

Meeting was called to order by Chair Person Renee Hyde, at 9:00 AM

Attendees

Donna Bishop
Andy DeFreece
Don Eberle
Susan Evans
Tina Forte
Michele Hensley
Renee Hyde
Tara James
Kraig Lofquist
Ann Nickerson
Deb Ross
Kristen Schultz
Kris Schneider
Barbara Sunderman
Bob Ziegler

NDE Staff

Brad Conner
Brooke David
Pat Frost
Karen Hardin
Sue Henry
Melody Hobson
Joan Luebbers
Pat Madsen
Randy McIntyre
Cathy Mohnike
Deb Romanek
Terri Schuster
Diane Stuehmer
Beth Wooster

Not in Attendance

Eileen Barks *Attended via Zoom for a portion of the meeting*
Cheryl Burrell
Anne Caruso
Lyn Forester
Jan Handa
Linda Hix
Randy Johnson
Sharon Katt
Pat Madsen
Marcella Rademacher
Deb Romanek
Bob Uhing

Welcome/Introductions

Introductions were made by the committee members including our newest member Donna Bishop.

Public Comment

Renee Hyde asked for public comment there was no response.

Nebraska Open Meetings Act Reminder

Renee Hyde reminded the committee 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.

Tina Forte made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Deb Ross seconded, the motion was unanimously approved.

Membership needs

Diane Stuehmer, Federal Programs Administrator of the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), asked the committee members for assistance in recruiting parents of current students and members of local school boards for membership.

ESEA/NCLB Information

Diane Stuehmer informed the committee that 17-18 data will be used for the first time to identify "Needs Improvement" based on the new assessment system. Decisions have not yet been determined as to how funds for Comprehensive and Targeted support will be awarded to districts.

Nonpublic Updates

Consultation Forms – (Handout)

Diane Stuehmer, informed the committee of a new requirement in the guidance that came out November 21, 2016 regarding the obligation of funds. "Funds allocated to a local educational agency for educational services and eligible

private school children, teachers and other educational personnel must be obligated in the fiscal year for which the funds are received by the LEA”.

The goal of the consultation is to come to an agreement regarding equitable services. It is the responsibility of the public schools, while working with nonpublic schools, to identify students for Title I services. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires calculations for Title I equitable services to private school children for Title I come off the top before any set-asides. The new requirement begins in the 2017-2018 school year. This will have the greatest effect on the larger districts, as they have multiple set-asides and a larger number of students attending nonpublic schools. LEA's need to be aware of this when planning for next year.

There is also a change as to how Title II-A funds will be allocated. The hold-harmless, based on the old Eisenhower grant, is being phased out over the next few years; starting with 2017-18 allocations. Census data will be used in determining allocations to states. At the district level, allocations for public and nonpublic will be determined based on enrollment. Previously nonpublic amounts were determined after the public hold harmless was put into place along with the amount of funds the public district budgeted for professional development.

Diane Stuehmer reviewed changes to the Nonpublic Federal Program, within Boundaries Collection Form (NDE 34-014), and Title I Nonpublic Consultation Collection Form (NDE04-012). Public Districts submit data collected on these forms through in the NDE portal. Data comes from the consultation meeting. Refer to your handout for highlighted changes.

Brad Conner, Title I Consultant and Title II-A Coordinator, informed the committee that through recent onsite monitoring, a few concerns have come up regarding Title I equitable services for nonpublic schools. As a reminder, nonpublic students must be identified, who actually qualify to receive Title I services, before any services can be provided to nonpublic students, teachers, or parents. To be eligible, a student must reside in a public school attendance area that is operating a Title I program. Title I services in the nonpublic school may include staff development for staff that have Title I identified students in their class. For supplementary instructional materials to be purchased they need to be used for services only provided by a Title I teacher, but only if a student is identified to receive services and a Title I teacher is identified to provide those services. Title I programs operating in nonpublic schools fall under the same requirements as Targeted Assistance School (TAS) programs in public school settings. Schools receiving a limited amount of Title I funds for their nonpublic schools may consider such services as after-school tutorial support or summer school as the most effective way to use limited funds and still meet the needs of any identified students.

NCLB Consolidated Application for 2017-18

Consortia

Diane Stuehmer informed the committee that districts choosing to consort funds would continue as past years with all funds or nothing being consorted.

Onsite Monitoring 3-year schedule

Beth Wooster, Assistant Title I Administrator, informed the committee that a few LEA's monitoring schedules were changed to utilize effective travel due to their geographical location.

Diane Stuehmer reported that monitoring guides will be updated for the 2017-2018 school year.

Nebraska Allocations

Diane Stuehmer shared the proposed Education Budget published in the “America First Budget Blueprint” proposed by President Donald Trump. Areas of concern are the elimination of the “21st Century Community Learning Centers” program and the possibility of eliminating twenty plus educational programs. Diane Stuehmer stated it would be a good idea to contact your senators and congressional representatives with your concerns regarding the proposed budget.

NDE has not received any information concerning 2017-18 allocations.

