



North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Title I News

September 2007

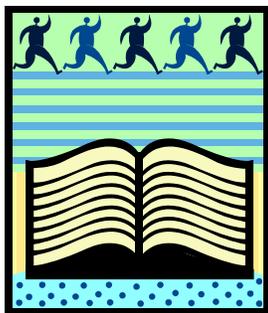
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Questions and Answers on the 2007 Title I Fall Workshop

- Q. *When is the workshop and where will it be held?*
A. The 2007 Title I Fall Workshop has been scheduled for October 7-9, 2007 at the Bismarck Civic Center.
- Q. *When are registration forms due?*
A. The deadline for registration is **September 26, 2007**. Registration forms can be found online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events/fwreg.pdf.
- Q. *Will registrations be accepted after September 26, 2007?*
A. Registrations will be accepted after September 26, 2007; however, those postmarked after the due date will have to pay an increased fee. For fee details, visit www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events/fwreg.pdf.
- Q. *Will registrants receive confirmation letters?*
A. All participants that have registered can expect to receive a confirmation letter in the mail with important details about the workshop.
- Q. *What hours will the workshop be held?*
A. Registration for Sunday's pre-conference will begin at 6 p.m. The presentation on parent involvement will begin at 6:45 p.m. and will conclude at 8:45 p.m. Monday's registration will begin at 7:15 a.m. Monday's workshop sessions will begin at 8 a.m. and will run through 4:20 p.m. On Tuesday, the brain research presentation will begin at 8 a.m. and will conclude at 2:30 p.m.
- Q. *Will credit be offered?*
A. Credit will be offered through the University of Mary in Bismarck. The workshop can be taken for one graduate (\$45.00) or one undergraduate (\$40.00) credit. Credit registration and payment will be taken at the workshop.
- Q. *What sessions must we attend to receive credit?*
A. Participants taking the workshop for credit must attend ALL sessions of the conference. This includes the Sunday pre-conference, Monday workshop, and Tuesday workshop as well. Attendance will be taken to ensure participation at each of these events.
- Q. *Can registrations be cancelled?*
A. If participants are unable to attend, cancellation must be made with the State Title I office by 12 noon on Tuesday, October 2, 2007. If this deadline is not met, the registration fee is non-refundable.
- Q. *Whom can we contact for more information?*
A. If you have questions specific to the workshop, please contact Lauri Nord at lnord@nd.gov or (701) 328-2282. Information can also be obtained online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm on the Title I website.

2007-2008 Title I Self-Monitoring



The State Title I program, due in part to the large amount of funds involved, is required by law to monitor local Title I programs to ensure compliance with procedures and regulations. Recent correspondence from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) clearly indicates that they are in an enforcement mode at this time. States are under increased pressure from the USDE regarding state, district, and school accountability to ensure that both Title I and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) regulations are being followed. Therefore, program staff in the State Title I office will monitor Title I programs through the self-monitoring process. A list of districts selected to participate in this monitoring process is available online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/resource/monitor/assign.pdf.

These selected districts can expect to receive detailed correspondence from the State Title I office in the next few weeks outlining self-monitoring directions, the review process, due dates, etc. All districts are encouraged to review the self-monitoring guides found on the Title I website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/resource/monitor/index.shtm to become familiar with the self-monitoring requirements.

Student Selection Reminder – NO Parent Request as Criteria

Through the review of consolidated applications, it has been noted that many schools are reporting parent input or request as one of the criteria for student selection. Schools are reminded that this is not an allowable criteria for student selection.

Student selection is to be based on objective, educationally related, and uniformly applied criteria. Parent request is not objective, nor can it be uniformly applied to all students in the school. Parents can of course visit with his/her child's teacher if they have academic concerns. The teacher can refer the student for Title I services. If teacher referral is used, please keep in mind that it must be objective, educationally related, and uniformly applied to all students. Schools utilizing teacher referral must have teacher referral worksheets available to document the student selection process.

Please reference the following resources to refresh your knowledge regarding student selection.

