

Committee of Practitioners Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 20, 2023
Zoom Meeting

The September 20, 2023 special meeting of the Nebraska Committee of Practitioners was held via Zoom.

Tina Forté, Committee Chair, called the Committee of Practitioners meeting to order at 12:00 PM on Wednesday, September 20, 2023.

Members in Attendance

Ann Caruso
Andy DeFreece
Scott English
Tina Forté
Bill Heimann
Michele Hensley
Tara James
Anita Harkins-Mehsling
Ita Mendoza
Marco Pedroza
Phillip Picquet
Hillary Rasmussen
Deb Ross
Kris Schneider
Heather Stukey
Kamau Turner
Robert Ziegler

NDE Staff in Attendance

Ann Carmoney
Dottie Heusman
Jim Kent
Kirk Russell
Shirley Vargas
Brian Welch
Beth Wooster
Rhonda Wredt

Not in Attendance

Brent Cudly
Daniel Jaimes Diaz
Dave Erb
Kim Jonas
Kristin Shultz

Guests

Taylor Esparza
Lindsey Luly

Welcome & Introductions:

This special COP meeting was held via Zoom on September 20, 2023. Tina Forté, Committee Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked all in attendance to type their name, position, and school district or school program you are serving in the zoom chat for record.

Nebraska Open Meeting Acts (NOMA) Reminder:

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

Action Item:

Beth Wooster, NDE Federal Programs Administrator thanked the members for attending this special meeting. The meeting was called to discuss the change from the federal program three-year monitoring review cycle to the proposed five-year review cycle beginning the 2023-2024 school year. According to USDE this change is allowable, and many states are following this five-year monitoring cycle. Beth shared examples of the program monitoring three-year current schedule and the proposed five-year schedule which will follow the Continuous Improvement schedule that Accreditation uses. The districts who will be monitored by Accreditation for the 2023-24 school year will then have their federal monitoring during the 2025-26 school year. Therefore, districts who will have their federal monitoring in 2023-24 school year would have been monitored by Accreditation two years ago. Fiscal monitoring will follow the school year after the programmatic monitoring year. This would also give districts one year off to focus and prepare for their Accreditation and Continuous Improvement visits. This would allow the Federal Programs team to visit every five years unless a district is at high risk or has issues that arise during the monitoring visit, they would then be monitored again the following year. Dottie Heusman reiterated if there are issues in the

district with risk assessment the district may be fiscally or programmatically monitored more frequently. If a district is not monitored for Continuous School Improvement for whatever reasons on their scheduled year, they would continue their original five-year schedule and have their programmatic monitoring as scheduled. The committee discussed questions they had around larger districts with multiple buildings on different Title I Schoolwide schedules and how this would affect nonpublic schools. Beth explained this would not affect the nonpublic schools as they are not currently monitored, as it is handled through the public-school and there would be no changes. There was discussion on a few changes to the Monitoring Guide checklist as well.

Beth shared that there will be some proposed changes to the Title I-A schoolwide process that will be further discussed at the November COP meeting. She briefly explained that the proposed schoolwide process would eliminate Peer Review and instead have new buildings submit their initial schoolwide plan to the NDE which would be reviewed in house. Then all other buildings would continue as a schoolwide building if they completed a yearly self-review. Changes to a schoolwide plan would be noted on the self-review and updated on the building's schoolwide plan which still must be posted on the school's website. The link to the plan would be included in the next year's grant in the Grant Management System. This item will be discussed and voted on at the November 1st COP meeting.

Tara James (OPS) made a motion to approve and move forward with the ESSA Programmatic Monitoring Schedule change to a five-year rotation cycle beginning with the 2023-24 school year. Marco Pedroza (LPS) seconded the motion. A roll call was taken and was unanimously approved.

Next Meeting:

The next COP meeting will be Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at Nebraska Department of Education, 500 S. 84th St, 2nd floor Lincoln, Nebraska.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.