ESEA/NCLB Program Updates

Title I-A: Educationally Disadvantaged National Title I Conference in Long Beach

Beth Wooster reported on the National Title I Conference recently held in Long Beach – it was a great conference and Nebraska had at least six school districts represented. OPS presented a session called, “Parental Engagement: Beyond the Compliance Checklist”. They did a team presentation, with Tina Forte’, representing the district, school representation by Principal Susan Aguilera-Robles, and parental representation by Moniki Cannon. They did a great

job and even received two different standing ovations. Karen Hardin shared that Beth Wooster was introduced as the Secretary of the National Title I Association at the Opening Ceremony giving Nebraska a voice on the executive board.

Title I Distinguished Schools (Handouts)

Beth Wooster reported Nebraska had two Title I Distinguished Schools recognized during the Opening Ceremony of the National Title I Conference. Washington Elementary from Norfolk was recognized for having exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years. Madison Elementary from Madison was recognized for closing the achievement gap between student groups.

Schoolwide Peer Reviews

Beth Wooster informed the committee that schools are preparing for Title I Schoolwide Peer Reviews. Staff from 134 Title I buildings are in the process of updating their Title I Schoolwide Plans using the new Template and Rubric that were updated this year in preparation for ESSA. The plans are due to NDE by March 31st. Staff from 88 buildings will be reviewing those schoolwide plans at seven different locations throughout the state the second week in April. They will also be reviewing their building's plan and submitting Title Self-Reviews to NDE by May 1st. The new schedule that was approved during the October COP meeting allows buildings that are monitored to no longer have to submit a Title I Schoolwide Self-Review to NDE during the same year.

C.O.P. Meeting Dates Discussion (Currently March, June, and October)

During the working lunch discussion, Renee Hyde asked the committee members if they felt we needed to change meeting. The consensus of the committee was to leave the dates as is with a preference for our March meeting to be held at the Hastings location.

School Improvement Grant (SIG)

Karen Hardin, Title I and School Improvement Grant Consultant, gave an update on SIG (School Improvement Grants). Karen Hardin referred to a handout that showed current SIG Recipients, total budget requested, and length of grant period. There are currently 11 schools with SIG awards, which is the largest number since the inception of the SIG in 2010. Ms. Hardin also reported that on-site visits are scheduled to commence in April. She and Randy will conduct 2 or 3 visits each day.

Randy McIntyre, School Improvement Coordinator and Title I Consultant, informed the committee that there will not be any new SIG awards this year. Due to the new ESSA law, the SIG program as we know it will end. There will be funds available for school improvement through ESSA; however, we are unsure of how those funds will be distributed at this time. Randy McIntyre also recognized Madison Elementary School, a former SIG recipient (2010-2013) for receiving the Distinguished School Award at the National Title I Convention in Long Beach, California this year.

Title I, Part C: Migrant

Sue Henry, Migrant Education Program Coordinator shared the following information on the Migrant Program:

Program Evaluation

- The Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Department of USDE will be conducting an evaluation of the implementation of the Nebraska Migrant Education Program. The evaluation process will take place between October 2016 and summer of 2018.

State Allocation

- Under ESEA the allocation formula factors included an annual child count. Under ESSA, the annual child count has been revised from an annual child count to a child count average from a three-year period.

Guidance for Migrant Education Program (MEP) Eligibility Under ESSA

- Factors for determining child eligibility for the MEP include (age, school completion, move, purpose of the move, and qualifying work in agriculture and fishing). At the annual MEP directors meeting, the revised basic requirements for MEP eligibility under ESSA were presented to the directors by the Office of Migrant Education staff. The revisions will be open for 30 days for public comment; the Office of Migrant Education will provide revised non-regulatory guidance to include revisions; and states are expected to implement the revised eligibility criteria July 1, 2017.
- The most significant impact the state anticipates is the revision to child eligibility. The revisions could result in a decrease in eligibility of refugee children whose parents do not obtain work soon after they move nor have prior history of work defined by the MEP.

Additional conversation included interest in knowing whether the MEP has considered broadening the qualifying work activities that would include other mobile populations (ex. children of construction workers, pipeline workers) outside of agriculture and fishing. In prior years, this has been discussed and supported by states and organizations such as IMEC (Interstate Migrant Education Program), but has not been considered at the federal level.

Title III: Language Acquisition

Terri Schuster, Title III Coordinator presented the Title III updates. Terri Schuster proposed to the group two changes for the Title III immigrant grant: award the grant only to districts who can meet the minimum award (\$5,000) and reserve only 10% (previously 15%) of the Title III grants for the immigrant award. In doing so, the English Learner grant would change from 85% to 90% of the award. The Title III guidance for the immigrant grant and other considerations are the reason for making these changes. Kraig Lofquist made a motion to accept the changes. Deb Ross seconded and a roll-call vote was taken with all members in attendance voting to accept the changes.

NDE will be convening a stakeholder group soon to review and potentially revise Rule 15.

Brooke David, Title III Consultant, presented a new English Learner Resource available through the NDE Title III website. The learning module is for all school or district personnel and focuses on welcoming and identifying English Learners. There are plans to create more learning modules around EL programming, staffing, and program review. Terri Schuster updated the group about the ELPA21 summative testing as well as the ELPA21 Screener Pilot and operation screener, which will be available in August.

