

**COP Minutes
March 24th, 2020
Online Via Zoom**

The March 2020 meeting of the Nebraska Committee of Practitioners will be held, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 20-03, by a combination of videoconferencing and teleconferencing on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 9:00 am. Access to the meeting will be made available to the Committee members, members of the public and members of the media via Zoom.

Contact information below to connect:

Zoom address: <https://zoom.us/j/4024712452> **Meeting ID:** 402 471 2452

Or via **Telephone:** +1 346 248 7799 **Meeting ID:** 402 471 2452

Tina Forte', Committee Chair, called the Committee of Practitioners meeting to order at 9:00 AM on Tuesday March 24th, 2020, via Zoom.

Member in Attendance	NDE Staff in Attendance	Not in Attendance
Anne Caruso	Adrian Bowen	Cheryl Burrell
Brent Cudly	Jacob Clark	Andy DeFreece
Tina Forte'	Sue Henry	Susan Evans
Bill Heimann	Karen Kentfield	Pat Frost
Michele Hensley	Kim Larson	Jan Handa
Linda Hix	Joan Luebbers	Melody Hobson
Tara James	Cathy Mohnike	Kraig Lofquist
Tracey Kovar	Allyson Olson	Kristin Schultz
Ita Mendoza	Deb Romanek	
Ann Nickerson	Kirk Russell	Guests
Deb Ross	Tim Vanderheiden	Rodrigo Mataloun
Kris Schneider	Beth Wooster	Matt Rohlfsen
Monica Shipman	Adrian Bowen	
Bob Ziegler	Jacob Clark	
	Sue Henry	

Welcome & Introductions:

This COP meeting was held via Zoom on March 24th, 2020 due to Covid19 outbreak. Beth Wooster welcomed everyone to the Zoom session after some technical issues were resolved. Karen Kentfield is back at NDE under Contract until the Assistant Administrator position is filled in June.

Nebraska Open Meeting Acts (NOMA) Reminder:

Tina issued a general reminder about the NOMA. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was available.

Open for public comments:

Tina asked for any public comment was made. None were requested

Approval of Minutes for October 22nd meeting:

Deb Ross made a motion to approve the October 22nd minutes. Michelle Hensley seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

Accountability – CSI, ATSI & TSI Updates

Beth Wooster informed the committee that there will not be any new schools identified this year. Currently the State ESSA Plan has ATSI schools that are still identified at year 3 to move up to CSI status, but because Nebraska named their ATSI schools 1 year late, it would cause two separate cohorts of CSI schools to be going at the same time. NDE is looking into making an amendment change so ATSI schools won't move up until year 5 to coincide with the CSI so they are on the same rotation. This would help to provide funding to the CSI schools for the full 3 years. This is a work in progress. NDE will also consider removing the EBA from Accountability, but leave it as an Accreditation requirement.

Nonpublic Update

Tim Vanderheiden, NDE Ombudsman, gave an update encouraging LEAs to use virtual methods to conduct consultations with all nonpublic. NDE is looking at making changes to the form for next year, resident students from specific LEA membership numbers showing for the whole districts not building specific numbers. The within boundaries needs form need to have a field on nonpublic report for Extenuating Circumstances affecting carryover due to COVID 19. Beth encouraged districts to continue to consult and work with Nonpublics to find alternative ways in order to spend funds current year funds, one suggestion is to investigate virtual professional development.

Family & Community Engagement

Kim Larson shared the following link as a new resource: Scheduling in the Home Environment (sample schedules and resources for families) [SCHEDULING IN THE HOME ENVIRONMENT](#) Statewide Family Learning Centers - Kim also shared that she is recruiting for year three (3) sites. Please contact Roger Garcia, rgarcia@familieslearning.org. Kim will continue to work remotely on writing the School-Family-Community Engagement Framework. Please let Kim know if you have teachers, community members, others who would like to assist with this project.

Nebraska Preliminary Allocations ([Handout](#))

Beth went over the preliminary allocations in comparison to the 2019-20 actual allocations. At this time a slight decrease is expected in Title I-A, I-D, I-C and McKinney-Vento with a slight increase in the other programs.

Title I-A - Educationally Disadvantaged

Beth reported the 2 schools represented Nebraska at National Title I conference Pender Elementary and Norfolk

Schoolwide Peer Review Updates – Sites canceled for Peer Review, due to COVID 19 pandemic. NDE Staff will plan to do the reviews if COP approves. Tara James (OPS) made a motion and seconded by Susan Evans (ESU #10) to approve PEER Review for 2019-20 be completed by NDE Consultants. Motion passed (as per google voting page)

Title I-A School Improvement Grant (SIG)

Adrian Bowen reported an update of the 2019-20 School Improvement Grants. There are five (5) schools currently in this year's grant program and two (2) schools also qualify as Comprehensive School Improvement (CSI) designated. Of the 2019-20 SIG schools four (4) schools are in need of spring visitation. The plan now is to look at using zoom meetings at this time for those spring visitations. Adrian is also planning discussions on how to have the end of year celebration presentations. There is on-going work with Shirley Vargas and Phillip White in planning for SIG 2020-21 year.

Title I-C - Migrant

Sue Henry shared updates with COP members. Specifically, the MEP Parent and Student Recognition Conference had to be cancelled. Yet, the Binational MEP Initiative is still able to have the opportunity to award five (5) \$1,000 scholarships to students in order to continue their college or careers. Sue H. was also able to share about the Migrant Student Information Exchange and the necessary requirements.