- Fast Fact on Student Selection – www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/facts/selectn.pdf
- Student Selection Requirement – www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/require/student/index.shtm
- Sample Student Selection Tools – www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/resource/select/index.shtm

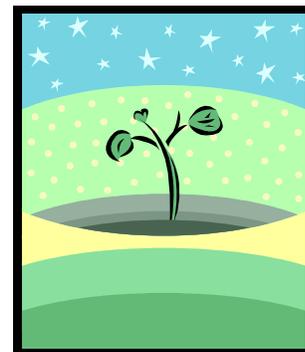
First Issue of RRR Published

The State Title I office has released its first issue of *Research – Resources – Report (RRR)*. This monthly report summarizes recently released research and resources on educational issues relevant to North Dakota schools.

This report was disseminated electronically to all building principals, administrators, Title I teachers, and others included in our Title I database on Tuesday, September 11, 2007.

We realize that all personnel are very busy and lack the time to search for new resources. The department works closely with many of the education centers and is notified when new research and resources have been released. Therefore, we will simply compile this information in a report and disseminate it statewide, as well as post it on our website.

Please take some time and review the September 2007 issue. It is available online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/RRR.shtm.



Director's Report – Reauthorization Update

In late August 2007, the House Committee on Education and Labor released a draft document on the reauthorization of the NCLB Act. The draft encompasses significant changes to many of the NCLB components. To date, the Senate has not released any draft legislation.

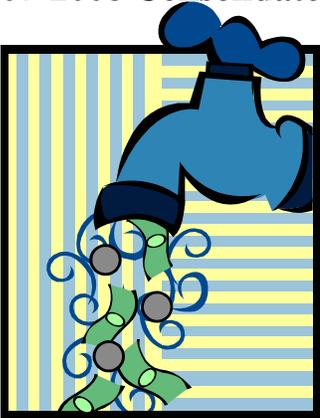
The House draft reauthorization proposal—

- Maintains the following key provisions:
 - 100% proficiency by 2013-2014
 - Focus on Highly Qualified Staff
- Makes changes to the following key provisions:
 - Program Improvement – creates a two-tiered system of priority schools and high priority schools with different sanctions applying to each category of schools
 - ELL Testing – additional flexibility for testing ELL students
 - Assessment – allows for growth models and multiple indicators to be used for accountability purposes
- Adds the following key provisions:
 - High School Reform – establishes a separate Title I grant program for high school improvement
 - Extended Learning Time – creates a new Title I program for expanding learning time under Title I, Part J



A more in-depth presentation of the proposed changes in the reauthorization of the NCLB Act will be provided at the general Title I session of the Fall Workshop on October 8, 2007.

2007-2008 Consolidated Application Update



Staff in the State Title I office are working to review and approve consolidated applications. To date, approximately half of the districts receiving Title I funds have the Title I portion of their consolidated application approved.

If your district has issues pending regarding the Title I portion of the consolidated application, please get in touch with your Title I contact person to resolve these issues. The listing of Title I consolidated application contacts is available online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/require/list.pdf.

Once the Title I portion of your consolidated application has been approved, the district will receive email correspondence from Mary Neigum, Title I Fiscal Officer, confirming the approval and providing you with a copy of your approved Title I budget.

Once all federal Title programs have been approved, the district will receive email correspondence from the department's grants manager for all of the federal Title programs. Please review this correspondence in great detail as it outlines key issues the district should be aware of for the 2007-2008 school year.

Farewell to Beverly Fischer

The Department of Public Instruction is sad to say goodbye to one of its Grants Managers, Beverly Fischer. Beverly has resigned from the department and will end her work with us on Friday, September 28, 2007. In the meantime, if school personnel have questions regarding Title I, please contact the State Title I office at 701-328-2282; for questions pertaining to REAP or the STARS program, please contact Julie Vetter at 701-328-3265.

Beverly's dedication will be missed by schools throughout North Dakota as well as the department. Beverly, thank you for your service. You will be greatly missed!

Are You Renewing Your Title I Credential(s) and Teaching License?

To be eligible to work in a Title I classroom, your math and/or reading credential must be renewed on or before the expiration date. Your Title I funds will be in jeopardy if you teach in a Title I classroom with expired credentials.

It is a very common misconception that credentials are renewed automatically when a teaching license is renewed.

Teachers renewing their teaching license are to direct all questions and correspondence to the Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB). You can contact their office by telephone at (701) 328-9642 or by email at espbinfo@nd.gov.