Title VI: REAP – Rural Education Achievement Program

SRSA – Small Rural School Achievement Program

RLIS – Rural Low-Income School Program

Brad Conner, shared that no changes are expected in state or local allocations of REAP funds for 2017-18. This program is not specifically identified in the President's budget proposals for 2018. Therefore, we expect it to continue to be funded. We are required to report in our state ESSA Plan about how REAP funds are being used in NE and the progress school districts are making toward meeting academic achievement standards as a result of these additional federal funds.

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

Diane Stuehmer shared the following information from Jan Handa, Twenty First Century Coordinator, The 21st CCLC program recently conducted a grant competition and the slate of proposals recommended for funding will be presented to the State Board of Education for approval at the April 7, 2017 meeting. Recommended proposals total nearly \$1.5 million to deliver quality afterschool and summer programming to students who attend high-need schools. Plans are well underway for the Get Connected 2017 Nebraska Afterschool Conference, which will be September 29th at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney. The 2015-16 Annual Report is undergoing final editing and will be ready for posting on the 21st CCLC website by the end of the month. The 21st CCLC was one of the programs targeted to be eliminated in the FY18 budget released by the White House on March 16th. There are currently about 125 sites across Nebraska operating afterschool programs using 21st CCLC grant funds. These programs provide hands-on, enriching programming for nearly 20,000 students.

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

Diane Stuehmer, shared information from Jan Handa, Math and Science Coordinator, also in your handout. The status of the MSP grant award to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln: The Nebraska Partnership **TEAMS (Teaching to Enhance Achievement in Math and Science)** has been very active the past few months. Fifty teacher leaders and six statewide consultants were selected to help UNL faculty design and develop professional development sessions for teachers. Workshops will be conducted at five locations during the first two weeks of June. Applications are still being accepted for a few remaining spots, with preference given to district whose schools are considered high need (received a classification of "Needs Improvement", at least 40% of students are eligible for free/reduced lunch, or a NeSA Math or Science proficiency percentage below than the state average. This will be the final grant award for the MSP program, as it was not reauthorized in ESSA.

Title VII, Part B: Education of Homeless Children and Youth

Cathy Mohnike, State Homeless Coordinator and Title I Consultant, informed the committee that McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Subtitle VII-B, went into effect on October 1, 2016 so the McKinney-Vento Non-regulatory Guidance stands. The reauthorization was an appropriate time to rewrite NDEs McKinney-Vento grant application. Items that were redundant were removed and a section was added to make Nebraska's grant application comply with the new McKinney-Vento Act as reauthorized under ESSA.

Again, due to the reauthorization, districts will need to review the District Homeless Policy to check for items to be

removed or added. Any reference to awaiting foster care has been removed from the McKinney-Vento Act so if the district's policy has "awaiting foster care" that must be removed. In addition, in reference to school stability the former wording was is it "feasible" for a child to stay in the school of origin. That wording has been removed from the Act and must be removed from the District policy. Now the wording states that each school shall "presume" that keeping a child enrolled in the school of origin is in the child's best interest.

To help districts with this task of reviewing the District Homeless Policy a sample McKinney-Vento Homeless Policy will be available on the NDE website on the Homeless Education page. Even though districts work with different law firms to update their policy this will afford an opportunity for comparison.

Title I, Part D: Delinquent

Pat Frost, Title I Consultant and Title ID State Coordinator, discussion centered on:

- Upcoming monitoring cycle for state agencies
- Commissioner's Practitioners group on system involved youth and discussion of partial credits
- National conference this summer
- State ESSA template section for Part D remains the same
- Annual Performance data collection
- The Superintendent's letter for foster youth
- Habitudes training at #SU 3 and the SIMs training
- Pilot project for Advancement Education Plan for Interim Schools

Title II-A: Improving Teacher Quality

Brad Conner, informed the committee under ESSA, local school districts (LEAs) and State Education Associations (SEAs) will be required to demonstrate that Title II-A funds used for either professional development or class size reduction must meet an established criteria of being 'evidence-based'. NDE staff will be developing guidelines for LEAs to follow in their Consolidated ESSA Application for 2017-18 regarding how they can demonstrate that they are meeting this requirement. Additional flexibility in ESSA allows both the LEA and the SEA to expand the use of Title II-A funds to "non-core subject" teachers and to early childhood educators in training related to the transition to kindergarten.

ESSA State Plan

Janine Theiler, Program Specialist for Educator Effectiveness, shared the Nebraska Department of Education Strategic Vision and Direction and shared the focus of the current ESSA Stakeholder meetings. She provided an opportunity to provide input on some of the discussion items that are covered during an actual stakeholder feedback meeting.

The final plan is expected to be submitted by September 18, 2017. For more information, please visit NDEs ESSA website at: <https://www.education.ne.gov/ESSA/index.html>

Reminder: AQuESTT (Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow) Conference
April 10-11, 2017 Conference: *Building Capacity for Improvement*
Younes Center in Kearney

Next Meetings

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 @ LPSDO Board Room, Lincoln
Tuesday, October 17, 2017 @ ESU #10, Kearney