

COP Minutes
October 22nd, 2019
Online via Zoom

Beth Wooster, NDE Administrator of ESEA Federal Programs, called the Committee of Practitioners meeting to order at 9:00 AM on Tuesday October 22, 2019, via Zoom.

Attendees:

Members in attendance

Cheryl Burrell
Anne Caruso
Brent Cudly
Tina Forte'
Bill Heimann
Linda Hix
Tara James
Robert Kercher
Tracey Kovar
Ann Nickerson
Ita Mendoza
Ann Nickerson
Deb Ross
Kristin Schultz
Bob Ziegler

NDE Staff in attendance

Adrian Bowen
Jacob Clark
Pat Frost
Jan Handa
Sue Henry
Kim Larson
Joan Luebbers
Cathy Mohnike
Deb Romanek
Beth Wooster
Benjamin Zink

Not in attendance

Andy DeFreece
Veronica Estevez
Susan Evans
Michelle Hensley
Melody Hobson
Kraig J Lofquist
Allyson Olson
Kirk Russell
Kris Schneider
Monica Smith
Kim Snyder
Tim Vanderheiden
Shirley Vargas

Welcome & Introductions: This COP meeting was held via Zoom on October 22nd 2019 due to time constraints from NDE staff. Beth Wooster welcomed everyone to the Zoom session after some technical issues were resolved. Tina Forte', COP Chair, agreed to Beth running the meeting since NDE staff were all in one room & sharing of the computer would be easiest from NDE. Beth welcomed new members to the committee - Brent Cudly from ESU 2, Ita Mendoza who represents parents, Robert Kurcher from Kearney West H.S., Adrian Bowen NDE Staff who replaced Karen Hardin, and Allyson Olson NDE Staff who replaced Terri Schuster.

Nebraska Open Meeting Acts (NOMA) Reminder: Beth reminded the committee the Nebraska Open Meetings Act will be followed. A written copy of the Open Meetings Act was available.

Open for public comments: No request for public comment was made.

Approval of Minutes for March 26th meeting: Ann Nickerson made a motion to approve the minutes, with corrections from the June 25, 2019 meeting. Tracey Kovar seconded the motion. Minutes unanimously approved.

ESSA & Title I Reviewers: NDE staff assignments were shared, and contact list can be found on NDE website. [Here](#)

2019-20 revised allocations for Title I Continuing Resolution: Beth shared that there was an almost \$48,000 shortage from the estimated allocation to the final allocation. Because it was a loss, that means that the adjustments have to be made in this current year, so the final approval of Consolidated Applications have been put on hold till after this meeting. There are two choices in taking care of this reduction of funds: 1) Return all Consolidated Applications to have the LEA adjustments made to allocations. 2) Because there are 4 LEAs that are releasing their Title I allocations, the difference can be made up with that release by using the State's reallocation authority and making it a current year reallocation. USDE has approved this, but we would need COP approval to proceed with this option. There was discussion of the two options. Cheryl Burrell made a motion to approve the reallocation of current year funds so that grants would not need to be returned. Linda Hix seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

SFI Grants for CSI Schools: Beth shared that the twenty-seven Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools received Support for Improvement (SFI) grants. A brief overview was given of the grant and explanation that NDE would expect approximately 50% of the grant to be used by February 2020, as a consideration of year 3 funding. The grant for year 3 is expected to open winter 2020. For more information on the SFI grants and continued funding (pg. 2) click here: [Link](#)

TSI & ATSI Identification: Lane Carr, Director of Accountability and AQuESTT, shared information on the new designations that happen 106 schools were identified as Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) and 239 schools were identified as Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI). Both ATSI and TSI designations will happen annually. Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) are schools that have one or more student group(s) performing at or below the performance level of students in the lowest 5 percent of Title I schools (i.e. CSI schools). Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) schools are Title I schools that have one or more student groups that score in the lowest quarter of identified CSI schools. For more information on the designation rules click here: [Link](#)

Nonpublic Update: A report was shared in the absence of Tim Vanderheiden, NDE Nonpublic Ombudsman, - Non Public Membership Report Deadline was Oct. 15th. There are still a handful of nonpublic schools who have yet to submit and approve their reports. These schools have been contacted through both email and phone calls. This report provides the enrollment data used to figure the equitable shares of the federal Title funds for the 2020-2021 school year. Info [here](#)

Changes within the Title I, Part A Non-Regulatory Guidance in relation to: Providing Equitable Services to Eligible Private School Children, Teachers, and Families.

