall Regional Workshop. Some of these projects include:
 - ✓ SBR Project – We will be contracting with ND teachers to develop additional SBR resources for Title I personnel.
 - ✓ Parent Website – We are working on creating a parent website which will highlight materials, events, and information specially geared for parents.
 - ✓ Update Website Samples – We will be updating our sample letters and forms on our website. These forms include Title I student selection worksheets, sample AYP letters, etc.

Educational Research Opportunity for Schools/Districts

PRES Associates is pleased to offer both schools and districts opportunities to contribute to educational research and try new curricular materials in math, reading, and science during the 2005-2006 school year. Several incentives are available to sites that participate in these studies, including, but not limited to:

- Free textbooks and curricular materials
- Free training
- Use of study data
- Stipends to participating teachers and study liaisons

Participation in curricular research studies provides an especially good opportunity to districts thinking about changing curricular materials, as they will enable your district/school to test a new program without a financial commitment. NCLB requires that educational materials and strategies must be proven by scientific research (e.g., randomized clinical trials) to improve student achievement in the classroom.

The curricula for the studies are:

Math

- Scott Foresman 2005 Elementary Mathematics: 3rd and 5th Grades
- Prentice Hall 2004 Mathematics: 8th Grade
- Saxon Middle School Math-6th, 7th, and 8th Grades
- Prentice Hall 2004 Algebra I: 8th and 9th Grades

Reading

- Harcourt Achieve's 2005 Elements of Reading: Comprehension (a supplemental program): 3rd Grade
- Scott Foresman 2007 Reading Street (A basal reading program): 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Grades
- Pearson Learning Group 2005 Achieving Maximum Potential (An alternative basal reading program designed for classes performing 2-3 levels below grade): 6th, 7th, and 8th Grades
- Scott Foresman 2005 Elementary Mathematics: 3rd and 5th Grades
- Prentice Hall 2004 Mathematics: 8th Grade
- Saxon Middle School Math-6th, 7th, and 8th Grades
- Prentice Hall 2004 Algebra I: 8th and 9th Grades

Science

- Scott Foresman 2005 Elementary Science: 3rd and 5th Grades
- Prentice Hall 2004 Science Explorer: 8th Grade
- Prentice Hall 2006 Biology: 10th Grade

If you are interested in learning about any of these studies, please contact Dr. Kathleen Haynie, Kathleen Haynie Consulting, by telephone at (609) 466-2990 or by e-mail at kchaynie@stanfordalumni.org.



Monthly Featured Articles

Research Corner

By: Ann Ellefson

Topic: Encourage Summer Learning

Statistics show that most students lose one to three months of learning after summer vacation. Although students struggle to retain information in both math and reading over the summer, the loss is more prevalent in math skills. Various factors may contribute to this; however, one speculation is that we provide more opportunities for reading practice than math over the summer months.

This phenomenon is of great concern to both educators and parents. Here are several strategies that parents can do to help lessen the loss of information over the summer months.

- **Books, Books, Books** – Keep books visible around the house and encourage your child to read them. Make regular trips to the library so your child can select books that are of particular interest to him/her. Sign your family up for academic summer activities. These are often coordinated through local parks and recreation facilities and libraries.
- **Family Vacation** – When planning your summer family vacation, consider what your children may learn on the vacation. What educational opportunities does this trip offer for your children? You may also consider visiting with your child’s teachers to see what subjects they will be covering during the upcoming school year. Wouldn’t it be fabulous to provide your child with hands on experiences to take back to the classroom? For example, if your child will be learning about geology, consider visiting a national park.
- **Summer Math** – Incorporate math related activities into your summer days. Since students suffer the greatest loss of math knowledge, it is important that your child participate in all math opportunities presented.
- **Extra Educational Assistance** – Often schools provide summer school or tutoring services over the summer. Consider having your child participate even if he/she is not struggling. If anything, it will help with how much information they retain. In addition, summer school classes are often offered that allow students to enroll in those classes that are of particular interest.

This article was adapted from *Stop the Summer Brain Drain!* By Ann Svenson. This article is available online at www.familyeducation.com.

Reading Corner

By: Nita Wirtz

Topic: Preschool Programs

This month’s reading corner article lends itself to a more universal resource than just in the area of reading however, it is very literacy focused. This month’s article has to do with the topic of preschool preparation and the actions that one state is focusing on.

