



North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Title I News

July 2007

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Aide/Paraprofessional Reminder

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

New Administrators' Workshop

The Department of Public Instruction and the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders is sponsoring its annual two-day workshop for first year and new-to-the-state superintendents and elementary, middle level/junior high, and secondary school principals. This workshop will be held in the Brynhild Haugland room at the State Capitol on Thursday, August 2, and Friday, August 3, 2007. Registration will begin at 8:30 am on August 2 and the workshop will conclude at approximately 3:30 pm on August 3.

The State Title I office is scheduled to present information on Title I during the two-day workshop. We will also be providing a supplemental packet of materials for new administrators of Title I schoolwide programs that will be disseminated during registration.

Please visit www.dpi.state.nd.us/approve/admin.shtm for registration information and forms. If you need additional information, please call (701) 328-2266.

Reminder on Highly Qualified Teachers

The *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) Act requires that every school and school district establish annual measurable objectives for increasing the percentage of highly qualified core subject teachers. On the consolidated application for federal Title funding, districts must enter the projected percent of core academic classes the districts expect to be taught by highly qualified teachers for the 2007-2008 school year. This percent must be higher than the previously calculated percentage column unless the previous percentage is 100 percent, then the projected percent must be 100 percent.

Districts report information regarding the highly qualified teacher provision through various methods including:

- Title I office
- Consolidated Application
- Parents' Right to Know Clause
- Approval and Accreditation office

All teachers of core academic subject areas must be highly qualified. According to NCLB, the following are considered *core academic subject areas*:

- English
- Reading/Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Foreign Languages
- Civics and Government
- Arts
- History
- Geography

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.

Coming Soon—New Title I Resources

There are a number of projects that State Title I staff have been 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 Title I Fall Workshop. Some of these projects include:

- Program Improvement Self-Monitoring Guide
- Large District Self-Monitoring Guide
- Packet on New Parent Involvement Requirements
- Updated Assessment Resources
- Guidance for the MISO3 Coding
- Additional Resources on Instructional Coaches
- New Title I Fast Facts
- The State Title I office has contracted with North Dakota educators to develop the annual Reading and Math Month packets. Information for both, including the themes, will be posted on our website.

Director's Report

On July 17-19, 2007, I attended the annual Title I State Director's Meeting in Washington, D.C. We received direct presentations from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) staff and had opportunities to visit with Title I directors from other states. States received updates on the following issues:

- Federal Programs Reauthorization

The federal programs included in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act are slated to be reauthorized again in the fall of 2007. State Title I directors received an update on the status of this pending reauthorization. There are many individuals and groups pushing hard for the reauthorization to occur this year. However, considering how monumental the task is, it seems unlikely that it will occur. Unless there is a formal bill passed by March 2008, the reauthorization will be put on hold until after the presidential elections. If that occurs, the law probably won't be reauthorized until the fall of 2009.

- Federal Funding for 2008-2009

In a typical year, the appropriation for the subsequent school year is passed in November. However, Congress is already working on the 2008-2009 appropriations. Therefore, we hope to have more information on the funding levels for federal programming for the 2007-2008 school year sometime this fall.

At this time, it appears as though Title I will receive a nice increase. Most federal programs will be level funded.

- 2008 National Title I Conference

The 2008 National Title I Conference will be held in Nashville, TN, on January 31-February 2, 2008. Registration information is now available at www.titlei.org.

- New Targeted Assistance Guidance

The USDE targeted assistance guidance has not been updated in approximately ten years. USDE staff announced that they are still working to update this guidance. They suggested that there may be a draft of the new targeted assistance guidance by the time we meet in Nashville for the National Title I Conference in January 2008.

- State Monitoring of NCLB

Updates were provided on the USDE monitoring of states for compliance with NCLB regulations. We received a report on the past year's monitoring visits, which included a summary of common items found out of compliance across the nation. North Dakota is scheduled to be monitored in May 2008.

- New School Improvement Funding

Congress recently appropriated new money for schools identified for program improvement. An application will be available shortly. North Dakota is slated to receive an additional \$280,000, which will then be made available to schools and districts in program improvement.

- USDE Title I Director

The position of federal Title I director at the USDE has been vacant for several months. Things did not work out for the candidate selected for the position; therefore, the search for a new director will be re-opened nationwide.

- Future Initiatives

- High School Programming

There is still a national focus on helping high school students achieve to high standards. There are several proposals for getting additional funds and services at the high school level as part of the pending reauthorization.

- Response to Intervention

There is a huge focus at the national level on the Response to Intervention (RTI) model. State Title I and special education directors will be getting together later this year to collaborate. The USDE is going to include information on RTI in the targeted assistance guidance that they are in the process of updating.

