



North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Title I News

November 2007

In this issue...

- Upcoming Survey
- Mark Your Calendar!
- 2006-2007 School District Profile Notification
- Title I Mid-Year Financial Report Reminder
- Are You Renewing Your Title I Credential(s) and Teaching License?
- Title I Self-Monitoring Reminder
- RRR Available
- Director's Report
- Reading Month 2008 is Coming Soon!
- 2008 National Title I Conference
- Monthly Featured Articles
 - × Reading Corner – Ho! Ho! Ho! – Books with a Special Glow!
 - × Math Corner – Rescuing the At-Risk Mathematic Student
- Title I Staff
- Upcoming Events

Upcoming Survey

Time is precious to everyone. The state Title I office recognizes and appreciates the amount of time school personnel put forth to meet Title I requirements. Time is also a factor at the state level. More and more, we are struggling to find the time necessary to meet all federal regulations as well as continuing to provide a wealth of resources to Title I personnel. Therefore, the state Title I office will be conducting a survey of school personnel inviting you to provide us with feedback on the current initiatives conducted by the state Title I office. Respondents to the survey will be able to identify the resources they find beneficial and those they do not. The results of this survey will help the state Title I office as we prioritize our future initiatives.

Mark Your Calendar!

The state Title I office is excited to announce the dates for the 2008 Title I Program Improvement Workshop and 2008 Title I Fall Workshop.

The 2008 Title I Program Improvement Workshop will be held on Monday, April 21, 2008 at the Doublewood Inn in Bismarck. This meeting is specifically for those schools and districts that have been identified for program improvement through not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). All personnel who are interested in this topic are invited to register and attend.

The 2008 Title I Fall Workshop will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 2008 through Friday, October 10, 2008 at the Bismarck Civic Center. Details of the workshop are still being finalized.

We will keep you posted on the progress of these two events in future issues of the *Title I News*. Please mark your calendars for these events!

2006-2007 School District Profile Notification

The state Title I office would like to inform you of the recent release of the 2006-2007 School District Profile (also known as the School District Report Card).

Information includes statewide school plant performance data and statewide district performance data, as well as information on the district's assessment, demographics, and the statewide district performance summary. It takes time to generate data for each of these categories; therefore, the department is just now releasing 2006-2007 information.

This serves as a prime opportunity to remind school districts that they are required to inform parents that this information is available to them. A sample letter regarding this requirement is available at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/springwkshp/profileletter.pdf. Most districts choose to inform parents of the availability of this information through their school newsletter. Remember, in addition to providing a website address for the document, you must also inform them as to how they can review a written copy made available by the district (i.e., copy in school office, library, etc.).

Title I Mid-Year Financial Report Reminder

The 2007-2008 Title I Mid-Year Financial Report (SFN 7822) will be mailed to school districts in late December and is due January 14, 2008. Please report all expenditures from July 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007 on the financial report. The Title I Mid-Year Report forms should not be completed and submitted until after your return from the December holiday vacation. This will ensure that all expenses from July 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007 are accounted for on the report.



Prior to the report being due, the state Title I office will be mailing each district a copy of the most recently approved budget figures on file in our office. These are the figures districts will use to complete the report. Districts are also reminded that these figures must match their ledgers at the local level.

The Title I Mid-Year Financial Report (SFN 7822) is available online as a PDF document at www.dpi.state.nd.us/forms/sfn7822.pdf and in MS Word format at www.dpi.state.nd.us/forms/word/sfn7822.doc. Guidance to assist you in completing the form is also available online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/forms/instruct/instruct7822.pdf.

If you have questions or need assistance with this form, please contact Mary Neigum, Title I Fiscal Officer at mneigum@nd.gov or (701) 328-2281.

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/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 at (701) 328-9642 or espbinfo@nd.gov.

Teachers renewing their Title I reading and/or math credential(s) are to direct all questions and correspondence to Sandy Peterson in the Title I office at (701) 328-2170 or 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 Title I office to ensure your credential(s) is renewed.

