

TEAM NEWS

(Together Everyone Achieves More)

July 2010

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Training for New Title I Administrators/Coordinators

It appears as though there are numerous new superintendents, principals, and Title I coordinators being hired in schools and districts across the state for the 2010-2011 school year.

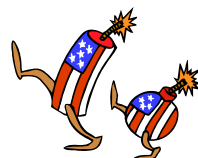
The Department of Public Instruction is holding their annual New Administrators' Conference on August 5-6, 2010. At this conference, the state Title I office will be conducting a breakout session specifically for new superintendents, principals, and coordinators who work with Title I issues. We will forward specific information on the time, date, and location of this breakout session through our Title I distribution list.

ARRA Quarterly Report

The fourth Title I ARRA Quarterly Report was due to the department on June 29, 2010. We are pleased that once again, we had 100% of our districts submit the report. Thank you for your promptness! The next Title I ARRA Quarterly Report is due on September 29, 2010.

Title I Vacancy

Are you looking for an exciting new career change? The state Title I office currently has a vacancy for a Program Administrator III. This position will assist schools in program improvement, participate as a member of the Title I team that monitors Title I programs, present at various department trainings/events, and review Title I consolidated applications. If you are interested, a job announcement is posted on the HRMS vacancy page at www.nd.gov/hrms/jobs/2011305.html. The deadline to apply for this position is July 26, 2010.



Director's Report

By: Laurie Matzke, North Dakota Director of Title I

There is a national organization established to allow State Title I directors and opportunity to discuss educational issues amongst themselves, as well as with the United States Department of Education (USDE) personnel. This organization is called NASTID – National Association of State Title I Directors and meets twice a year. It convenes at the National Title I Convention in January or February and again in the summer. These meetings provide an excellent opportunity for state directors to get updated information on issues pertaining to Title I and NCLB. I will be attending the Annual Title I Summer Meeting with USDE staff on July 27-30, 2010. I anticipate receiving updates on the following issues:

- Federal Funding for 2011-2012

In a typical year, the appropriation for the subsequent school year is passed in December. However, Congress is already working on the 2011-2012 appropriation. Therefore, I hope to receive more information on the funding levels for federal programming for the 2011-2012 school year.

- State Monitoring of NCLB

Updates will be provided on the USDE monitoring of states for compliance with NCLB regulations. We usually receive a report on the past year's monitoring visits, which includes a summary of common items found out of compliance across the nation. North Dakota is scheduled to be monitored in May 2011.

- 2011 National Title I Conference

The 2011 National Title I Conference will be held in Tampa, Florida from January 31–February 3, 2011 and I'm sure we'll receive updates on this event.

- USDE Title I Director

The position of federal Title I director at the USDE has just recently been vacated. Zollie Stevenson, the national Title I director for the past several years, has taken a new position as a professor at a university. The search for a new director will be opened nationwide.

- School Improvement Grant(SIG)

North Dakota just recently received over \$9 million dollars in School Improvement Funding. The 62 SIG applications that were just recently submitted for the 2009 SIG funding are under review. All states will also be receiving 2010 SIG funds. We don't know the timeline for receiving these funds until late July when I attend this training with the U.S. Department of Education staff.

- New Literacy Initiative

On December 16, 2009, President Obama signed into law the spending bill for the 2010-2011 school year. The legislation appropriates new funds to create a comprehensive literacy program serving students from birth through grade 12. From the total allocation, \$10 million is reserved for a state formula grant program to support a State Literacy Team with expertise in literacy development. The team will be required to develop a comprehensive state literacy plan. Each state will receive at minimum \$150, 000 for a State Literacy Team. I am hoping to receive an application and guidance on applying for these funds at this meeting in Washington D.C.

▪ Federal Programs Reauthorization

The federal programs included in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act are overdue to be reauthorized. State Title I directors will receive an update on the status of this pending reauthorization at this training. There are many individuals and groups pushing hard for the reauthorization to occur this fall. However, considering how monumental the task is, it seems unlikely that it will occur that quickly. Some are predicting it will be reauthorized in the spring of 2011.

I will provide a summary of the information shared at this Title I summer training in the August issue of the *Title I/ Special Education Newsletter*.

Training for New Title I Teachers

It appears from the volume of new applications for a Title I credential that there will be many new Title I teachers across the state for the 2010-2011 school year. There are many requirements within the Title I program, and therefore, we are putting together a New Title I Teacher Training.

In the past, we have had this training at our annual fall conference. However, the evaluations consistently show teachers need the training much earlier. Therefore, we are conducting the training at the beginning of the school year.