I received an e-mail link for a news article from the Supplemental Educational Services Network for State Directors regarding an article entitled “Louisiana’s Pre-School Champion.” The article was written by Andrea Granzzini Walstrom, a freelance writer in Burnsville, Minnesota. In her article, Ms. Walstrom wrote about a superintendent by the name of Cecil Picard and his plight in the state of Louisiana for pre-school services for every child. According to the article, Mr. Picard states, “brain research shows that the early childhood years provided unrecoverable opportunities for intellectual development.” [Granzzini Walstrom, 2005]

Louisiana is now implementing a program called the LA4, a pre-kindergarten program for at-risk 4-year-olds. The pilot program was introduced in 2001 and has been growing since within the state. The LA4 program is now being contemplated for use by the U.S. Department of Education, according to the article. [Granzzini Walstrom, 2005] Details of this program include: certified teachers; support services such as vision, hearing and dental screenings and medical and mental health referrals; parent housing, utility assistance and adult education; and before-and-after school enrichment programs for some of the population. [Granzzini Walstrom, 2005] To read the entire article access: www.connectforkids.org/node/2923

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Reading Corner (continued)

According to other web research, the program also contains a Developing Skills Checklist, designed to gauge the progress of young children on a variety of skills necessary for school, from letter recognition to hand-eye coordination. LA4 was introduced last year in 11 school districts in the state of Louisiana.

Pre-school programs are continuing to be contemplated throughout the nation and in the state of North Dakota. North Dakota has seen the emergence of some pre-school programs and several LEAs have extended their kindergarten services to full-time. A few of these wonderful programs include the districts of: North Central of Rogers; West Fargo - Early Childhood Learning Center; Bismarck - Jeannette Myhre Elementary; New Town - Edwin Loe Elementary; Fargo - Madison Elementary; and several others.

The Title I office continues to receive questions on pre-school and the use of Title I funds for pre-school programs. Guidance on the use of Title I funds for a pre-school program has been put together. To access this information, please see our website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/index.shtm.

For those interested in even more information on pre-school, see the resources below:

- The Head Start Bureau Web Site - www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb
- The Rosemount Center - www.rosemountcenter.com/index.htm
- The White House Site for Early Education - www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/earlychildhood/
- National Head Start Association - www.nhsa.org
- The Brookings Institute Forum on Head Start - www.brook.edu/comm/events/20030507.htm
- Head Start Achievement Information from Fightcrime - www.fightcrime.org/reports/HeadStartBrief.pdf

References:

Granzzini Walstrom, A., (2005). Louisiana's Pre-School Champion. Retrieved on May 4, 2005 from www.connectforkids.org/node/2923.

Reading First Corner

By: Gail Schauer

**Topic: State Reading First
Professional Development**

There is now information and registration forms listing all the State Reading First sponsored professional development offered for the summer of 2005. This information can be found on the Reading First website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/reading/index.shtm. It is mandatory for all Reading First staff to attend a North Dakota Reading First sponsored state professional development training each year. All Reading First staff must attend the North Dakota Teacher Reading Academies (NDTRA) at least once. If a staff member has already attended the NDTRA, they then have a choice of attending another State Reading First sponsored professional development training for the summer of 2005.

Application for Trainers for the NDTRA

The State Reading First office is looking for educators who are interested in becoming trainers for the Second and Third Grade North Dakota Teacher Reading Academies (NDTRA). Applications are available on the Reading First website for those who are interested. When applying, keep in mind the criteria listed on the application (i.e., preference given to those who have a master's degree, those who have a reading credential, those who have at least three years of experience, etc.).

Those selected to become trainers will attend the Teacher Reading Academy for the first four days (July 18 – 22, 2005) as a participant and then will stay a fifth day (July 23, 2005) to receive training as a trainer. Those selected to be trained as a trainer may be asked to present at future ND Teacher Reading Academies. Applications are due by May 31, 2005. Applicants will be informed as to whether they were chosen or not by June 10, 2005.

This would be a great opportunity to have someone from your school district become more knowledgeable in the five essential components, scientifically based reading research, and become a trainer for the academy. Stipends will be paid to those who attend provided they are not being paid a salary at the time. Travel expenses will also be paid.

Summer Professional Development through Dickinson State University

Math and Science Institutes

Dickinson State University and its K-12 partners received a Math/Science Partnership grant. It is their goal to offer professional development to strengthen teachers' understanding of math/science and discuss other strategies for teaching. With the money granted to Dickinson State University, they are offering the following this summer:

- K-8 Math Institute (Bottineau) – June 6-8 & 13-15
- 7-12 Math Institute (Dickinson) – Aug. 1-3 & 8-9
- K-8 Math Institute (Dickinson) – July 12-14 & 19-21
- K-8 Science Institute (Dickinson) – Aug. 4-5 & 10-12

Each of these institutes will run from five to six days with three or four follow-up sessions during the 2005-2006 school year.

