

Meeting was called to order by Federal Program's Administrator Diane Stuehmer at 9:00 AM

Attendees

Cheryl Burrell  
Don Eberle  
Tina Forte'  
Steven Gray  
Michele Hensley  
Renee Hyde  
Kraig Lofquist  
Ann Nickerson  
Jennifer Reid  
Deb Ross  
Kristin Schultz  
Bob Uhing  
Bob Ziegler

NDE Staff

Brad Conner  
Brooke David

Pat Frost  
Jan Handa  
Karen Hardin  
Sue Henry  
Pat Madsen  
Randy McIntyre  
Cathy Mohnike  
Terri Schuster  
Karen Stevens  
Diane Stuehmer  
Beth Wooster

Guests

Doug Anderson  
Anne Caruso  
Deeann Goeser  
Tara James  
Matt Rohlfson

**Welcome/introductions**

Diane Stuehmer, Federal Program's Administrator welcomed everyone and introductions were given.

**Nebraska Open Meetings Act Reminder**

Diane Stuehmer reminded attendees that the committee follows the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. A written copy of the Open Meetings Act is available for review at all Committee of Practitioner's Meetings.

**Approval of Minutes from October 20, 2015 meeting**

Tina Forte made a motion to approve, Michele Hensley seconded and the motion carried.

**C.O.P Membership Needs**

Diane Stuehmer reviewed the Committee of Practitioners Process Rules with the group and encouraged members to think of quality teachers, parents that represent struggling students, members of local school boards and student services personnel that might be good people to add as members of the Committee of Practitioners. Input is needed when new items are being brought to group for feedback including new rule changes with ESSA, and diverse representation is always best.

**Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**

Diane Stuehmer shared a power point with the committee in regards to regulation changes at the state department and impacts on school districts. (attached) "What We Know... And What We THINK We Know, About ESSA"

Nebraska's assurance regarding transition

Diane Stuehmer reported to the committee that AYP calculations will NOT be required for 2015-16 data. The State will be freezing data from 2014-15. There will be no Supplemental Educational Services (SES) requirements for the 2016-17 school year. NDE believes HOUSSE forms will be eliminated, but Rule 10 requirements still apply. HOUSSE does not apply to Rule 10. The state is unsure of the status of paraprofessional qualifications. Flexibility waivers are null and void after August 16, 2016 The 2016-17 school year will be a transition year from NCLB (No Child Left Behind) to ESSA, with full implementation taking place in 2017-18.

Nebraska's transition plan (Handout)

Diane Stuehmer indicated that the Committee of Practitioners will be one of the stakeholder groups providing input/feedback as NDE develops the transition plan. The plan must explain how NDE will provide or ensure that LEAs provide students eligible for SES in schools with the greatest need with alternative support and improvement activities. This plan must be consistent with ESEA section 1116(b)(13). An LEA will be required to permit a student who previously transferred

to another public school under the No Child Left behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) to remain in that school until the child has completed the highest grade in that school.

Diane Stuehmer shared thoughts concerning changes in the NCLB Consolidated application "Identification for Schools(s) Needs Improvement" section will have revisions that will be determined at a later date.

Regarding "Accountability" Funds - Diane Stuehmer reported that since states are allowed to freeze the Needs Improvement Schools for the 2016-17 school year, based on 2014-15 data, NDE would identify the same schools as being "in Need of Improvement" as were identified for the 2015-16 school year. Randy McIntyre reminded everyone that the language remains consistent to identify a school's Needs Improvement status (Public School Choice, improvement, corrective action and restructuring) and reiterated that school districts will still need to set aside 10% for professional development. He is confident that Supplemental Educational Services, (SES) and any new Public School Choice requirements are going away and reminded the committee that Title I Accountability is identified by building and should not be a district plan.

Diane informed the committee that she is working with GMS staff to determine if it is possible to include "Accountability Funds" as part of the Title I application for the 2016-17 school year.

