

Meeting was called to order by Chair Person Renee Hyde, at 9:02 AM

Attendees

Eileen Barks
Anne Caruso
Susan Evans
Lyn Forester
Tina Forte
Michele Hensley
Renee Hyde
Tara James
Randall Johnson
Ann Nickerson
Kristen Schultz
Kris Schneider
Bob Uhing
Bob Ziegler

NDE Staff

Brad Conner
Brooke David
Pat Frost
Jan Handa
Karen Hardin
Sue Henry
Pat Madsen
Randy McIntyre
Cathy Mohnike
Deb Romanek
Diane Stuehmer
Beth Wooster

Not in Attendance

Cheryl Burrell
Andy Defreese
Don Eberle
Linda Hix
Lindsay Ickes
Sharon Katt
Ben King
Kraig Lofquist
Joan Luebbers
Marcella Rademacher
Deb Ross
Barbara Sunderman
Terri Schuster

Welcome/Introductions

Introductions were made by the committee members including the newest members Anne Caruso and Kris Schneider. Bryan Seck, Toni Palmer and Karen Stephens have resigned their membership on the committee.

Public Comment

Renee Hyde asked for public comment there was no response.

Nebraska Open Meetings Act Reminder

Renee Hyde, Chairperson reminded the 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 June 21, 2016 meeting.

Bob Uhing made a motion to approve minutes from the June 21, 2016 meeting. Eileen Barks seconded. Motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Review Process Rules Changes

Diane Stuehmer, Federal Program Administrator, reviewed the proposed changes to the Committee of Practitioner Process Rules. Randy Johnson made a motion to approve the proposed changes, Susan Evans seconded and the motion was carried by a unanimous vote. Please refer to the handout for additional information.

Membership needs

Diane Stuehmer reviewed the changes with the Committee of Practitioners concerning membership guidelines. ESSA changes include additions to the committee that include principals and other school leaders, personnel in Career, Technical, Special Education and Paraprofessionals. The committee was asked to suggest names of individuals to the Ad Hoc Membership committee (Beth Wooster, Renee Hyde, Eileen Barks, or Deb Ross), who meet these guidelines. In addition, parents are still needed.

ESSA Updates

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Available USDE ESSA Guidance can be found at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/index.html>. Below is a list of guidance that is currently available:

- ESSA Schoolwide Guidance (9/29/16)
- ESSA Title II, Part A Guidance – Supporting Educators (9/27/16)
- ESSA Dear Colleague Letter on Tribal Consultation (9/26/16)
- ESSA Title III Guidance – English Learners (9/23/16)
- Evidence Guidance (9/16/16)
- Homeless Student Guidance (9/27/16)
- Foster Care Guidance (6/23/16)

ESSA Title II, Part A Guidance – Supporting Educators

Brad Conner, Title II-A Coordinator and Title I Consultant, outlined some of the changes expected in Title II-A as a result of the passage of ESSA. The majority of these changes won't go into effect until 2017-2018. The focus will move toward "Evidence Based Practices" as they apply to staff development and Class Size Reduction in the use of Title II-A funds. Paraprofessional requirements remain in effect, but the HQT (High Quality Teachers) is no longer required. These requirements were removed as of 2016-17. In addition, the requirement to spend the funds on Professional Development for "Core" teachers will be removed in 2017-2018 with an emphasis on training for a more "Well Rounded Education". This would allow the use of funds for training of nearly any staff member. Brad indicated that districts are being encouraged to look closely at their local needs assessments and tie the use of these federal funds directly to those identified needs and subgroups of underachieving students in an effort to narrow achievement gaps rather than continuing to use the funds in a more broad approach as many have done in the past.

ESSA Dear Colleague Letter on Tribal Consultation

Please refer to this website for information: (<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/index.html>)

ESSA Title III Guidance – English Learners

Brooke David, Title III Consultant, stated the USDE recently released Title III Non-regulatory Guidance. This guidance is for 2017-2018. Brooke called attention to a new required activity that is included in the new law. In addition to the two previous Title III requirements (Effective language instruction and effective professional development), providing activities that include parent, family, and community engagement has been added as a required activity under Title III.