Title I Self-Monitoring Reminder



In order for state Title I program staff to successfully monitor the number of schools that are required, forty-one school districts were selected and have been notified of their participation in the Title I Self-Monitoring process. Title I Self-Monitoring guides have been created for large districts, Title I schoolwide, Title I targeted assistance, Title I co-op, and Title I private schools. A listing of the districts chosen and a copy of the self-monitoring guides are available online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/resource/monitor/index.shtm.

The self-monitoring guide and corresponding documentation is due to the state Title I office on or before **December 12, 2007**.

RRR Available

In September, the state Title I office featured a new resource for educators. This resource is entitled *RRR – Research/Resources Report*. The document highlights the latest research and resources available through comprehensive and research centers across the United States. We highly encourage all school personnel to review this valuable information. The November 2007 issue can be found online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/1107.pdf.

Director's Report

Projected Title I Funding for the 2008-2009 School Year

The Bush Administration, the House, and the Senate have begun the process of determining appropriations for the 2008-2009 school year. Below, I have highlighted a timeline of how events occur in a typical year.

- Congress typically passes the appropriations bill for the subsequent year's funding in November or December.
- The U.S. Department of Education typically generates an estimated state Title I allocation in January or February. We generally receive our estimated state Title I allocation at the National Title I Conference.
- The Department of Public Instruction then needs to determine eligibility status for Title I funding. This typically occurs in February.

Eligibility for a Title I grant requires a district to have a minimum formula count of TEN. The formula count must exceed 2% of the district's age 5 through 17 population. The formula count is a weighted unit consisting of 15.5% of the census poor count, 15.5% of the foster child count, 46% of the eligible free meal count, and 23% of the eligible reduced meal count.

The census poor count is the count of children ages 5-17 who were reported below poverty on the updated federal census. The foster child count is a count of children ages 5-17 living in the foster homes during October 2007. The free meal count is a count of children eligible for free meals. The reduced meal count is a count of children eligible for reduced meal prices. A child must have an approved free or reduced meal application on file at their school district office for October 2007 to be counted. The department's Child Nutrition and Food Distribution unit verifies the free and reduced meal counts. If your total weighted unit drops below ten, the district does not meet the eligibility requirement and your subsequent year's Title I grant would be zero.

Several administrators have questioned the accuracy of the census poor count listed for their district. The state Title I office receives a chart showing the census poor count for every district in the state each January. We have been informed that there is no way to change these numbers. The numbers on the chart are final. Keep in mind that the census data is always a few years behind. 2005 income year data will be used to calculate the 2008-2009 Title I allocations.

- After eligibility has been determined, we can then use each district's aggregate units for funding purposes.

In February 2008, the state Title I office will send correspondence to all Title I authorized representatives informing them of the status of their aggregate units. Each district will receive a chart comparing last year's aggregate units to the current totals. If the aggregate units increase from the prior year, the allocation will probably increase. If the aggregate units go down, the allocation will most likely also decrease. If the numbers do not change much, the allocation will most likely remain steady.

District: Sample					
	Census (15.5%)	Free Meals (46%)	Reduced Meals (23%)	Foster (15.5%)	Aggregate Units
2006 Data	782	1496	691	64	978.220
2007 Data	933	1724	720	64	1113.175

- If the aggregate units decreased and you receive a decrease in Title I funding for the 2008-2009 school year, there are provisions in place to lessen the impact. The "hold harmless" provision guarantees that an eligible school district receives, at a minimum, a certain percentage of last year's Title I allocation. However, the "hold harmless" provision is calculated individually for each of the four categories.

Director's Report continued on page 4.

Director's Report (continued).

In order to benefit from the "hold harmless" provision, your district must be eligible for each category separately.

95% Hold Harmless – LEAs with 30% and higher poverty

90% Hold Harmless – LEAs with 15% to 30% poverty

85% Hold Harmless – LEAs with 0% to 15% poverty

- The department will then generate **estimated** federal Title allocations. We hope to have these amounts available by April 2008.