### **ESEA/NCLB Information**

#### Educator Equity Plan Update (Handout)

Pat Madsen provided an update on Nebraska's Educator Equity Plan and the progress so far. In the near future, someone from higher education will be named to be a part of the Committee of Practitioners group and an update on plan progress will be added to the meeting agendas.

#### Nonpublic Consultation Forms – second year in CDC

The 2016-17 nonpublic consultation for Title I and Federal Programs Within Boundaries is now in progress. Diane reminded the committee that if a teacher from a Nonpublic school wants to attend a conference, there should be communication between the Public and Nonpublic before submitting a registration to ensure everyone is on the same page regarding how the payment/reimbursements will be handled.

Consultation requirements: Jan Handa reported on how Math and Science Partnership participants should ensure Nonpublic Schools are made aware of the professional development opportunities associated with this grant. If a Nonpublic is located within the Public school boundaries that is participating in the MSP professional development activities, the opportunity to participate in these professional development activities should be communicated to the Nonpublic school. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grant program must be open to all nonpublic schools within the school's boundaries. It is suggested to reserve 10% - 11% for nonpublic students to have an opportunity to attend.

#### Consortia Information for 2016-17

Diane Stuehmer informed the committee that Consortia Information was sent to all ESUs on March 9<sup>th</sup>. This continues as an "all or none" option assigned to ESU. Either ESU or district is responsible for all the funds and a signed agreement is required. Districts still have the opportunity to contract with ESUs for services if they choose not to assign any funds to the ESU.

#### Onsite Monitoring 3-year schedule continues

Beth Wooster reported that there were some changes in the 3-year monitoring schedules for LEA's in the ESU 15 area, to correspond with the assignment of consultants. Some shuffling also occurred for a few districts in the rotation so that Schoolwide Programs & monitoring could be synchronized with other districts in the area to help with travel for the consultants.

NDE Federal Programs Conference – on hold until more information is available on ESSA

Diane Stuehmer informed the committee that as the state receives updates from the USDE, information will be shared.

Nebraska Allocations Estimate (Handout)

Diane Stuehmer shared a handout with Federal Program grant estimates through 2017, as published on the USDE website on February 9, 2016. . The School Improvement Grant (SIG) shows being funded through the 2016-2017 school year. Student Support and Academic Enrichment State Grants (Title IV) is a newly funded grant for the FY2017 year.

NCLB Consolidated Application for 2016-17

Diane Stuehmer reported to the committee that the NCLB Act will remain intact as we are under those rules for next year, so there will not be major changes to the NCLB Consolidated application.

**ESEA/NCLB Program Updates**Title I-A: Educationally DisadvantagedSchoolwide Peer Reviews

Beth Wooster reported to the committee some changes have occurred to the peer review process. Previously a district would change their plan and do a peer review plan in the same year. Now the peer review is done by schools that will be creating their plan the next year. The registration form that went out is due on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Each person participating in a peer review will team up with another individual to score two plans. If more than one person from a school attends, then the two people will be split up so they have the advantage of seeing four different plans.

Title I Distinguished Schools (Handouts)

Beth Wooster informed the committee that Nebraska had two Schools recognized as Distinguished Schools at Title I National Conference in Houston in January of this year. The handouts show information shared on the National Title I website.

Needs Improvement

Randy McIntyre reported that the school improvement list doesn't change for next school year and there is no "redo" on AYP even if a school does improve. The information will no longer be on the NDE website. School Improvement schools will no longer be required to do SES, new PSC, or send out letters to notify parents of school status. This year the state had five districts choose not to accept Title I funds. If any of these districts accept Title I funds next year and kept a Title I teacher this year paid with District funds, it could present a supplanting issue.

During lunch the COP members were asked to discuss membership needs and prospective committee members.

