



North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Title I News

January 2008

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Key Items Addressed in the Recently Published Update Memo

On January 25, 2008 the North Dakota Title I office sent all Title I contacts an update memo on *No Child Left Behind*/Title I issues. The following information was included in the memo:

- ▶ Title I Contact List
- ▶ Federal Funding for School Year 2008-2009
- ▶ Status of NCLB Reauthorization
- ▶ Results of Survey – Title I Conference Call Training
- ▶ Focus on Research
- ▶ U.S. Department of Education Title I Monitoring
- ▶ Upcoming Title I Survey

To access a copy of the memo, please visit the Title I website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthoriz/memos.shtm.

2008 Reading Month Packet Available Online

By now, all schools in North Dakota should have received the 2008 Reading Month Packet entitled *Natural Disasters: Whirl, Shake, Blow, Erupt, Strike, Flow, or Blaze into Reading*. In addition to mailing this document, the state Title I office has posted the packet on the Title I website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/resource/read/index.shtm. If you did not receive a printed copy of the Reading Month Packet by postal mail, please take a moment to download the information from this website, as February is Reading Month.

Upcoming Parental Involvement Initiatives

Parental involvement has always been a key component in the Title I law. Title I, Part A requires parental involvement at every level of the program. Three decades of research provide convincing evidence that parents are an important influence in helping their children achieve to high academic standards. When schools collaborate with parents to help their children learn and when parents participate in school activities and decision-making about their children's education, children achieve at higher levels. In short, when parents are involved in education, children do better in school and schools improve.

For this reason, the Title I office has decided to focus more of its efforts on this issue. The Title I office will be developing a new monthly Parental Involvement Bulletin providing resources and ideas for parental involvement. The first issue can be expected to be available at the end of February 2008.

The Title I office has also seen an increase in the number of schools utilizing Title I funds to hire parental involvement coordinators. Therefore, a sample job description for Title I paid parental involvement coordinators has been developed and is posted online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/require/parent/index.shtm.

Director's Report

There is a national organization established to allow state Title I directors an opportunity to discuss educational issues amongst themselves, as well as with the U. S. Department of Education (USDE) personnel. This organization is called NASTID - National Association of State Title I Directors and meets twice a year. It convenes at the National Title I Conference in January or February and again in the summer. These meetings provide an excellent opportunity for state directors to get updated information on issues pertaining to Title I and *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB). I will be attending the National Title I Conference in Nashville, TN, at the end of January 2008. I anticipate receiving updates on the following issues:

■ State Monitoring of NCLB

The State of North Dakota's Title I program is being monitored the first week of May 2008. Hopefully, we will be given more specific information on what we should expect when we are visited this spring. I anticipate that USDE staff will walk us through the monitoring process, as well as share with directors which components are commonly being cited as out of compliance in the visits they have previously conducted.

■ Federal Programs Reauthorization

The federal programs included in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act are slated to be reauthorized this year, although little progress has been made to date. I am hoping to get information on the Senate's draft legislation which has yet to be released. Hopefully, the USDE can provide some insight as to the timeline for the reauthorization process.

■ Response to Intervention

There are numerous sessions pertaining to Response to Intervention (RTI) on the agenda for this conference. In addition, the topic is on the agenda for our director's meeting with the USDE staff. I am hoping to get updated information on RTI. Specifically, I hope to get clarification on any additional flexibility for targeted assistance schools wanting to include Title I in the RTI process. I will share any updates that I receive at our Title I Conference Call Training on RTI scheduled for February 27, 2008.

I will provide a summary of the information shared at the National Title I Conference in the February issue of *Title I News*.

Reading First Funding Update

President Bush signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008, for the 2008-2009 school year, on December 26, 2007, providing \$59.2 billion for education, an increase of \$1.7 billion, or 2.9%, from FY 2007. Some educational programs will receive an increase in funding; however, some will experience a decrease.

Unfortunately, the Reading First program was cut significantly. Last year North Dakota received \$2.4 million. This year the estimated allocation for North Dakota Reading First is \$935,641.

What does this mean for the North Dakota? North Dakota Reading First schools are funded for three years. Currently, North Dakota has 11 Reading First schools. Seven of these schools will complete their three-year funding cycle in June 2008. Four Reading First schools will continue implementing Reading First next year. The funding available for the four continuing Reading First schools is sufficient to implement a strong Reading First program.