ESSA Highly Qualified Paraprofessionals

Cathy Mohnike, State Homeless Education Liaison and Title I Consultant, reported that 184 paraprofessionals were not highly-qualified in September. This means they didn't qualify by Education Attained or by the Para-assessment Passed. NSSRS now shows that 17 are still not highly-qualified. The districts have been contacted and the paras have been reassigned until the para-assessment is passed. NOTE: ESSA did not change the requirement for paraprofessionals.

ESSA Foster Care Guidance

Beth Wooster, Federal Programs Assistant Administrator, provided a description of the progress for the ESSA requirement due by December 10, 2016. This guidance requirement applies to the education stability of foster youth in schools. Work is being done on a guidance document for LEAs to view along with other stakeholders for comments.

The requirement of a Foster Youth appointed liaison—at NDE is Michele Borg. She is leading this collaboration with NDE and HHS. SEAs and LEAs are required to have guidance and implement the guidance on educational stability for foster youth in schools.

Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) No Child Let Behind (NCLB) Information

Randy McIntyre, School Improvement Grant Program Coordinator, reported the NCLB Consolidated Grant and the Title I Accountability Grant are now both open to all districts.

Randy McIntyre reported an issue concerning the NCLB grant under the heading "Improvement Plans," the page "Identification for District Needs Improvement." NDE is currently working with Grant Management Systems personnel to get the problems resolved.

Randy McIntyre reported the following changes to the application:

- The School Needs Improvement page refers applicants to the Accountability grant application. The District

page has been updated to three questions that describe interventions used, and the required 10% set-aside for professional development.

- The School Needs Improvement page has a total of 5 questions. This has changed considerably from last year with less requirements. No letters need to be sent out to patrons regarding status of school in needs improvement.
- Providing Supplemental Educational Services (SES) is still an option for any district that chooses to offer it but, not required.
- Districts cannot allow any “new” Public School Choice (PSC) and most districts can mark this section with a not applicable (N/A). Districts must continue offering PSC for any students that had participated prior to the 2016 -17 school year. These students are allowed to stay in the schools they transferred to thru the last grade offered in that school.

ESEA State Plan – Matt Heusman & Ron Azoulay

Matt Heusman, NDE Lead for writing Nebraska’s ESSA Plan, and Ron Azoulay, a contractor with NDE, informed the committee they are working on a template to align ESSA with AQuESTT (A Quality Education System for Students Today and Tomorrow), which is the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) framework for supporting educators. This is being accomplished in four phases:

- Phase I – Develop communications plan through NDE team leaders
- Phase II – Engage external stakeholders
- Phase III – Submit draft plan to the State Board March 1, 2017
- Phase IV – The plan will become available for public comment March 17, 2017, Comments will be taken into consideration and revisions will be made. NDE will submit Nebraska’s ESSA plan by July 1, 2017.

Brad Conner, Title II-A Program Coordinator and Terri Schuster, Title III Director are serving on NDE’s core committee working on aligning ESSA with AQuESTT

There are five components of ESSA:

- Coordination and Consolidation
- Standards and Assessment
- Accountability and School Improvement
- Supporting Excellent Education
- Supporting all Students

A Zoom meeting with the Committee of Practitioners will be scheduled for January 6, 2017 to provide an opportunity for committee members to provide feedback on the components listed above.

ESEA/NCLB Program Updates

Title I-A: Educationally Disadvantaged Distinguished Schools Update

Beth Wooster, Federal Programs Assistant Administrator, reported on the Title I Distinguished Schools: Six schools have been notified that they qualify to be considered for Nebraska’s Title I Distinguished School. Two schools will be selected. There are three categories that schools can be considered for:

- Category 1: School has exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years.
- Category 2: School that has significantly closed the achievement gap between student groups.
- Category 3: Excellence in serving special populations of students (e.g., homeless, migrant, English learners, etc.).