The training will be held in late August 2010 at the State Capitol Building in Bismarck. We are working to finalize a date and will share this information via our Title I distribution list.

We are requesting that you inform any new Title I teachers of this training opportunity designed to specifically address the requirements of Title I, Part A. This session will go over the rules, regulations, policies, forms, etc. pertaining to the Title I program and answer any questions new teachers might have regarding Title I programming. If you have any questions regarding this training, please contact Laurie Matzke at lmatzke@nd.gov or 701-328-2284.

AYP Dissemination Requirements

Under the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) Act, all districts and schools are required to send correspondence to the parents of each child enrolled in the district and/or school regarding its Adequate Yearly Progress status. It is imperative that correspondence be included with the AYP reports to explain them to parents.

Federal law mandates that this notification take place in a timely manner. For schools and districts identified for program improvement, this notice must take place prior to the first day of school. For schools that are required to offer school choice, the notice must be sent 14 calendar days before the first day of school. For schools and districts NOT identified for program improvement, this notice must take place at the start of the school year (i.e., as part of welcome back letter or August newsletter).

There are various samples of parent notification letters for schools and districts available on our website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthoriz/notification.shtm.



2010 Early Childhood Professional Institute
 October 13, 14, & 15, 2010
 Ramada Plaza Suites & Conference Center • Fargo, ND



Want more information? The call for presenter application, registration form, hotel information, and much more is available on the ND Head Start Association website:

www.NDheadstart.com

The North Dakota Head Start Association cordially invites persons or organizations to submit presentation proposals for the 2010 Early Childhood Professional Institute. Please visit our website to read the proposal guidelines and complete the proposal application to be considered as a presenter.

[Ramada Plaza Suites and Conference Center](#)

1635 42nd Street South • Fargo, ND

Phone: 701-277-9000 • Fax: 701-281-7145

Parent Involvement Middle School Literacy Novel Units

The North Dakota State Parent Information Resource Center (NDPIRC) and the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction are pleased to provide schools with another tool for increasing parent involvement; a free CD of Parent Involvement Middle School Literacy Novel Units for grades 6-8. Literacy is an essential skill for success in school and life. The Title I and Special Education units are proud to sponsor this project in collaboration with NDPIRC.

During the summer of 2010, NDPIRC contracted with three North Dakota educators to create Parent Involvement Middle School Literacy Novel Units for grades 6-8. Each CD is filled with numerous activities and ideas for promoting literacy in the home. We would like to acknowledge the three educators who are currently working on creating this resource for North Dakota school personnel.

- ◆ Bethany Higdem, Wahpeton
- ◆ Danette Brown, Minot
- ◆ Rebecca Pitkin, Dickinson

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed by President Obama in February 2009, provided a significant amount of additional funds for local school districts. These funds created an unprecedented opportunity for educators to implement innovative strategies in schools that improve education for at-risk students and close the achievement gaps. Schools are encouraged to use their Title I and Special Education ARRA funds to make duplicate copies of the activities for grades 6-8.

During the 2010 Title I/Special Education Fall Conference, every school in attendance that serve grades 6-8 will receive one CD of the Parent Involvement Middle School Literacy Novel Units to share with staff in their building. Therefore, when schools register please designate one person from the school to be responsible for picking up the CD. If your school is not planning on attending the conference, please contact Stefanie Two Crow in the Title I office at sttwocrow@nd.gov and one will be mailed to your school.

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE INFORMATION FOR ALL TEACHERS WHO HOLD A LIFE TEACHING LICENSE

In the past, for Title I teachers that hold a life teaching license and a Title I credential, the credentials would always expire on September 1. Starting July 1, 2010, all teachers who hold a life teaching license will have a new expiration date of June 30 for their Title I credentials. This new date reflects the end of the school year and allows teachers to have the same expiration date that the School Approval and Accreditation office is using.

If you have any questions regarding the new expiration date, please contact Sandy Peterson at 701-328-2170 or smpeterson@nd.gov

IDEA Update

Last month, the National Governor's Association and the Council for Chief State School Officers released the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics. These new standards have been written to address a major complaint against past curricula, a lack of focus and coherence. Research has attributed the "mile wide and inch deep focus" of past curricula as major contributors to the slow rate of improvement in student achievement in mathematics. Additionally, these standards represent important improvements which include: an improved balance between concepts and skills, an emphasis on math practices, and developing habits of mind that prepare students for college and/or careers in the 21st Century.