The department will post **estimated** federal Title I program allocations for school districts on our website. To access this allocation information, log on to www.dpi.state.nd.us/grants/allocap.shtm. No written correspondence is mailed to school districts.

- The department will generate and post **final** federal title allocations when we receive final amounts from the U.S. Department of Education. This typically occurs in May.

We are currently under a continuing resolution at the federal level. Hopefully, Congress will provide an appropriation for the 2008-2009 school year before they adjourn for the holiday break in December. In that event, the timeline listed above will be fairly accurate. It is anticipated that there will be an increase in funding for Title I for the 2008-2009 school year.

It is also a possibility that Congress will approve another continuing resolution and address the appropriations when they reconvene in January 2008. In that case, everything could be significantly delayed.

We will keep you updated on the allocation process in future issues of the *Title I News*.

Reading Month 2008 is Coming Soon!

Each year, the month of February is designated as North Dakota's Reading Month. The theme for Reading Month 2008 is *Natural Disasters: Whirl, Shake, Blow, Erupt, Strike, Flow, or Blaze into Reading*.

The state Title I office contracts with North Dakota teachers each year to create the Reading Month packet. This year's packet is being prepared by Nancy Thompson, Terri Jangula, and Sue Wald, from the Napoleon Public School District.

The state Title I office is planning to mail out the packets to schools in December. One Reading Month packet is being mailed to every school district in North Dakota, addressed to the elementary school building. In addition a reading month packet is being mailed to all elementary schools in the eleven large districts, all private elementary schools, and all graded elementary schools. The packet envelope will have a large, red "Reading Month" stamp on the front. We ask that this document be shared with all school personnel. Once the mailing has been sent, the document will also be available on the Department of Public Instruction's Title I website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/resource/read/index.shtm.

In the third grade, students usually learn about natural disasters as part of their curriculum and for many this is a very exciting experience. The packet assemblers used this idea to springboard the assembly of this year's theme. The packet will revolve around twelve natural disasters, so you can focus on all twelve or pick a few of your favorites. Some disasters may take more time than others may, and your students may want more time with some of the disasters. The packet includes a daily calendar of ideas and within each section you will find facts and trivia, along with lists of relevant books, websites, and project ideas. This year's packet not only includes the subject of reading, but also includes an emphasis on science activities and use of reading with the subject of science.

The organizers are integrating many of the suggestions and ideas that were submitted from the 2007 Reading Month feedback sheets. If anyone has any questions or comments regarding this project, please contact Nita Wirtz, Assistant Director in the state Title I office at nwirtz@nd.gov or at (701) 328-1876. Get ready for the February storms and natural disasters coming your way in the Reading Month 2008 packet.

2008 National Title I Conference

The National Title I Conference is an annual professional development event focused on the issues and concerns of Title I, the largest federally-funded K-12 program in the country. With inspiring and informative sessions, memorable special events, and numerous networking opportunities, the 2008 National Title I Conference will not disappoint you. This year's conference has over 50 sessions focusing on three themes: reauthorization, special populations, and education reform. Presentations are led by well known featured speakers, employees from the United States Department of Education, and other exceptional educators and researchers. Join 3,000 of your colleagues from around the country at this essential professional development opportunity.

DON'T MISS *Dolly Parton* AT THE 2008 NATIONAL TITLE I CONFERENCE!

The National Association of State Title I Directors offers a warm Nashville welcome to the country star. As the opening keynote speaker, Dolly will discuss her foundation's Imagination Library. The project enters partnerships with communities across the country to provide age-appropriate books each month to children from birth to age five. Currently, more than 330,000 children receive books from the Imagination Library each month, and the National Title I Conference is partnering with them to expand the reach into even more communities.

BE THERE THURSDAY, JANUARY 31!

This year's National Title I Conference, *Changing Performance*, is being held January 31-February 3, 2008, in Nashville, Tennessee. Additional information and registration forms for this conference can be accessed at www.titlei.org.