Title I-A School Improvement Grant (SIG)

Karen Hardin, Title I and School Improvement Grant Consultant, reported on the progress of SIG (School Improvement Grant) applications which were due on June 1st. The Title I team met to rate each school using the scoring rubric and through the interview process NDE was able to award four new SIGs. These awards went to Schuyler Central High, Walthill Elementary, Umo N Ho N Nation Elementary, and Paddock Road Elementary (Westside Community). It was determined after the initial grant awards, that enough funds were available to reopen the competition, so a second application period was opened. Madison Middle School received the final SIG award in late September. The five new schools will receive a total of \$4,508,632 over a period of 3-5 years. There are currently eleven schools with active SIG awards. Randy McIntyre and Karen Hardin monitor all SIG schools in the fall and spring. On the Title I–A School Improvement website under School Improvement Grant (SIG) Resource under

Cohort 7 2016-17, all new school applications and budgets are posted. The SIG Recipient ongoing list is also available under School Improvement Grants (SIG). This spreadsheet shows all 7 cohorts, the name of the school and the amount of funds each school has been awarded. Since the inception of SIG in 2010-11 NDE has awarded over \$34,000,000 in SIG awards. When onsite visits are conducted an emphasis is placed on sustainability. The school's Leadership Team is asked to assess the most valuable pieces of the grant and to plan early on how to sustain those strategies or resources to ensure a continuation of student growth and teacher instructional methods.

Title I, Part C: Migrant

Sue Henry, Migrant Education Program Coordinator, reported the preliminary 2015-16 migrant child count is approximately 5,000 children in Nebraska. The definition of a migrant child includes the following criteria: age, school completion, move, purpose of the move, and work defined by the Migrant Education Program. The migrant child count includes eligible migrant children 0 – 21 years of age. Program changes with reauthorization of ESSA: potential changes in the definition of a migrant child; state allocation is determined from a 3-year estimate child count vs. the current annual child count. Beginning in the 2016-17 year, migrant programs are required to collect and report course history and health for all eligible migrant children. The state MEP is working to develop effective methods for electronic transfer of migrant student records. It is anticipated that it will be a challenge for the regional MEP projects that serve multiple school districts to collect the additional required data.

The Nebraska MEP is the lead state for the Identification & Recruitment Rapid Response (IRRC) consortium. There are 14 member states in the consortium. The goal of the consortium is to develop consistency amongst the states in determining eligibility of migrant children. The Office of Migrant Education anticipates Title I, Part C, Migrant Education Program non-regulatory guidance to be available Spring 2017.

Title I, Part D: Delinquent

Pat Frost, Title I Consultant and Title I D State Coordinator discussed the following information:

- Collections currently going on for the October Caseload and the 2015-16 Part D Annual Performance Report
- The purpose of the Title I, Part D programs
- The new position for the Coordinator of Education for System Involved Students
- Reallocation of funds from closing of detention center in Gering, NE

Educator Equity Plan

Pat Madsen, Adult Programs / Teacher Education Specialist, reported there was no change in the Equity Plan. NDE may have to define "ineffective teachers" (as opposed to "unqualified teachers") and begin collecting data on ineffective teachers with the new ESSA requirements. However, the federal regulations and guidance concerning this are not final at this time.

Title II-A: Improving Teacher Quality

Brad Conner indicated that there are only minor changes in the grant application process and requirements for use of Title II-A funds for the current year. However, as outlined in previous discussion, districts may be held to a higher standard beginning in 2017-18 to demonstrate that the funds are being used for "Personalized Evidence-Based Staff Development" activities, or used to reduce class sizes to an "Evidence-Based Level". NDE will have to outline the manner in which it will monitor and hold school districts accountable for the use of the Title II-A funds under these requirements in its ESSA State Plan.

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

Jan Handa, MSP Coordinator, reported the results of the final MSP competition and that a \$1 million grant was awarded to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide both mathematics and science professional development. Deb Romanek, NDE Mathematics Specialist, described the proposed activities of this grant titled TEAMS (Teaching to Enhance Achievement in Mathematics and Science). Teams of K-12 math and science teacher leaders in five regions will be selected to provide professional learning for teacher participants in summer 2017, with follow up during the 2017-18 school year. It is intended that the grant will support up to 200 teachers from high need schools that will participate in 84 hours of PD.