- a. Pooling of Title I Funds
- b. Religiously-Affiliated Third-Party Providers
- c. Carryover of funds
- d. Determining services in Private schools

Onsite Monitoring: Beth shared that the updated 3-year schedule is on the NDE Federal Programs webpage. There are a couple of new items that will need to be added to the

monitoring checklist due to audit findings: 1) Policy/Procedures for keeping track of when students are removed from the regular adjusted cohorts. 2) Collect information on what LEAs are doing to support TSI and ATSI schools in the district.

Family and Community Engagement: Kim Larson shared updates regarding NDE Family and Community Engagement and the development of a Nebraska School-Family-Community Engagement Framework. Input sessions have been held at ESU 16 (North Platte), ESU 10 (Kearney), ESU 9 (Hastings), and ESU 8 (Neligh). Additional input sessions will be held as opportunities arise.

The framework will address the following areas of focus:

- Partnerships and support services with local, state, and national organizations
- Business and industry partnerships to enhance student outcomes and experience
- Active family engagement
- Safe and welcoming school climate and culture
- Student attendance
- Participation in activities during and outside of the school day.

Writing teams will be established to define each of these focus areas, identify current research/best practices, and ultimately articulate strategies that will result in growing meaningful relationships between schools, families and community partners.

If you would like to host an input session or recommend writing team participants, contact Kim (kim.larson@nebraska.gov).

ESSA/ESEA Program updates:

Title I-A: Beth Wooster shared that Schoolwide Intent forms are due November 1st. Currently there are seven that have been submitted with a couple more expected. Nebraska currently has 352 Schoolwide Programs and 97 Targeted Assistance Programs.

Comparability is open for viewing, but due to an issue with venter certification that is affecting ADVISER for many of the districts the save and submit button will not activate until November 16th now with a due date of December 3rd.

Due to the short timeline to identify Distinguished Schools NDE is asking that the Committee allow them to name the schools using data we have at the State. There was discussion on the data we would be using. Cheryl Burrell made the motion to approve NDE to name the Distinguished School for 2019 using the past 3 years of data. Tracey Kovar seconded the motion. The motion passed.

At the last COP meeting we discussed the possibility of using Title I reallocation funds to award to the named Distinguished Schools. The committee discussed this and the amount to award again. Tara James made the motion to approve NDE to award up to \$5,000 per building from Title I-A reallocation for the two named Nebraska Distinguished Schools to assist them in sending staff to the National Conference. This was seconded by Ann Nickerson. The motion passed.

I-A SIG: Adrian Bowen, SIG Coordinator, shared that the SIG team had one more fall visit and the team is impressed with the dedication and willingness to embrace the opportunities that can and have taken place within schools to improve student

achievement, morale, and teacher effectiveness. It was reported by various schools that being a SIG school has "Made me a better teacher". Two SIG schools are transitioning to CSI schools for the remainder of the grant. The two schools are Madison Middle School and Wakonda Elementary School. The SIG team looks forward to the continued growth and motivation by each participating school.

Title I-C: Sue Henry, Title IC, Migrant Education Program, provided information in regards to the Migrant Student Information Exchange (MSIX). Section 1304(b)(3) requires State Education Agencies to promote interstate and intrastate coordination by providing for educational continuity through the timely transfer of pertinent school records (including health information) when children move from one school to another, whether or not the move occurs during the regular school year. The electronic exchange of educational and health information according to standard timelines and procedures will help ensure that migratory children succeed academically.

15 MEP projects across the state received MEP sub allocations in the estimated amount of 7 million dollars. The funds support eligible migrant children and youth in receiving instructional and support services through the program. In addition, funds are used for allowable activities that are not considered a service such as: identification & recruitment, family and community engagement, professional development, program evaluation.

Title I-D: Pat Frost, Neglected Delinquent Specialist, shared that the state agencies HHS and Dept. of Corrections participated in the pilot program for reporting the Title I Part D Annual Performance Report online this year. The detention centers located in Lincoln, Madison, Omaha and the staff secure location in Papillion La Vista also participated. The pilot was successful and reporting in the following years will be online. The data results are sent into USDE. Information was shared on the upcoming Facility meeting in November at ESU 3 for all the Rule 18 schools and the Special Purpose Schools.

Ms. Frost reinforced that she was happy that a voice for the state agencies has become a representative on the COP. The principal at West Kearney is now a member of the COP representing any concerns of the facility location schools.

Another required USDE report, the October count of neglected and delinquent students located in districts for the due date of Dec 5, 2019 is proceeding online. The count will be sent into USDE by Jan 15, 2020.

Ms. Frost presented in an NDTAC (Neglected, Delinquent, and Technical Assistance Center) webinar on strategies for data collection for the states having new Title I Part D consultants.

Title II-A: Nothing to report.

Title III: Staff update: The Title III office has a new face. Allyson Olson recently joined NDE after 13 years as a district administrator with the South Sioux City Schools.