Monthly Featured Articles

Reading Corner

By: Nita Wirtz

Ho! Ho! Ho! – Books with a Special Glow!

'Tis almost the holiday season and finding a perfect gift for all the children and loved ones on your list is the task crossing most peoples' minds at this time of the year. Sometimes it is challenging to find appropriate books for special learners, and this reading corner article will attempt to assist with this little holiday burden.

The LD-Online website, www.ldonline.org/kids/books, has done a wonderful job of putting together examples of books especially for the learning disabled child, which includes the following:

Books for Up to Age 9

- *I Wish I Could Fly Like a Bird* – by Katherine Denison – Age 6-9
- *Jen's Best Gift Ever* – by Laura Appleton-Smith – Age 3-6
- *Josh: A Boy with Dyslexia* – by Caroline A. Janover – Age 3-6
- *Leo the Late Bloomer* – by Robert Kraus – Age 6-9
- *Marvin One Too Many* – by Katherine Paterson – Age 6-9
- *Thank You, Mr. Falker* – by Patricia Polacco – Age 3-6

Books for Ages 9-12

- *All Kinds of Minds: A Young Student's Book about Learning Abilities and Learning Disorders* – by Mel Levine – Age 9-12
- *Dear Professor Einstein: Albert Einstein's Letters to and from Children* – Age 9-12
- *Distant Drums, Different Drummers: A Guide for Young People with ADHD* – by Barbara Ingersoli – Age 9-12
- *Eddie Enough!* – by Jeanne Gehret – Age 9-12
- *First Star I See* – by Jaye Andras Caffrey – Age 9-12
- *I Got a D in Salami (Hank Zipper)* – by Henry Winkler – Age 9-12
- *I'm Somebody Too* – by Jeanne Gehret – Age 9-12

Reading Corner continued on page 6.

Reading Corner (continued).

- *Help4ADD@High School* – by Kathleen G. Nadeau – Age teen
- *Help! Somebody Get Me Out of Fourth Grade (Hank Zipper)* – by Henry Winkler – Age 9-12
- *How Dyslexic Benny Became a Star* – by Joe Griffith – Age 9-12
- *How Many Days Until Tomorrow?* – by Caroline Janover – Age 9-12
- *Hyper Harry* – by Patricia H. Aust – Age 9-12
- *Learning to Slow Down and Pay Attention* – by Kathleen G. Nadeau – Age 9-12
- *Loser* – by Jerry Spinelli – Age 9-12
- *Lucky Horseshoes: A Take from the Iris the Dragon Series* – by Gayle Grass – Age 9-12
- *Niagara Falls or Does it? (Hank Zipper)* – by Henry Winkler – Age 9-12
- *My Year with Harry Potter: How I Discovered My Own Magical World* – by Ben Buchanan – Age 9-12
- *The Survival Guide for Kids with LD* – by Gary L. Fischer – Age 9-12
- *The Safe Place* – by Tehila Peterseli – Age 9-12
- *The Worst Speller in Jr. High* – by Caroline Janover – Age 9-12
- *Unjust Cause* – by Tehila Peterseil – Age 9-12

Books for Teens

- *Different is Not Bad, Different is the World: A Book about Disabilities* – by Sally L. Smith – Age teen
- *My Thirteenth Winter: A Memoir* – by Samantha Abeal – Age teen
- *The Survival Guide for Teenagers with LD* – by Rhoda Woods Cummings & Gary L. Fischer – Age teen

Reference:

WETA (2006). LD OnLine. Retrieved on July 3, 2007 from www.ldonline.org/kids/books

Math Corner**By: Flo Hilzendeger****Rescuing the At-Risk
Mathematic Student**

A recent study conducted among high school students, indicates there are two groups that are learning notably less math than they should at their grade level and are becoming more at risk. The two groups include students who traditionally drop out of school and the underachiever. The second group, “normal math students,” who underachieve, stay in school. They may even go on to attend college; however, their math skills are very limited. They lack adequate math skills which may prevent them from maximizing life choices, or they may not be capable of fully contributing to society because they have not been exposed to advanced math courses.