The state Reading First office does plan to hold a round of competitions this spring (2008) in order to fund two to four additional Reading First programs. Since the grant application is very involved and requires a great deal of time and effort, the state Reading First office will be identifying the neediest schools as top priority in receiving the funding. These schools will have an excellent chance of receiving Reading First funding if they have a strong grant application. Other schools may also apply, but because of the limited funding, will only be funded if there are funds available after the top priority schools are funded and if they have a strong grant application.

The Reading First grant application, along with an announcement including the schools eligible to apply, will be available in mid-February. Superintendents and principals of schools eligible to apply will be notified by email. The information will also be posted on the Reading First webpage at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/reading/index.shtm once it is available.

Title I Mid Year Financial Report Reminder

The 2007-2008 Title I Mid Year Financial Report (SFN 7822) and a chart outlining the district's current budget status were mailed to school districts in late December. This report was due by **Monday, January 14, 2008**. If you have not done so, please complete the Mid Year Financial Report and submit it to the Department of Public Instruction Title I office. This report is available online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/forms/sfn7822.pdf.

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

Title I Schools List Published

With the 2007-2008 consolidated application season coming to a close, the Title I office was able to finalize its lists of North Dakota Title I and Non-Title I schools. The figures below summarize this information:

- ▶ 318 = Total Title I Schools
- ▶ 77 = Schoolwide Title I Schools
- ▶ 241 = Targeted Assistance Title I Schools
- ▶ 168 = Total Non-Title I Schools

These lists can be found online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/index.shtm.

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 school's Title I funds will be in jeopardy if you teach in a Title I classroom with expired credentials. It is a 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 the Department of Public Instruction's Title I office. Please contact Sandy Peterson in the North Dakota 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 Title I 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) remains current.

2008 Reading Summer Symposium

The Department of Public Instruction is excited to announce the 2008 Reading Summer Symposium, scheduled for June 19-20 and June 23-26, 2008 at Bismarck State College in Bismarck, ND. This symposium will focus on Reading First components and be relevant to grades K-3 reading instruction. All schools are invited to participate in these trainings; however, Reading First schools and past Reading First schools will receive priority during registration.

We will again be offering the Kindergarten Teacher Reading Academy, the First Grade Reading Academy, and the Second Grade Reading Academy. Although not finalized, other topics we hope to include are Classroom Management, DIBELS Training, Response to Intervention, Vocabulary and Comprehension, and Differentiated Instruction as well as a couple of more topics.

More details will be included in future issues of the *Title I News* and on the DPI Calendar of Events website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/events.shtm. Registration forms will be available in the spring of 2008.

Monthly Featured Articles

Reading Corner	By: Nita Wirtz	Teaching Reading
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In our technological world, we are always looking for the newest, latest, and greatest way to teach. Fortunately, with the speed of the computer age, we do not have to wait very long for new ideas and products to be advertised. The mistake that is sometimes made by educators is to ‘throw the baby out with the bathwater,’ in other words, to get rid of our present ideas to adopt the futuristic “newest, latest, or greatest” ways available.

In researching ideas for this month’s Reading Corner article, I came across a November 1993 article on the government’s educational archived system entitled “State of the Art Transforming Ideas for Teaching and Learning to Read.” This series of articles was organized into a booklet form and contained a variety of ideas for learning to read. Many of these suggestions are very practical, simple concepts that have been implemented for numerous years and, ironically, are also a part of many of today’s newest, latest, and greatest ways to teach reading.

Below is a summary of these concepts, with a few twists:

1. Don’t forget the clever nature of children – With the creative imaginations of the youthful mind, one can be reminded of the individualism in each unique person. Children have a way of viewing a situation and posing questions that a logical thinking adult would just overlook because of their experience of life. Remember that children have unique thoughts and interpretations that are very influential of their formation of concepts through reading or viewing pictures. These unique thoughts and interpretations allow children to piece together meaning within their environment for task completion. Those stimuli that trigger a thought in your mind may trigger a completely different thought in the mind of a child.
2. Don’t underestimate the importance of reading – It is no secret that reading is responsible for the development of knowledge, strategy formation, motivation, and social interaction. These skills taught through effective reading instruction are then reinforced and expanded on through the exploration and dissection of other subject areas as one progresses up the educational scale. The first subject usually tackled within our educational system is reading, as it is the foundation that a strong education is built upon.
3. Future reading success depends on the conquering of phonemic awareness skills – With all of the reading products on the market today, many still focus around the idea of phonemic awareness. This idea includes a child’s ability to hear the sounds in a word and to distinguish between words based on the different sounds and is responsible for helping children learn the letter-sound correspondences needed to read and spell words. In your classroom, don’t forget to combine and balance activities involving word recognition, reading meaningful text, writing and spelling, and creatively recognizing and spelling words. Effectiveness in teaching involves all of these activities in a connected manner by engaging and informing children at the same time.
4. Basic psychology tells us children learn from modeling – Ever wonder where a child learns language, learns to take care of himself/herself, learns good and bad behavior, and learns just about everything that is important to him/her? Albert Bandura would be proud to say, it’s from modeling. Like the old saying goes ‘monkey see monkey do.’ If children see others modeling literacy skills, they are likely to pick up and imitate these skills themselves.
5. Sharing stimulates mental activity in children – Research indicates that when children use their cognitive abilities to share experiences, ideas, and opinions they are completing highly demanding mental skills for their age. Correlating these ideas along with storybook reading will let children demonstrate context relation through the practice of mental skills involving memory, creativity, and cognitive thought in relation to their own lives and experiences.

Reading Corner continued on page 5.

Reading Corner (continued).

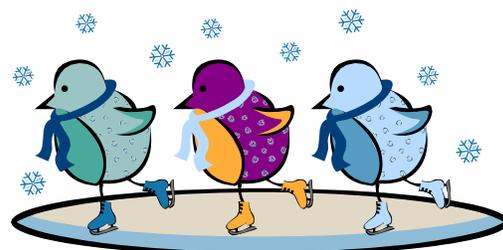
6. Book reports do have a purpose – We all remember our youthful experiences writing book reports, but do we remember why teachers had us do them? This idea lets children practice constructing meaning of their own ideas as related to literature. Even though the response may not be the same for all learners, this is an important practice. Today’s websites are filled with book reviews in an online format and can even be used with very young children by incorporating the five star system for young readers. As part of your classroom review, have children practice writing book reviews or rating a book using the five star system.
7. Reading is not just limited to books – Reading is everywhere and important in every aspect of life. Encouraging children to talk about their daily reading allows them to be more critical about reading and learning. Teachers could use ideas like traditional reading and nontraditional reading. Each class could begin with a question like, “Who read something traditional last night, like a book, magazine, or news article? Tell me what you read about.” Then, the conversation could continue with a question like, “Who read something non-traditional last night, or on your way to or from school, like a cereal box, recipe, billboard sign, advertisement? Tell me what you read about.” Not only does this reinforce the idea of reading, but it also articulates the use of critical thinking skills.

With the new year upon us, we are all anxious to embrace the future filled with hopes, dreams, and aspirations. On the other hand, it’s also a time to take inventory of old ideas that have served us well in the past. This article has highlighted some “new but old” ideas involving reading! Through the mingling of these two concepts, we set ourselves on a course to have the best year of our lives. Best of luck with your new year!

Math Corner**By: Flo Hilzendeger****Reading in Math**

Are math and reading related in any way? Many think not; however, you may be able to provide some math instruction while reading with students. The books listed below provide math activities while providing literary practice:

- ▶ *The Greedy Triangle* by Marilyn Burns shows that shapes are found in unusual places: Triangles appear when you put your hands on your hips. Ask your students to list ten shapes that they can find in their homes.
- ▶ *The Doorbell Rang* by Pat Hutchins shows children how to divide up a dozen cookies. Allow the children to complete the activity by cutting out circles.
- ▶ Leo Lionni’s *Inch by Inch* measures things for the birds with his body. Use a ruler to measure things around the classroom or in the home.
- ▶ *Is a Blue Whale the Biggest Thing There Is?* by R.E. Wells compares the size of a blue whale with other things on Earth that we are familiar with. The tale eventually ends in a comparison and better understanding of the relative size of the entire universe.
- ▶ *Mathamusements* by R. Blum is a paperback book full of tricks, puzzles, memory tests, and other experiments in math.
- ▶ *Math and Literature (K-3) Book Two* by S. Sheffield lists a total of 21 children’s books that are linked with mathematics activities and lesson plans for K-3 students.