**ESEA/NCLB Program Updates Continued****School Improvement Grant (SIG)**

Randy McIntyre informed the committee that there will still be SIG grants in some form. They will be funded but we haven't heard anything from the USDE with new guidelines. The amount will be slightly less. There are currently 7 buildings with grants. Wakonda Elementary in Omaha and Lincoln High School are the two newest schools receiving SIG funds. These two have 5-year grants whereas the other five schools have 3-year grants. Diane Stuehmer added that when we awarded these funds to schools whether a 3 or 5 year

grant the amount allocated each year was a portion of the total funds. This allowed for continuation of funds for the duration of the grant.

#### **Title I, Part C: Migrant**

Sue Henry reported that 3 districts didn't apply for funds. ESU 1 was contacted and applied for a grant and is serving the northeast part of the state. Nebraska has been a part of the Bi-National program participant for many years and this year 4 of 13 projects will have summer school programs and host teachers from Mexico to share best practices.

#### **Hispanic/Latino Conference**

Beth Wooster shared that the Hispanic Latino Conference was held last October and planning is underway for next year. The committee has interest in offering a leadership scholarship and having sponsors provide support for it. She is currently working with a small team and EduQuest to ensure that all of the guidelines to award a student the scholarship at the next conference. Requirements will include two 500 word essays and a letter of recommendation. Hispanic Latino Summit will be held at the Younes Center in Kearney for the next five years. The Younes Center has proven to be an easier way to monitor the students and it is centrally located to enable students from the western half of the state to attend the conference. Website: [www.latinosummit.org](http://www.latinosummit.org)

#### **Title III: Language Acquisition**

Terri Schuster introduced new Title III consultant Brooke David.

#### **ELPA21:**

The ELPA21 testing window closes March 18. The first year rollout of the new assessment was bumpy at times. Issues were the result, in large part, to Questar changing their platform from the Field Test. The change resulted in changes in compatible devices and engines, as well as, changes to supplemental materials. One large challenge for Nebraska teachers was the requirement of testing students in K-2. Our previous assessment was an inventory of skills filled out by the teacher, rather than an actual assessment. The online nature of the assessment added to the learning curve and students needed assistance with test navigation. There was positive feedback in the area of student engagement and in the elimination of the large amount paper materials needing to be sorted and shipped. NDE and Questar gathered much feedback from the field and plan to use this feedback to inform the process and implementation for 2016-17.

A standard setting process is planned for spring/summer with this critical work being informed by a Contrasting Groups Study. There is a high percentage of Nebraska teachers participating in this study (396). ELPA21 student scores are scheduled to be available by early fall.

An ELPA21 Screener Instrument for use in identifying potential ELLs is under development by the consortium. A pilot study is scheduled for May 2016. This should be an affordable option for districts. The screener is scheduled to be operational by early Fall 2016. Districts are encouraged to give it a try-out during the 2016-17 school year.

Terri Schuster reported that districts and consortia will not be held accountable for AMAOs for SY 2015-16 and 2016-17. English proficiency testing requirements remain unchanged, however. States must still report to USDE on progress in learning English and English proficiency (attainment). NDE will conduct a bridging study to connect the ELDA with the ELPA21.

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Title III remains intact as a program under ESSA, however, the accountability piece will move to Title I. NDE will be developing a new ELL accountability system that considers time in an ELL program. This new system should be in place for SY 2017-18. No immediate changes in funding are expected.

**Title VI: REAP – Rural Education Achievement Program**

Brad Conner gave an update. There were only 2 schools receiving *Rural Low Income Schools (RLIS)* funds through REAP for the 2015-16 school year. School eligibility for these grant funds depends on federal census data and poverty levels. This year, these funds were allocated through NDE to Scottsbluff and Lexington. *Small Rural School Achievement (SRSA)* funds are allocated directly from USDE to 181 districts in NE. In addition to the funding, REAP schools are allowed to “FLEX” 100% of their Title II-A funds within the NCLB Consolidated Grant. In comparison, schools that do not receive REAP funds may be restricted in their use of Title II-A funds if they also have buildings identified as being in “Needs Improvement”. We do not anticipate any significant changes in the REAP program or REAP allocations under ESSA.