ELPA21 Peer Review was submitted to USDE last spring and we received a response mid-September. One significant finding was the lack of an alternate ELPA21. The ELPA21 Consortium has recently been awarded a grant to develop an alternate ELPA21 and

Nebraska will participate in the development and implementation of that assessment. In addition, the general ELPA21 was found to partially meet requirements of the ESEA, as amended by ESSA, which was expected to be the outcome of the peer review. Allyson is coordinating with the ELPA21 consortium to compose the required response and timeline which will be submitted by the end of October. The target date to complete all items is December 2020. Info [here](#)

Response: NDE adopted the ELP standards but may still need to formally adopt the different proficiency levels of ELs.

Title IV-A SSAE: A report was shared in the absence of Kirk Russel, Title IVA Specialist, - the Title IV-A Competitive Grant is its second year of two year grant. Eleven (11) schools have until November 15, 2019 to seek final reimbursement of grant funds.

Title IV-A Formula Grant: Report shared that first year funds (2018-2019) have ended as of September 30, 2019. Districts will seek reimbursement on or before November 15, 2019. Funds may be carried forward. 2019-2020 second year funds (2019-2020) have opened in the 2020 ESSA Consolidated Application. Funds are authorized to be used for: Well Rounded Educational Opportunities; Support Safe & Healthy Student Activities; and Support of Effective Use of Technology.

Title IV-B: 21st CCLC: Jan Handa, 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Coordinator, provided background information on the 21st CCLC annual competition for five-year grants. Currently there are 148 sites (39 First-Time grants and 109 Continuation grants) statewide. Sites with continuation grants have been in operation from 6-17 years. Last year 72% of these students participated in free/reduced lunch, 15% were English learners, 55% were an ethnic minority and 17% were verified for special education. She reported that the federal allocation has been stable for several years, and that unless there is an increase it soon will be difficult to continue funding new sites. For the 2020 competition approximately \$500,000 is available to award First-Time grants, plus there are sufficient funds to award successful eligible Continuation grants. Two of the competitive priority criteria for the 2020 competition were revised: 1) will this proposal serve students who attend a school identified as CSI, TSI or ATSI, and 2) is this a proposal for a Continuation grant. Jan encouraged interested members to contact her if they would like to review the grant materials. [Here](#)

Title VI REAP: A report was shared in Kirk's absence - from August to September school districts have been notified directly from US Dept. of Education of their Small, Rural School Achievement Grant Award Notifications (164 Rural schools (600 and fewer students) awarded \$5,218,279.00

RLIS –Rural Low Income School Program – Eligible districts have been notified from Nebraska Department of Education of their RLIS Grant (4 schools districts will divide \$80,377.00). [Link](#)

Title VII-B McKinney-Vento: Cathy Mohnike, the NDE Homeless Liaison, reported that PowerSchool's system error that was transferring the Homeless Student number directly into the Unaccompanied Homeless Youth number has been corrected. Districts are able to revise their SIS numbers and upload the correct numbers to ADVISER.

The annual State Homeless Education Liaison meeting was very successful. The morning was run by Christina Dukes from NCHE. All grantees were represented except Scottsbluff and Ralston. In the afternoon the liaisons were joined by those involved with the YHDP (Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program). They were given information about how their homeless students could be helped by Coordinated Entry and the Coaching feature of the YHDP.

A reminder was given to make sure that any staff paid with McKinney-Vento funds is correctly coded on NSSRS and is keeping a Time and Effort log. Probably a PAR is the log to be used.

Head Start Performance Standards: Beth went over the requirements that any school receiving Title I funds must develop an agreement with Head Start if any students will be transitioning into Kindergarten at their school the following year. The Head Starts have been reaching out to those schools to let them know. There is more information on the Title I website at the following link: [Here](#)

Hispanic Latino Summit: Benjamin Zink, NDE Contact for the Summit, shared that the Hispanic-Latino Summit was held in Columbus, NE on October 21st. 550 Hispanic and Latino youth attended along with over 50 Nebraska educators to learn about post-secondary educational, employment, and scholarship opportunities. The keynote speaker was Jessica Cox, a woman who became the first certified pilot without arms. She challenged students to overcome barriers and their own fears to reach their goals. At the event, 10 students received \$1,000 scholarships.

Other:

The 2020 National ESEA Conference will be held in Atlanta, Georgia – February 4-7, 2020. Registration open at <https://www.eSeanetwork.org/conference>

COP Members discussed having October COP meetings held via Zoom from now on due to low attendance and busy schedules among COP members. Issue will be discussed further next year.

Next Meetings: Tuesday, March 24th 2020 in Grand Island. | Tuesday June 24, 2020 @ Lincoln Public Schools District Office Room C