Neglected and Delinquent Program News Corner

This Month's N&D Notifications

N&D Mid Year Reports Due – Since we are in the middle of the school year for your N&D program, school personnel are reminded that it is time to submit your N&D Mid Year Financial Report (SFN 7822). They were officially due in the state Title I office on January 17, 2008.

Upcoming N&D Professional Development

The following conferences relating to neglected and delinquent programs are forthcoming. Please refer to each bullet below for more information:

- ▶ 35th National Conference on Juvenile Justice – March 9-12, 2008 – St. Louis, Missouri
This conference offers juvenile justice professionals a national perspective on the issues they face in their day-to-day efforts to make a difference in the lives of children and families. The sessions at the conference will highlight effective practice and programs, offer tips and tools, provide an opportunity for networking, and inspire and invigorate participants. With breakout sessions on a wide variety of topics, from truancy and safe schools, to gangs, to family violence, to child abuse and neglect, to juvenile sex offenders, to substance abuse, there is sure to be something for everyone (National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the National District Attorneys Association, 2007).

For more information visit, www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/285/378.

- ▶ 14th National Symposium on Juvenile Services – October 5 – 8, 2008 – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
National Symposium training, focus groups and policy discussions will be led by nationally recognized individuals at the federal, state, local, organizational and private sector level(s). Workshop training will address topics related to: Juvenile Detention Services Juvenile Corrections/Institutions Education of Youth in Confinement, Community Based/Residential Care Presentation Skills & Training Techniques, Critical Management Issues, Mental Health Issues in Juvenile Justice, and Health Care Issues in Managing Juvenile Populations. Workshops will vary in length and participants may select presentations from any of the above topics. Attendees will also have the opportunity to network and share ideas with other professionals that work with at-risk youth and families (NPJS, 2008).

This information is not available on the website at this time; however, for questions on this national symposium contact npjs@eku.edu or (859) 622-6259.

N&D Technical Assistance Focus of the Month

This month's focus is on the transitioning of students to and from facilities, including the transferring of records and maintenance. The NDTAC website has a dedicated article overviewing this process which includes a three-part self-study featuring an introduction, information on data collection, and additional resources.



There is a large emphasis on transitional services within the federal requirements. As indicated in the Spain and Waugh (n.d.) article, as quoted from Arnette & Stephens, “Overall, research on the education of youth in confinement suggests that effective transitional programs increase the likelihood of reenrollment in school, graduation from high school, and successful employment” (para. 4). These are obviously all hopes that we have for children classified as neglected, delinquent, and/or at-risk. Many facilities nationwide and within North Dakota use part of their funding for transitional coordinators who work with liaisons in the school district. To maximize the service delivery to students, proper transitioning is essential. For more information on transitioning, visit the NDTAC website at

www.neglected-delinquent.org/nd/resources/spotlight/spotlight200501c.asp.

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UND Plans to Offer Master's in Reading Education Program in Fargo

The University of North Dakota is planning to offer a Master of Education in Reading Education degree directly to educators in the Fargo area beginning May 2008. Class lectures and discussions will mirror traditional on-campus UND classes, and are delivered through a combination of online instruction and live class sessions that are held at set times on weekends in Fargo, ND.

Students in the program will discover the most current ways of thinking about teaching reading and writing in school settings. They will examine the theories of literacy learning and learn to link theory to practice by studying current approaches to reading instruction and assessment. The program emphasizes reading as a strategic process through the use of guided reading, book clubs, and workshops on reading and writing. Students will also work with struggling readers to learn how to assess their progress and promote their comprehension and fluency.

Find out how you can get started today! Review of applications will begin April 1, 2008, with the program tentatively planned to begin May 2008. For a complete course list, admission requirements, and tuition information, visit www.conted.und.edu/ddp/mre. For more information, contact UND Distance Degree Programs at 1.877.450.1842 or distancedegreeprograms@mail.und.edu.

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.

Schoolwide Planning Workshop #1

The State Title I office is hosting its annual *Introduction to Schoolwide Programming Workshop #1*. This workshop is applicable to all targeted assistance Title I schools who want to learn more about schoolwide programming and possibly begin schoolwide programming during the 2009-2010 school year.

- April 24, 2008 at the Kelly Inn in Bismarck, North Dakota
Information will be available at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

2008 Reading Summer Symposium

- June 19 – 20, 2008 and June 23 – 26, 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.