Teachers renewing their Title I reading and/or math credential(s) are to direct all questions and correspondence to the Department of Public Instruction's Title I office. Teachers can contact Sandy Peterson in the State Title I office by telephone at (701) 328-2170 or by email at smpeterson@nd.gov.

Please note: In most cases, when your teaching license is due for renewal, so is your reading and/or math credential. The Title I office does not send out renewal notices therefore, it is your responsibility to contact the State Title I office to ensure your credential(s) is renewed.

Aide/Paraprofessional Reminder

Districts are reminded that as they hire aides/paraprofessionals for the 2007-2008 school year, they MUST be highly qualified before they can be offered employment.

The *No Child Left Behind* Act outlines that aides/paraprofessionals must meet one of three requirements to be highly qualified. These three include:

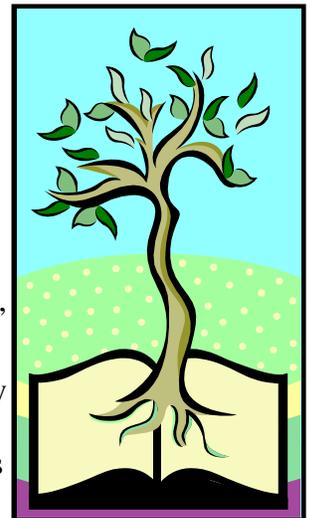
- 1) obtain an associates degree (or higher) from an institution of higher education; or
- 2) complete at least two years of study at an institution of higher education; or
- 3) meet a rigorous standard of quality, which includes an assessment of reading, writing, and math. North Dakota has three assessments on our state approved list.

In Title I targeted assistance programs, all Title I-paid aides/paraprofessionals must be highly qualified. In Title I schoolwide programs, all aides/paraprofessionals must be highly qualified, regardless of whether or not the position is funded with Title I funds. This includes aides/paraprofessionals paid with district, Title I, Special Education, BIA, or other funding sources.

The State Title I office has a certificate of completion available for aides/paraprofessionals to document their compliance with this regulation. More information on this certificate is available at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/aides.shtm.

Districts employing aides/paraprofessionals who do not meet the highly qualified definition outlined above put their current and future Title I funding at risk.

The July 2007 issue of *Title I News* contained an article regarding frequent questions on the testing options for aides/paraprofessionals, as well as information on applying for the Paraprofessional Certificate of Completion. For more information, please refer to the article entitled "Notice Regarding the Paraprofessional Certification of Completion Issues," which is available online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/nwsltrs/0707/july07.pdf.



Reallocated Funds Update



The students are back in school, leaves are turning colors, and it is that time of year when school districts can apply for reallocated funds.

Due to the decrease in the Title I allocations for the 2007-2008 school year, we have changed our policy on reallocated funds.

School districts that received a minimal amount of funding in 2007-2008 to operate their Title I program are eligible to apply for reallocated funds to send their Title I teacher(s) to the 2007 Title I Fall Workshop in Bismarck, October 7-9, 2007.

If you would like to apply for reallocated funds to send your teacher(s) to the Title I Fall Workshop, your district must have all of its Title I funds allocated to salary and benefits. Reallocated funds applications completed for this purpose must be submitted by September 21, 2007. Districts requesting reallocated funds for purposes other than the Title I Fall Workshop must have their reallocated funds applications submitted by October 12, 2007.

- Log on to the STARS and create a Title I Budget Revision.
- In Section A – Select the reallocated funds tab.
- In Section B – Provide a detailed description on the amount of travel dollars you will need for your teacher(s) to attend the Title I Fall Workshop.
- You can include mileage at \$0.45 per mile, lodging at actual cost, registration fee of \$70 for one day or \$85 for two days, and the evening meal for two nights (Sunday and Monday) at \$12.50 per meal. The Sunday evening meal can only be covered if you are planning to attend the Sunday evening session.
- If you are planning to apply for funding for other activities, they must be included on this budget revision.