Title I-D - Neglected At-Risk Delinquent ([Handout](#))

Pat Frost shared information about the changes to the DHHS Schools which is described in the attached handout. Pat also shared that due to COVID 19 there is a National concern about closed facilities working in close proximity to students. There is a State of Nebraska meeting today via Zoom, that Brad Dirkson, Administer of Office of Accountability, Accreditation and Program Approval, will be sharing information with facility based schools, and concerns about re-entry back into schools for these students

Title II-A - Improving Teacher Quality

Adrian Bowen shared updates about several online trainings that can be supported with the use of Title IIA funds. The federal program team is also looking at different ways Nonpublic schools may utilize their Title IIA funds

Title III - Language Acquisition

Allyson Olson Title III Director shared that she was able to observe eleven (11) school sites and observe the test administration, observations at all eleven sites went really well. The ELPA Assessment window was extended through this Friday, March 27, 2020 since Fremont schools closed before all of the students were tested, due to the COVID-19. For Peer Review there are a few changes that need to be adopted and how NE determines proficiency. The state of Iowa is taking the lead on determining proficiency and I will stay connected in order to assist us here in Nebraska. Also, will share that ACS Ventures received the bid for the alignment study.

Title IV-A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE)

Kirk Russell, shared that NDE is needing to monitor the spending for those LEAs that had allocations over \$30k to make sure that the minimum percentages were used. U.S. Department of Education wants to know how LEAs are also spending their funds in the categories of Well Rounded WR, Safe & Healthy S & H, and Effective Use of Technology EUT. NDE will need to make changes in the Grants Management System and Payments portion in order to track the necessary data for CSPR reporting.

Title IV-B - 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)

Jan Handa shared that there are one-hundred forty eight (148) sites across the state that operate a center. Her team of contacts are working to determine and develop ways to continue to pay their Learning Center staff due to the shutdown of centers due to COVID 19. Current recommendations to our Center directors, is to follow the policies and procedures that the 21st Century vendor has. If they are LEA staff, the policies that the LEA also covers the after school staff. My team and I are participating in our third zoom call this month with project directors to share how they are handling the closing of schools and talking about what their staff will be doing. We are hoping to start sharing tools to help after school learning and enrichment while they are stuck at home. 21st Century Community has twelve (12) continuation grants to be discussed at the April, 2020 board meeting and three (3) new sites are being recommended to be funded.

Title VI - Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP)

Kirk Russell shared that an Annual REAP Grant Funds notice (email) was sent out by U.S. Department of Education (REAP) to all 240 LEAs, including those that did not qualify for grant funds. Qualifying eligibility for the REAP funds must show that your school district has six hundred (600) or fewer ADA student count from the previous year. It was confusing to many LEAs that received the announcement that there are grant funds available.

- SRSA – Small Rural School Achievement Program – Kirk R. reminded the committee that these Grant funds do not run through the state. REAP SRSA funds come directly to all eligible school district from the U.S. Dept of Education. This year's grant application has changed and thanks to the input received from our districts. Prior grant applications were created in Grants.gov, and now will be simplified/shortened and created in max.gov. The 2020-21 FY application is set to close on April 22, 2020. Title II-A and Title IV-A grant funds that an LEA received in the prior year is also part of the allocation formula used in REAP. The U.S. Department of Education planned on switching from free and reduced counts to Census counts for 2020-21 funding year. Yet, due to turmoil of the amount of funding for the different states,

enough questions were asked of U.S. Department of Education plans now call to hold off on switching until at least next year to determine how allocations will work.

- RLIS – Rural Low-Income School Program – There is nothing new to report

Title VII-B - Education of Homeless Children and Youth (McKinney Vento)

Cathy Mohnike was able to share quite a few questions and concerns raised on McKinney Vento funds usage due to the COVID 19 pandemic. There were questions if the funds could be used to transfer students to get meals, or transport parents to the schools to pick up school supplies including the technology such as Chromebook. The answer was “No”. There are several resources available to help. There have been no changes in what is allowable even with COVID-19. Cathy instructed the committee to keep an eye out for students who are falling into homelessness. With many families not being able to work - they are going to have problems with paying bills.

- [Authorized Activities](#) (pages 20-22)
- [COVID-19 Resources from NCHC](#) (National Center for Homeless Education)
- [Sample Housing Information form](#) (sample in App 3-A)

Early Childhood

Joan Luebbers shared that Headstart is making family activity packets, NDE is directing centers to stay engaged with families through this time. Bus drivers may be allowed to drop off activity packets. Recommend utilizing school districts for meals. There have reported problems getting formula and food for infants. There has been a bill passed last week may allow for this. Headstart programs are using emergency funds. HS staff still receiving pay and benefits. Still taking referrals, but still working on how to handle referral process.

Other:

[NDE Job Postings](#) - There are two openings on the ESEA Federal Programs Team. Tim Vanderheiden will be leaving to be a Superintendent at McPherson County Schools & Kirk Russell will be promoted to the Assistant Administrator of ESEA Federal Programs Office at NDE.

NDE Data Conference - Due to the challenges and realities associated with COVID19, NDE has been working through contingency plans for the 2020 Data Conference. In lieu of holding an in-person conference, this year, we are making available a series of pre-recorded, short, informational videos addressing key conference topics.

2021 National ESEA Conference in Boston, MA – February 8-11, 2021

Next Meetings:

- Tuesday, June 23, 2020 @ LPSDO lower level Conference Room C, Lincoln
- Tuesday, October 20, 2020 TBD