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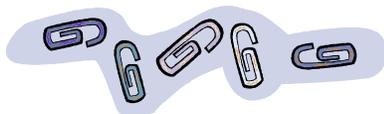
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Regional Workshops Held

On Monday, April 25 in Mandan, ND and on Wednesday, April 27, in Fargo, ND, the State Title I office sponsored our Title I Spring Workshops. Approximately 600 school personnel participated in these workshops. Copies of the information and handouts that were distributed will be available on the Title I website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/present.shtm. If you were unable to attend either of the workshops, it is highly recommended that you review the materials on the website. In particular, information that needs to be reviewed includes:

Title I Teachers

- *Title I Personnel Report* in the Title I Update section (Due May 2005)
- *Credential information* in the Title I Update section
- Information and registration forms on the *Summer Institutes* in the Title I Update section



Title I Administrators

- *NCLB Updates* in the General Session section
- *New Title I Fiscal Toolkit*
- *Final Financial Report* form in the Title I Fiscal Toolkit
- *Monitoring process* for the 2005-2006 school year in the Title I Update section
- *Consolidated Application* information from the second morning session
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Wrapping Up Math Month 2005

April was Math Month in North Dakota. The State Title I office is asking educators who took part in Math Month 2005 to share their photos and experiences with our office. We love including photos from the field in our slideshows at Title I events. Please e-mail these photos to Ann Ellefson at aellefson@state.nd.us.

We also ask that all participants complete the final page of the reading month packet entitled *Math Month Feedback Sheet*. This sheet is available online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/resource/math/2005/feedback.pdf. The information on this form is extremely important to the Title I office as it drives future Math Month initiatives.

Thank you so much for helping make Math Month 2005 a success.



Monthly Featured Articles Postponed

The spring months have been increasingly hectic in the State Title I office with everything from monitoring visits to new grant releases, and especially planning our 2005 spring Title I workshops. Due to these reasons, our April newsletter is scaled down and does not include our usual monthly articles (reading and math research articles, Reading First update, and director's report). However, these articles will re-appear next month in the May 2005 issue of *Title I News*.

Notice to Aides/Paraprofessionals

This is just a reminder that the effective date, July 1, 2005, for meeting the qualifications of the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) Act for aides/paraprofessionals is soon upon us. As federal law states, Title I and schoolwide aides/paraprofessionals need to meet one of the three requirements of the NCLB Act four years after the enactment date of January 8, 2002. Since we need to ensure that all school districts are indeed meeting these requirements, it will be necessary for all Title I and schoolwide aides/paraprofessionals to meet the requirements as demonstrated by obtaining a Paraprofessional Certificate of Completion or Title I Credential by July 1, 2005. All consolidated applications will be reviewed to ensure that qualifications are met.

The qualifications as spelled out in the NCLB Act include:

- a.) Obtain an associate's degree or higher
- b.) Complete two years of college from an accredited institution who issues an associate's degree or higher
- c.) Obtain a passing score on one of the state approved assessments which include:
 - Praxis I Assessment
 - HELP Assessment
 - ParaPro Assessment

Those individuals pursuing the education option under the NCLB Act may apply for a waiver, by July 1, 2005 to receive extra time to meet the requirement. All waiver requirements must be met and an official Paraprofessional Certificate of Completion must be obtained by January 8, 2006.

Individuals needing further information on the testing option, further clarification on whether their position needs to meet the requirements of the law, or those needing to obtain a Paraprofessional Certificate Application form should refer to the Title I website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/aides.shtm. If other questions arise regarding aides/paraprofessionals, please feel free to contact Nita Wirtz from the State Title I office at (701) 328-1876 or nwirtz@state.nd.us.

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 institutes are open to Title I and Special Education teachers, as well as other teaching entities within the school system; however, priority will be given to Title I and Special Education teachers.

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. The reading summer institute will be held 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.

The Title I Upcoming Events website has additional information on both of these institutes. This website can be accessed at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

Spread the word!

Positive Behavior Support Initiative

A broad based collaborative effort of state-level agencies has established the North Dakota Positive Behavior Support (PBS) initiative. PBS is a systems approach to enhancing the capacity of schools to educate all students, especially students with challenging social behaviors, by:

- a. establishing clearly defined outcomes that relate to academic and social behavior,
- b. systems that support staff efforts,
- c. practices that support student success, and
- d. data utilization that guides decision making.

The collaborative effort includes, but is not limited to, the following state level organizations: North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, North Dakota Education Association, North Dakota School Boards Association, Division of Juvenile Services, Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The PBS initiative is soliciting applications for schools interested in becoming PBS demonstration sites during the 2005-2006 school year. Interested schools must submit their application to the department by **May 20, 2005**.

To become a demonstration site, each local school building must identify a local leadership team comprised of four to six team members. The make-up of the local leadership team should typically reflect memberships from the following positions: general and special education teachers, principals, guidance counselors, behavior and learning specialists, child advocates, social workers, and parents. Schools that have identified behavior as an initiative will further benefit by receiving training that will systemically increase their potential for success.

If you have further questions about the PBS initiative, please feel free to contact Guy McDonald at (701) 328-2536 or dgmcdonald@state.nd.us.

Consolidated Application for Federal Title Funding

The Consolidated Application for Federal Title Funding is due in May again this year with the intent that department staff can review them earlier and approve the applications before school starts for the 2005-2006 school year. The tentative due date is May 27, 2005.

For the 2005-2006 school year, all school districts must submit the Consolidated Application electronically on the ORS system. No paper copies will be accepted.

The State Title I office has created a document which provides administrators with tips and reminders to keep in mind while completing the Title I portion of the Consolidated Application. The document can be accessed at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/springwkshp/process.pdf on the department's website.

For some districts, there are additional forms that need to be submitted to the State Title I office before the Consolidated Application can be approved. These forms can be accessed on the Title I website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/index.shtm under the heading "Additional Title I Consolidated Application Worksheets."

New Cut Scores Established

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, will apply the new cut scores from this bookmark standard setting process to the fall 2004 test data and generate reports. CTB will ship the state assessment reports directly to all North Dakota school districts.

The department will be issuing a press release the first week in May 2005, to share the results of the standard setting process. This information will be posted at www.dpi.state.nd.us/index.shtm on the department's website.

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2005 Legislative Assembly Concludes

On Saturday, April 23, 2005, the 2005 North Dakota Legislative Assembly officially concluded this year's session.

After each legislative session, the Department of Public Instruction makes available a document entitled "Summary of Laws Passed by the Legislative Assembly Impacting Elementary and Secondary Education". This document will be available electronically on the department's website in May 2005. Any interested person will be able to review the legislation that was passed on a variety of educational issues.

The State Title I office has a link on the Title I homepage to summarize legislative happenings. School personnel can access a copy of a list of education related bills that have passed both the House and Senate to date. Log on to www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/legislate/index.shtm for more information.

Upcoming Events

International Reading Association

The International Reading Association will be celebrating its 50th Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas. The conference will be packed with sessions on the field's hottest topics including presentations from leading educators, authors, and keynote speakers including Julie Andrews and Dave Barry.

■ May 1-5, 2005

■ San Antonio, Texas

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

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 will be 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 in May 2005.

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