**Title IV, Part B: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) LB519, the Expanded Opportunity Grant**

Karen Stevens, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Director, and Jan Handa, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Grants Manager, gave a brief overview of the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant program. They reported that LB 519 passed in 2015 and created the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program which will be funded by 1% of the proceeds of the Nebraska Lottery beginning July 1, 2016. The priority for this funding is to provide support for existing high need 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs. Committee members were asked for their input on several issues related to development of the grant administration plan such as criteria for determining high need, addressing issues of grant size related to measurable impact, and including diverse support for urban as well as rural programs. 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC staff will host public listening sessions in late April and COP members were encouraged to participate.

**Title II, Part B: Math and Science Partnerships (MSP)**

Jan Handa, MSP Grants Manager, reported that the MSP competitive grant program was not reauthorized in ESSA. A final competition will be conducted with a postmark deadline of May 2, 2016. Approximately \$1 million will be available to fund partnerships that must include at least one teacher education department of an institute of higher education, one engineering, mathematics or science department of an institution of higher education, and one high need public school from each of 4-5 geographic regions identified in the proposal. For additional information go to the MSP website at: <https://www.education.ne.gov/msp/>.

**Title X, Part C: Education of Homeless Children and Youth**

Cathy Mohnike reported that she attended a conference for State Homeless Education Liaisons in Washington D.C. Attendees were unable to work on new state plan since Federal guidance was not yet available. Bryan Seck has a new job with Prosper Lincoln. He will be the Developer for the Employment Skills goal. Cathy will be part of UNL’s “High Risk Behavior Task Force”. They will be working on finding a SPOC “Single Point of Contact”, to be established for homeless college students.

**Title I, Part D: Delinquent**

Pat Frost discussed the current LEA Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 programs, and the State Agency Programs for Subpart 1 in our state. The new law, ESSA stresses even more than NCLB, the requirement for coordination of the receiving home district for returning students from institutions. Currently the Title I, Part D coordinator group in NE will be working on a State

Plan. The national group, NDTAC is providing a vehicle for sharing of ideas from all states regarding Title I, Part D services. NDTAC has stated that for reading and math the academic achievement goal for the 2016-17 school year is an increase of 1%. A national conference will be held this June for the ND (Neglected/Delinquent) State Coordinators facilitated by NDTAC, the technical assistance center. Ms. Frost remains a member of a national panel representing the state coordinators and informs the LEA Title I, Part D coordinators and State agency transition coordinators with updates to Title I, Part D. Ms. Frost is a member of the Strengthening Families Initiative committee and participates in the Re-entry Transition Group, Douglas County Forum.

#### **Title II-A: Improving Teacher Quality**

Brad Conner reported that 2010-2015 state audits confirmed that not enough money had been budgeted by some public school districts for equitable nonpublic school Title II-A services. Of the 51 districts identified in the audit, 21 reached agreements with their nonpublic schools to budget additional funds over 5 years to make up for this shortfall. The remaining schools agreed with their nonpublic representatives that no additional funding was necessary. A total of approximately \$186,000 in additional funding for nonpublic schools will be set aside from 21 public school Title II-A allocations over the next five years. To date, nine schools have completely met their obligation to budget these additional funds.

Brad also noted some changes in the new ESSA adoption that are likely to impact how Title II-A funds can be spent, and perhaps on how the equitable allocation to Nonpublic Schools will be determined. Additional information will be provided as guidance is received from USDE on these changes.

AQuESTT (Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow)

April 18-19, 2016 Conference: *Every Student Every Day...Continuing to Improve with Data*  
Younes Center in Kearney website: [www.aquestt.com](http://www.aquestt.com)

Diane reminded the committee about the importance of completing the survey prior to COP meetings, to aid in planning for meals and handouts. Please send emails of proposed individuals to be added to this C.O.P. group to Diane.

Renee Hyde adjourned the meeting at 1:36 PM.

Next Meetings:

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 in Lincoln – Location TBD

Tuesday, October 18, 2015 @ Fairfield Inn, Kearney

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