The study also affirms that 20 percent of students who enroll in schools become part of the dropout faction. They differ from their peers in development of self-esteem and task performance. They frequently live in families that live at the poverty level and display behaviors that cause problems in school.

Unlike the potential dropout, the other 20 to 25 percent, or “normal kid,” generally takes only the required basic math courses, seldom taking a math elective. They seldom cause behavior problems nor are they viewed as a potential problem to society. These students are at-risk because their level of understanding and competence in doing math is below average, and are not likely to consider a career in mathematics. They are frequently incapable of using math in their daily lives.

Variables causing students to fall into the at-risk faction include:

- The curriculum does not provide for cultural differences
- Math has been thought of as a male domain so frequently, female students become at-risk students
- Teacher attitudes frequently reinforce the male domain
- Student anxiety regarding math causes students to under-perform
- Attitudes and skills related to understanding math are not fostered in many classrooms
- Drills and practice are ineffective

Mathematics classes that are well planned and operated to ensure success tend to have few remedial students. Data also indicates there is a strong relationship between early mathematics achievement and later mathematics achievement. Math instruction at the elementary level should include:

- Hands-on experiences
- Early math instruction that continues throughout elementary grades
- Real life math experiences

Math corner continued on page 7.

Title I Staff

Laurie Matzke

Director
Email: Hlmatzke@nd.govH
Phone: (701) 328-2284

Gail Schauer

Assistant Director
Reading First Program
Email: Hgschauer@nd.govH
Phone: (701) 328-2285

Nita Wirtz

Assistant Director
Neglected & Delinquent,
CSR Programs
Email: Hnwirtz@nd.govH
Phone: (701) 328-1876

Ann Ellefson

Assistant Director
Schoolwide Programs
Email: Haellefson@nd.govH
Phone: (701) 328-2292

Florence Hilzendege

Program Administrator
Homeless Program
Email: Hfhilzendege@nd.govH
Phone: (701) 328-4646

Sandy Peterson

Program Administrator
Migrant Education,
Title I Credentials
Email: Hsmpeterson@nd.govH
Phone: (701) 328-2170

Mary Neigum

Fiscal Officer
Email: Hmneigum@nd.govH
Phone: (701) 328-2281

Missy Schiller

Administrative Assistant
Email: Hmschiller@nd.govH
Phone: (701) 328-2254

Patty Carmichael

Administrative Assistant
Email: Hpcarmichael@nd.govH
Phone: (701) 328-3264

Lauri Nord

Administrative Assistant
Email: Hlnord@nd.gov
Phone: (701) 328-2282

Office Fax: (701) 328-4770

Toll Free: (888) 605-1951

Math corner (continued)

- A variety of approaches to accommodate learning styles
- Effective use of homework
- Involving parents
- Frequent monitoring to identify students experiencing difficulties
- Providing individual attention to students who are struggling
- Using special programs, tutoring, in-class instruction, and pull-out instruction
- Maintaining accurate records

Remember: Prevention of a math problem is far more successful than remediation.

Resource: www.apples4theteacher.com/resouces/modules

Upcoming Events

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.

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Annual Conference

- April 9-12, 2008 in Salt Lake City, UT
- Information is available at www.nctm.org.

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.

North Dakota Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NDCTM) Annual Conference

- April 18-19, 2008 in Grand Forks, ND
- Information is available at www2.edutech.nodak.edu/ndctm/conference.htm.

2008 Title I Program Improvement Workshop

- April 21, 2008 in Bismarck, ND
- Information will be available spring of 2008 at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

2008 Title I Fall Workshop

- The state Title I office is sponsoring a fall workshop for Title I personnel.
- October 8-10, 2008 in Bismarck, ND
- Information will be available in the fall of 2008 at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

The Title I office has also 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.