Notice Regarding the Paraprofessional Certificate of Completion Issues

The State Title I office needs your help! There have been many recent questions of State Title I personnel regarding specific issues concerning the Paraprofessional Certificate of Completion. Since many of these questions are becoming a daily occurrence to answer, the State Title I office would like to share the following information with you. Please pass it along to staff at your buildings that may assist applicants who wish to be employed as an aide/paraprofessional in your school.

Taking a State Approved Test (i.e., Parapro or HELP test)

We have fielded many inquiries from individuals wishing to take one of the State Approved Tests in order to qualify for the Paraprofessional Certificate of Completion. Please note the State Title I office does not administer this exam. The Title I office has worked with the testing companies to offer options for testing and set the cut point scores for these exams; however, it is up to the school district to choose which exam they plan to offer and, if they choose, set times and places when the test can be administered by their own personnel. Most of the calls that we receive are to sign up to take the test, which can not be done through our office. Registration for the test must be done through the testing company. Administration of the HELP exam and the online ParaPro exam must be completed by the school. The paper-pencil version of the ParaPro and the Praxis can only be done through a secured site and registration must be handled through the testing company. The Title I website provides these details in the testing information and can be accessed at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/aides.shtm. We greatly appreciate you informing your staff that may field calls for individuals regarding the testing option.

Implementing the ParaPro Online Assessment

Many schools use summer and fall as times when they hire additional personnel to assist during the upcoming school year. For those schools wishing to implement the ParaPro online assessment, please make note of the following information. During 2002, 2003, and 2004, each school was asked to obtain a recipient code that makes your school district eligible to administer the online version of the ParaPro at your school. Upon issuing this recipient code, your school was also provided directions and a password that would allow personnel access to the online website to administer the test. If you are in need of this information and have misplaced the directions and/or password for administering the online ParaPro test, you must contact Educational Testing Service (ETS), ParaPro Assessment at (609) 771-7395, or toll-free at 800-772-9476, or email at parapro@ets.org. State Title I staff does not have this information available.

If you only need information concerning your school district's recipient code, you may access the document entitled "Registration for the ParaPro Assessment Paper/Pencil Version: Information for Filling Out the Registration Form." Located within this document you will find the entire list of school districts with recipient codes. All codes start with the letter "I" and then follow with a three digit number.

Applying for the Paraprofessional Certificate of Completion

We also have received information in the form of transcripts, copies of diplomas, and testing scores from individuals. While these individuals qualify for the Paraprofessional Certificate of Completion, we can not issue them a certificate of completion until they have completed a formal application with a mailing address and signature. Please note, if individuals from your school have sent this information to the State Title I office and they inquire about their certificate, please inform them that an application form can be obtained on the Title I website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/aides.shtm, under the "forms" bullet. Since no current contact information was included with their transcripts, diplomas, or test scores, we have no way of contacting them to inform them of their present status.

Other Questions

If anyone has questions regarding the Paraprofessional Certificate of Completion, the State Title I office has a wide variety of information available on the Title I website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/aides.shtm. Specific questions needing clarification can be addressed to Nita Wirtz, Assistant Director, Title I at nwirtz@nd.gov or (701) 328-1876.

Requesting Distinguished School Applications

At the federal level there is a program to recognize outstanding efforts in education. This program, sponsored by the National Association of State Title I Directors (NASTID), is to honor Title I schools that have improved student achievement. Through this program, North Dakota can select one Title I school (targeted assistance or schoolwide) to receive the National Title I Distinguished Schools Award. The schools are selected for outstanding results in one of two categories: 1. exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years, or 2. closing the achievement gap between student groups. Distinguished schools selected across the nation are recognized at the National Title I Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

If you are interested in applying for this national award, please contact Flo Hilzendeger at (701) 328-4646 or fhilzendeger@nd.gov. Information is also posted online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/awards/distinguished.shtm.

Nominations for Veteran Title I Teachers

The State Title I office is still accepting applications for the Title I Veteran Teacher Recognition.

Our State's Title I teachers do a wonderful job during the school year putting in extended effort and long hours. Many of these teachers have been Title I teachers for numerous years and deserve to be recognized. We would like to continue honoring long-time Title I teachers at our 2007 Title I Fall Workshop.

If you are a Title I teacher who has served over 15 years and have not been recognized in past years, please visit www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/awards/veteran.shtm. On this website you will find a form to download, complete and submit to the State Title I office so you can be honored at the 2007 Title I Fall Workshop.

If you have any questions regarding the Title I Veteran Teacher Recognition program, please call Lauri Nord, Fall Workshop Coordinator, at (701) 328-2282. Thank you for your commitment to Title I programming in North Dakota.