These new standards provide a connection between the Standards for Mathematical Practice recommended by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the Standards for Mathematics Proficiency found in the National Research Council's report, *Adding It Up*. According to these documents, a solid foundation in mathematics requires students to develop fundamental processes, and proficiencies in problem solving, reasoning and proof, communication, representation, and connections. In addition, students should demonstrate proficiency in adaptive reasoning, strategic competence, conceptual understanding, procedural fluency and productive disposition (the ability to see mathematics as sensible, useful and worthwhile).

These standards recognize that English Language Learners and students with disabilities will need additional supports to achieve proficiency in the standards; however, they do not identify specific interventions and supports which may be used. The standards provide clear markers of skills, knowledge and processes to indicate student progress toward college or career readiness.

Please review these standards at www.corestandards.org/assets/CCSSI_Math%20Standards.pdf.

North Dakota Title I School Improvement Grant (SIG) Approved

On July 2, 2010, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction received official notice from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) that our Title I School Improvement Grant (SIG) was approved. The official news release is available at <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/north-dakota-receive-9-million-turn-around-its-persistently-lowest-achieving-sch> on the USDE website.

The additional funds that schools identified for Title I program improvement will receive through the SIG is critical to helping them meet their program improvement goals and, ultimately, in raising student achievement.

Consolidated Application Updates

If you are a Title I authorized representative, coordinator, or business manager and were not able to attend the WebEx Training session held on May 12, 2010, it is imperative that you review the new information shared and contact the state Title I office if you have questions, as this training focused on the application processes for receiving regular and stimulus funds for the 2010-2011 school year. The WebEx handouts can be accessed at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/present.shtm on the Title I website.

Resources include a document that outlines the Title I ARRA process for the 2010-2011 school year and separate guidance documents for completing both the regular consolidated application and the Title I ARRA application.

Status – Jobs Bill

Law makers continue to search for a way to provide states with additional funds to prevent job layoffs in education for the 2010-2011 school year. The target amount has been reduced from \$23 billion to \$10 billion.

A provision has been proposed that would include \$10 billion to help school districts avoid educator layoffs through reducing by \$500 million the award money available to states that have submitted proposals in Round 2 of the Obama initiative, the Race to the Top competition, in order to partially fund the layoffs bill. The White House said in a statement that if the final bill included cuts to education reforms, President Obama would most likely veto it.

Final Allocations Posted

The Department of Public Instruction has received final Title I allocation amounts from the U.S. Department of Education for the 2010-2011 school year. School district allocations have been recalculated for all of the Title I programs. Final allocations are posted on the department's website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/grants/NCLB.shtm. Stephanie Gullickson, grants manager, distributed an email to administrators announcing that final allocations have been posted.

The consolidated application on the STARS has been automatically updated to reflect the final allocation amounts. Districts must review their consolidated application and ensure that their budgets do not exceed the district's final allocation.

Final Payments

As everyone who works in the Title I program knows, the enactment of the ARRA brought about a significant amount of additional paperwork to Title I personnel, both in the field and in the state Title I office. Even before ARRA, the

months of June and July were always a challenge in the state Title I office, as the staff are responsible for processing approximately 200 final financial reports in a short time period.

We are keenly aware that school districts would like to receive their final Title I payment and close out the 2009-2010 school year. We are asking for your patience and understanding throughout the close out process this year. Due to ARRA, we have double the amount of final financial reports to process, as well as a record number of budget revisions to process (regular and ARRA). We are only allowed to make payments once a week, which occurs on Tuesdays. The final financial report and budget revisions are processed in the order they are received.

The state Title I office only has one fiscal officer. Our office does not close down at anytime over the summer months; however, the state does shut down its pay system for two weeks in July. During that time, Title I staff continue to be here working to close out the 2009-2010 school year, as well as reviewing double the number of budget revisions and consolidated applications for the 2010-2011 school year.

All school districts have a Title I contact person assigned to them to answer questions and provide technical assistance. In addition, staff can contact Laurie Matzke at anytime. The ARRA brought the Title I program record setting funding. However, these funds also brought a significant amount of additional paperwork for all of us.

We appreciate your cooperation and patience as we try our best to work through this process.

Changes in Title I Staff

We have several staff changes in the state Title I office to share with school personnel. Many of the changes include our current staff taking different positions within our Title I unit. Our staff will be working together to provide these programs with a smooth transition from one administrator to another.

Dale Patrick has accepted a temporary position that Title I was granted to provide additional support due to the ARRA Title I funding and will continue as administrator of the Even Start program. Gail Schauer is the new administrator of the 21st Century program. Gail will continue working with the Title I program and will finish the administration of the Reading First programs, which ends September 30, 2010.