Title III: Language Acquisition

Brooke David, Title III Consultant, reported on ELPA21 (English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century) and Title III updates to the team. First, she explained the ELPA21 standard setting process that occurred this past July in St. Louis. The bookmarking method was used in which participants went through multiple rounds of cut score recommendations. After the standard setting was complete, the ELPA21 consortium worked on finalizing cut scores and language for the score reporting. The ELPA21 score reporting will differ from the previous ELDA (English Language Development Assessment) in that students will receive domain performance levels and an overall proficiency rating. The student scores should be available in November. The work for ELPA21 is moving forward with UCLA-CRESST and Terri and Brooke are on various committees including the ELPA21 screener taskforce which

should be available next fall.

Title VI: REAP – Rural Education Achievement Program

Brad Conner reported that as of the end of September, about 47 NE school districts had still not filed to claim their Small Rural Schools Achievement (SRSA) funds from 2014. They have until December 31, 2016 to claim these funds in the USDE G5 system. The funds can be used for any program that fits within the guidelines for Title I–Title V. Districts are encouraged to plan ahead and spend the funds early in the grant period rather than waiting until the end of the grant to decide how they can use the money.

Title IV, Part B: 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)

Jan Handa, 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Coordinator, summarized data collected from 21st CCLC sites (116 sites in 31 communities) during the 2015-16 school year. The next 21st CCLC grant competition has a postmark deadline of February 1, 2017 and proposals will be recommended for funding to the State Board of Education at their April 2017 meeting.

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

Cathy Mohnike informed the committee that the amended McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act went into effect on October 1st. The Non-Regulatory Guidance is already out for McKinney-Vento. It is available on the NDE Homeless website, Cathy specifically pointed out several pages of the Act to be aware of. Page 11 (B)(i)(ii), page 13 (G) Privacy and (I)(i)(ii). Page 20 (d) Authorized Activities (1) -(16) which contains a list of allowable McKinney-Vento activities.

This year \$280,000 in McKinney-Vento funding was awarded. Twelve districts were awarded grants.

Cathy extended an invitation to COP members to attend the Stacey Bess presentation that will be November 18, 2016 at Sheridan Lutheran in Lincoln. Just send her an email at cathy.mohnike@nebraska.gov so that enough chairs are ready. This is a free event.

Hispanic/Latino Summit – October 24, 2016 in Kearney

Beth Wooster reported The Hispanic/Latino Summit will be held on Monday, October 24th in Kearney at the Younes Conference Center. The limit of 600 students and their sponsors has been reached. There are 82 students nominated for the Gallery of Stars and we were excited to have 35 students apply for the Scholarship. An anonymous donor decided to donate more money so that multiple scholarships could be awarded. Originally there was going to be one-\$500 award, now there are going to be two-\$500 scholarships and five- \$250 scholarships.

LB 519: Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program

Jan Handa, 21st CCLC Coordinator, reported that eleven One-Year Opportunity grants were awarded to forty eligible sites that have an existing 21st CCLC continuation grant and have been in operation at least five years. Grant activities will be accomplished through partnerships between school districts and community-based organizations that will deliver at least 15 hours of enrichment per semester of the 2016-2017 school year.

National Title I Conference will be held in Long Beach, CA – February 22-25, 2017. Registration is Open

Beth Wooster encouraged the committee to attend the National Title I Conference. Many informational topics will be presented at the conference.

Tina Forte, Omaha Public Schools Title I Administrator, announced they will be presenting at the National Title I Conference on “Parent and Family Engagement”.

Conference information can be found at: <http://www.titlei.org/conference>

Other

In an effort to provide a convenient location for all of our members Diane Stuehmer asked the committee for feedback regarding meeting sites. The consensus among members was to keep it within the I-80 corridor.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 PM

Next Meetings

Friday, January 6, 2017 Zoom meeting beginning at 10:00 a.m. CST

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 in Hastings

@ Hastings College - Daugherty Center Conference Room

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 in Lincoln

@ LPSDO Board Room