Graduate workshop credit is available for each of the institutes. In addition, there is a small stipend for participants. The grant will also pay the costs of the institutes and will cover substitute costs (\$75/day) for the follow-up sessions.

Lenses on Learning

Dickinson State University is also offering Lenses on Learning for principals, superintendents, school improvement team members, curriculum leaders, and teachers who are interested in learning more about how to support the teaching of math and science in your districts. The Lenses on Learning classes are scheduled as follows:

- Lenses on Learning (Bottineau) – June 9 & 16
- Lenses on Learning (Dickinson) – July 11 & 18

Each of these classes will require two follow-up sessions during the school year. One graduate workshop credit is available for Lenses on Learning.

Reading, Writing, and Critical Thinking: Focus on the Diversity of Learners

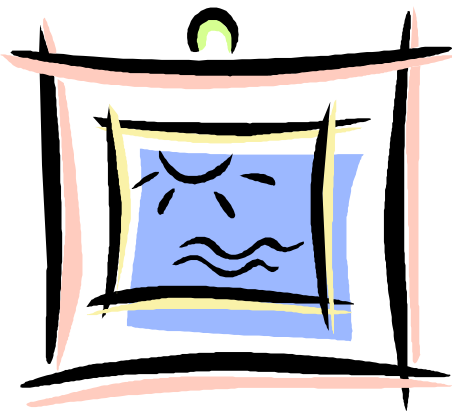
Through another grant, Dickinson State University is offering a course in Reading, Writing, and Critical Thinking: Focus on the Diversity of Learners. The course schedule is as follows:

- Reading, Writing, and Critical Thinking: Focus on the Diversity of Learners (New Town) – June 6-9 & 13-16

This course is available for three graduate workshop credits and a small stipend is available for participants.

If you are interested in having your classroom teachers, Title I teachers, paraprofessionals, special education teachers, and/or your principals, curriculum leaders, or school improvement team members attend any of the above courses, registration can be made through the West River Teacher Center at (800) 279-4295, ext. 2166.

If you have questions on the above information, please contact Karen Nelson with Dickinson State University by telephone at (701) 483-2137 or by e-mail at karen.a.nelson@dickinsonstate.edu.



Reports Due

Just a reminder that as we end our school year, please be sure to close out the 2005-2006 program by sending in your completed:

- Final Financial Report,
- Budget Revisions (if necessary), and
- Title I Personnel Report

The State Title I office can not close your district's books for the 2005-2006 school year or issue your new grant award until these records are completed.

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Upcoming Events

Reading Summer Institute

This institute will be filled with time efficient strategies, tips, tools, and techniques that are both highly effective and extremely practical in helping your students succeed. Specific strategies will help your students get organized, be accountable for results, compensate for difficulties, and improve reading, writing, and math skills. Effective tools for positive behavior and building self-confidence will also be included.

■ June 13-14, 2005

■ Bismarck, North Dakota

Information is available online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

North Dakota Teacher Reading Academies

These academies are filled with reading strategies for teachers to use in the classroom with their students. Space is limited for participants, so staff in Reading First schools will have priority. However, we may be able to open the trainings up to staff in other schools across North Dakota.

■ Kindergarten Teacher Reading Academies – July 11 – 14, 2005

■ First Grade Teacher Reading Academies – July 11 – 14, 2005

■ Second Grade Teacher Reading Academies – July 18 – 21, 2005

■ Third Grade Teacher Reading Academies – July 18 – 21, 2005

All Teacher Reading Academies will be held at Bismarck State College.

Registration information will be available on the Title I website.

Math Summer Institute

Math Perspectives is presenting at this two-strand workshop geared to assist teachers in identifying student needs using *Assessing Math Concepts Assessments*. One strand is geared for K-3 grade teachers and the other is for 4-5 grade teachers. Please note, participation is limited to 50 participants per strand.

■ July 18-19, 2005

■ Mandan, North Dakota

Information is available online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

Schoolwide Title I Meeting – Introduction to Schoolwide Programming

The State Title I office is hosting its annual *Introduction to Schoolwide Programming* workshop. This workshop is applicable to all targeted assistance Title I schools who want to learn more about schoolwide programming. All schools attending must have at least a 40% poverty rate to be eligible to be a schoolwide school.

■ September 9, 2005 in Bismarck, North Dakota

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

Title I Fall Regional Workshops

The State Title I office is hosting two regional workshops for Title I personnel.

■ October 2-3, 2005 in Bismarck, North Dakota

■ October 9-10, 2005 in Fargo, North Dakota

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