Please keep these tips in mind, for any district applying for reallocated funds:

- We only have about \$200,000 available for reallocation. This is significantly less than last year.
- Bear in mind, the average reallocated funds grant award during 2006-2007 was \$5,000.
- We can not award funds of more than \$20,000 to any one district.
- Since the funds are limited, it is a good possibility that only first priority applications will be approved, with the exception of the Title I Fall Workshop travel and registration expenses.
- First priority considerations would be increasing teacher time, adding summer school, before or after school program, and other activities relating to direct services to children.
- Second priority considerations would be salary and benefits for aides/ paraprofessionals, travel expenses with the exception of the Title I Fall Workshop, materials, supplies, and equipment.
- These reallocated funds are intended for districts with limited Title I allocations, not districts who carryover a large amount of Title I funds each year.



Upcoming RTI Trainings

In North Dakota, and throughout the nation, we are seeing an extraordinary interest in Response to Intervention (RTI). The Department of Public Instruction has had numerous inquiries on RTI initiatives. The State Title I office has compiled a listing of the numerous fall professional development opportunities available on the topic of RTI. The list can be found online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/aug07rti.pdf on the Title I website.

Monthly Featured Articles

Math Corner

By: Flo Hilzendeger

Family Involvement in Math

As the new school term begins, teachers enjoy learning about all students in their classroom as well as their family and extended family.

An activity that may inspire family involvement and can be extended over other curriculum areas, includes the following:

Extended Family

Begin by drawing a figure of a child near the top of the paper. Label it ME. Add the name and the birth date (if the child is old enough to write the information if not you may want to add it). Below the first figure draw two additional figures and label these parents. Have the child take it home and request that parents add their names and birth dates. Below the second set of figures draw two sets of two figures to represent the grandparents. This again would be an activity to involve parents and perhaps even extended family. Have someone add names and birth dates if available. Continue the process and watch it grow. Have the children make predictions on the number of great-great-great-grandparents they would have, then the number of great-great-great-great-grandparents.

The diagram may look similar to the following.

Name:
Birth date:



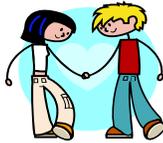
Name:
Birth date:

Name:
Birth date:



Name:
Birth date:

Name:
Birth date:



Name:
Birth date:

Name:
Birth date:



Name:
Birth date:

Reading Corner

By: Nita Wirtz

Special Edition on Back-to-School

The 2007-2008 school year is upon us and it is time to sharpen our pencils for another glorious school year. Remember, teaching others is a gift and we in the state of North Dakota are blessed with the most truly passionate and caring educators in the business.

To start the year off right, this edition of the reading corner will give you a variety of ideas. Pearson Education Inc. has a wonderful website containing information on back-to-school ideas located at www.theteacherscorner.net/seasonal/back-to-school/index.htm. Several of these ideas are specifically related to general back-to-school tips, signs of struggling for each grade level, and ways to specifically improve reading skills.

Back-to-School Tips

Tips for getting back-to-school in a well adjusted manner include ideas to help parents make the transition from summer break to school time. Pearson Education (2007) indicates that maintaining a good relationship with your child will assist in making a smooth transition, especially focusing time on getting ready for school to begin. Parental attitude and preparation are key components to a strong beginning. Visiting the school with fellow student may ease the anxiety felt in preparation for this event. If possible, greeting the teacher before or on the first day will help

Reading Corner continued on page 7.

Reading Corner (continued)

establish a good relationship for the upcoming school year. Be cautious not to implement several new changes at one time; which may cause an overwhelming anxiety of events. If the child is expected to take on more home or sport responsibilities, try to ease the changes in subtly instead of including all of them within the first week of school. Listening to anxiety issues and assisting with addressing the problems will set the right tone for a great year.

Top Signs of Struggling Students

Once the school year begins, watching for signs of adjustment and struggling skill issues is important. Research studies prove that early intervention is the key to assisting students. Pearson Education has divided grades K-8 noting category area signs to watch for and monitor in students struggling with skills. According to Pearson Education (2007), if children display signs of struggling in these grade categories, chances are they are at-risk for struggling during the school year.