Monthly Featured Articles

Reading Corner	By: Nita Wirtz	Assisting the Dyslexic Child with Summer Reading
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Summer is in full swing! While many children are enjoying their time by the local pools and water parks, riding bikes with friends, and just enjoying outdoor fun, there is another way to beat the heat and go on an adventure. Curling up with a good book is usually known as a winter activity in the Dakotas, but it can also be a great activity for assisting children with reading retention during the summer.

Many children, especially those with learning difficulties like dyslexia, will have a certain amount of learning loss from the previous school year upon entering their next grade. As a parent and teacher, you can facilitate ongoing summer learning through reading. Encouraging exploration through reading is a way to build a natural love for knowledge and learning in a child.

According to Brown (2007), there are several summer strategies to help the dyslexic child with retaining learning during the summer.

- Think of reading in broad terms including library books; comic books; stories; instruction manuals for summer projects; information while traveling including reading about summer fun attractions, interpretive materials on vacation sites, signs as you travel; and cooking recipes.
- While your child is reading, help them as needed by giving meaning, pronouncing words, and happily answering their questions.
- Vary the type of reading with easy books and reading items, as well as those that will challenge them.

Reading Corner continued on page 6.

Reading Corner (continued)

- Enjoy a book together and make the process fun; children with dyslexia may make many mistakes, try not to focus on making too many corrections.
- While you read together, have them point out the words. One of my greatest childhood memories was hearing my dad read and remembering him taking my finger across each word while I was sitting on his lap hearing the words.
- If a child goes to summer camps, make sure that the instructors know that the child struggles with reading and ensure they will not be asked to read out loud during book time unless they feel comfortable doing so.
- Reading software for the computer, as well as books on tape, is a great option for reinforcing sound-word association.
- Famous psychologist, Albert Bandura, showed us all the importance of modeling behavior and children; reinforce this concept with positive modeling by spending your adult spare time reading.
- Make reading a readily available option. While standing in a busy checkout line, crowded amusement park, traveling in the vehicle, and other places, have appropriate reading materials on hand to pass the time.

References:

Brown, D. (2007). Summer reading strategies for children with dyslexia (Electronic version). Retrieved on July 3, 2007 from www.ldonline/article/15569?theme=print

Math Corner**By: Flo Hilzendeger****Math Projects**

Math is more than numbers and rules, it is more than homework and tests; math includes shapes and blocks and rulers. It is the language of technology and is defined as “the study of quantity, structure, space, and change. It developed, through the use of abstraction and logical reasoning, from counting, calculation, measurement, and the study of the shapes and motions of physical objects”

(www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Math).

Listed below are a few math projects that may help students understand the importance of math in daily life and bring some fun into the math classroom:

- Use the newspaper and allow students to pick a large company in which they choose to invest some money. Provide an equal amount of play money for each individual or team. Allow students to check whether the stocks in the company they have invested have gone up or down. If the stocks have gone up, ask the students to calculate how much money they have made. If the stocks have gone down, have the students calculate their losses. Require the students to keep a running record of their gains or losses for a predetermined period of time. You may even want to reward the individual or team making the greatest gains.
- Another activity that may be engaging for students is to “Shop ‘Til They Drop.” Use the Sunday paper with all the advertisements. Tell each student they have \$100.00 to spend on anything they want, however, their purchases can not go over \$100.00. Ask them to cut out the picture of their purchase and list the price next to it. Have them total the purchases. Remind them they must include the sales tax.
- Clean up the classroom. Ask students to form teams and categorize items according to how they are alike. Mathematicians group numbers into categories such as odd and even, shapes into symmetrical and asymmetrical, and figures into the number of sides. Each team will locate and categorize a predetermined number of items. This is one of the building blocks of math.
- While traveling to and from school have each student list three license plate numbers and bring them to the classroom. The students are then asked to add the numbers, double the numbers, triple the numbers, and find the square root.

Taken from “*101 Ways to Boost your Math Skills*” by Susan Shafer, Troll Associates.

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Upcoming Events

New Administrators' Workshop

This annual two-day workshop is intended for first year and new-to-the-state superintendents and elementary, middle level/junior high, and secondary school principals.

■ August 2-3, 2007

More information, along with the registration form, can be found at www.dpi.state.nd.us/approve/admin.shtm.

Title I 2007 Fall Workshop

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

■ October 8-9, 2007 in Bismarck, ND

Information will be available in the fall of 2007 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 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.

53rd International Reading Association (IRA) Annual Convention

Join the hundreds of literacy leaders and reading professionals who will share with educators at every level the fruits of their research and teaching experience.

Keynote speakers will include Jamie Lee Curtis, Gail Gibbons, Dr. Andreas Schleicher, Suzanne Fisher Staples, Rafe Esquith, Christopher Paul Curtis, and Sherman Alexie.

■ May 4-8, 2008 in Atlanta, GA

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

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.