Tara Bitz is the new administrator of the Early Reading First program. Tara will also be working with the Title I program. The vacant Administrator III position mentioned on page one was previously held by Tara Bitz.

We are happy to announce our newest staff member, Jill Frohlich. Jill's position is an Administrative Assistant and replaces Missy Mahin, who left the department. Jill started her position in mid June 2010.

Dale Patrick, Assistant Director of Title I	Effective July 5, 2010	Even Start Administrator Title I Program
Gail Schauer, Assistant Director of Title I	Effective July 8, 2010	21 st Century Administrator Reading First Administrator Title I Program
Tara Bitz, Assistant Director of Title I	Effective August 2, 2010	Early Reading First Administrator Title I Program
Jill Frohlich, Administrative Assistant	Effective June 21, 2010	Administrative Assistant Title I Program
Vacant	Effective August 2010	Administrator III Title I Program

Monthly Featured Articles

Special Education State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report

In 2005, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) special education staff developed the North Dakota Special Education State Performance Plan (SPP). This six-year (2005-2011) plan is North Dakota's plan for improving the educational results for all children with disabilities. There are 20 very specific indicators, each with its own baseline data, measurable and rigorous annual targets, and improvement activities. NDDPI reports the state results to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education (OSEP) annually for review.

The NDDPI Special Education unit is proud to announce that North Dakota has met the requirements set out by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education (OSEP). The Department's determination was based on the totality of the State's data and information, including the State's FFY2008 APR and revised SPP, other State reported data, and other publicly available information.

The letter of notification from the U.S. Department of Education OSEP, was received June 3, 2010 and included a statement from OSEP offering their commitment "to supporting North Dakota's efforts to improve results for children and youth with disabilities."

The NDDPI, Special Education staff would like to extend a well deserved thank-you to each and every one of the skilled and dedicated professionals in the field of special education. North Dakota could not have accomplished this achievement without your hard work and dedication to children and youth with disabilities in North Dakota.

The current Annual Performance Report (2008-09 school year) is posted on the NDDPI Special Education website www.dpi.state.nd.us/speced/reports.shtm. The State Performance Plan (SPP) is also posted on the special education website.

Field Alert – 21st Century

June 21 was the first day of summer and National Summer Learning Day: and a great opportunity to **share the important benefits** of afterschool and summer learning programs with key policy makers!

The recently released *America After 3PM Special Report on Summer* found that three-quarters of America's schoolchildren do not participate in summer learning programs. Yet, fifty-six percent of kids (an estimated 24 million) who are not participating in summer learning programs would likely enroll in a program if one were readily available.

We know that quality summer learning programs help prevent summer learning loss and provide safe and enriching learning environments for children of all ages. And, kids who participate in afterschool programs are more likely to participate in summer programs.

By supporting 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) we can help ensure that more kids have access to both afterschool and summer programs. 21st CCLC is the only federal funding stream exclusively for before school, after school, and summer learning programs, but it is underfunded and up for reauthorization as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. **Send an email to your Members of Congress today** in support of a strong, well-funded 21st CCLC program that provides needed support for before school, after school, and summer learning.

Upcoming Events

× **NDMILE Meeting**

August 2, 2010 in Bismarck, ND

Information is available at www.dpi.state.nd.us/events.shtm

× **Title I Schoolwide Planning Workshop #1**

August 3, 2010 in Bismarck, ND

Information is available at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

× **NDMILE Meeting**

August 4, 2010 in Bismarck, ND

Information is online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/events.shtm

× **New Administrators' Conference**

August 5-6, 2010

Specific information on the time, date, and location will be provided at a future date.

× **New Teachers Training**

To be held at the Capitol Building, Bismarck, ND. Date to be determined.

× **2010 Title I/Special Education Fall Conference**

Dates have been set for October 6-8, 2010 for the 2010 Title I/Special Education Fall Conference at the Bismarck Civic Center. Please save the date for this conference as we are planning outstanding professional development opportunities for participants. Information will be available in the fall of 2010 at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm.

× **ND Curriculum Initiative (NDCI) 2010-2011 Seminar Series**

More information can be found at www.dpi.state.nd.us/events_doc/goals.pdf

Title I To Do List

Administrators

- Submit the Title I ARRA Consolidated Application/Budget Revisions
- Submit Title I Regular Final Financial Report and Final Request for Funds
- Submit Title I ARRA Final Financial Report and Final Request for Funds
- Submit the Title I Regular Consolidated Application
- Prepare AYP Dissemination Letter

Enjoy the Rest of Your Summer!

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