- Kindergarten – problems adjusting to being away from home, problems communicating or getting along with classmates or teacher, difficulties following direction, problems cutting or pasting materials, or inability to handle personal needs (bathroom needs or dressing).
- First Grade – problems grasping basic reading skills as well as, listening and following direction, concentrating to complete a task, working independently, recognizing the alphabet, or expressing opinion, feelings, and needs.
- Second Grade – presenting a problem with reading fluency and comprehension, ability to legibly print, incorrect spelling or basic vocabulary, basic addition and subtraction up to 10, and group participation.
- Third Grade – basic reading and math skills should be obtained by the end of this grade as well as phonic rules, the ability to write complete sentences, reading high-frequency words, solving simple story problems in math, legible cursive writing, and the ability to add and subtract 1-to-2-digit numbers.
- Fourth Grade – watching for signs of poor organization, inappropriate behavior, lack of reading vocabulary, problems with basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, test preparation, and legible and easily displayed cursive writing.
- Fifth Grade – at this level a student should be able to write solid sentences and paragraphs, perform group work, analyze and recall factual information, present and share learned information, and read content area materials.
- Sixth Grade – Pearson Education notes, not to be alarmed if report card grades drop at this grade, especially if the student is now transitioning to a middle school environment where they will be compared to others, other adjustment problems include student knowledge of when help is needed and how to get it, handling test formats consisting of essay, short answer, multiple choice, and true-false format, having acquired study skills, drug and alcohol experimentation, and displaying an interest in school and learning.
- Seventh Grade – establishing an identity becomes a problem for these students and acquiring the skills to balance academics and social life and display confidence become key to academics; other difficulty areas include non-belonging feelings, appreciating being an individual, avoiding risk-taking behavior, completing and turning in assignments in a timely manner, and accepting responsibility.
- Eighth Grade – this is the final frontier before high school to catch up on poor academic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics; failure to do so may cause graduation difficulties. Other difficulties may include using the computer, handling basic homework responsibilities, communicating with teachers, displaying proper study skills, and expressing self in words and writing.

Ways to Improve Reading

Acquiring reading skills is important to academic success. Without basic reading skills, students will struggle to make basic successful navigation of school. Pearson Education (2007) includes the following top ten tips for improving reading skills:

- Setting aside time for reading
- Having access to a variety of reading material
- Modeling reading through family reading time

Reading Corner continued on page 8.

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Reading Corner (continued)

- Incorporating reading with a variety of activities including menus, road signs, games, directions, news, books, and other everyday information
- Visiting the library on a regular basis
- Remaining involved in the child's reading skills progress
- Having both the parent(s) and teacher(s) observe for reading problems
- Getting immediate help for reading difficulties
- Seeking help using a variety of sources including textbooks, computer programs, books on tape, games, and other materials
- Keeping interest and express enthusiasm for reading in your child's life

Pearson Education (2007) also offers many other tips and tricks on their back-to-school webpage, which can be found at www.theteacherscorner.net/seasonal/back-to-school/index.htm. It is my hope that these tips will help you establish a wonderful beginning to the school year and give early identification for those students who may struggle. Remember, early intervention is the key to assisting those at-risk. Have a safe and prosperous school year!

References:

Pearson Education Inc. (2007). Back-to-school resources (Electronic version). Retrieved on July 3, 2007 from www.theteacherscorner.net/seasonal/back-to-school/index.htm

Upcoming Events

2007 Title I Fall Workshop

The State Title I office is sponsoring a fall workshop for Title I personnel.

- October 7-9, 2007 in Bismarck, ND

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

34th Plains International Reading Association (IRA) Regional Conference

Enjoy two days of sessions, workshops, symposia, and children's book authors.

- November 8-11, 2007 in Overland Park, KS

Information is available at www.reading.org/association/meetings/34_plains.html.

National Title I Conference

- January 31-February 3, 2008 in Nashville, TN

Information is available at www.titlei.org.

Technology Reading & Learning Diversity (TRLD) Conference

- January 24-26, 2008 in San Francisco, CA

Information is available at www.trld.com.

North Dakota Reading Association (NDRA) Spring Conference

The 2008 NDRA Conference, *Hit a Homerun for Literacy*, will feature events such as guest authors, story telling, exhibitors, and more. The conference is geared toward educators with a particular interest in reading.

- April 10-12, 2008 in Jamestown, ND

Information is available at www.homerunforliteracy.org.

The State Title I office has compiled a list of upcoming events that can be taken for credit and used for credential renewal. This list can be found at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/graduateOpp.shtm on the Title I website.

