



North Dakota Department of Public Instruction  
Title I and Special Education

# TEAM NEWS

(Together Everyone Achieves More)

## August 2011

Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead, State Superintendent, 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 201, Bismarck, ND 58505-0440

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### LAST MINUTE REMINDER: New Title I Teacher Training

The state Title I office is sponsoring a training for new Title I teachers. We realize there are a large number of requirements within Title I, therefore, we are providing a New Title I Teacher Training.

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

The training will be held on Friday, August 26, 2011, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Comfort Inn, 1030 E. Interstate Ave., Bismarck, ND. Room reservations can be made by calling (701) 223-1911 under DPI-New Title I Teacher Training.

This session will go over the rules, regulations, policies, forms, etc., pertaining to the Title I program and answer any questions your new teachers might have. Paula Rogers, a Title I teacher from the Langdon Area School District, has graciously agreed to facilitate this session. This training is geared for targeted assistance programs.

There is still time to register a teacher for this training. You can download the registration form at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm). Fax the completed form to (701) 328-4770, attention Title I office. There is no fee to attend this training and travel expenses can be reimbursed using your local Title I funds. If you would like more information regarding this training, contact Patty Carmichael at [pcarmichael@nd.gov](mailto:pcarmichael@nd.gov) or (701) 328-3264.

### Gearing Up for Kindergarten Program

In the 2011 North Dakota Legislative Session, flow-through funds were appropriated to the NDSU Extension Service to help support the Gearing Up for Kindergarten Program in the amount of \$500,000.

The NDSU Extension Service held two trainings last week to provide additional information on the Gearing Up for Kindergarten Program. The state Title I office participated in both training sessions. The Title I handouts distributed at the trainings can be found online at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/earlychild/index.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/earlychild/index.shtm) or [www.ag.ndsu.edu/gearupkindergarten](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/gearupkindergarten)

## Title I Director's Report

There is a national organization established to allow state Title I directors an opportunity to discuss educational issues amongst themselves, as well as with the United States Department of Education (USDE) personnel. This organization, called NASTID (National Association of State Title I Directors), meets twice a year. It convenes at the National Title I Conference in January or February and again in the summer. These meetings provide an excellent opportunity for state directors to get current information on issues pertaining to Title I and the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) Act. The annual Title I Summer meeting with USDE staff was held August 2-5, 2011. Updates were provided on the following issues:

- Federal Funding for 2012-2013  
In a typical year, the appropriation for the subsequent school year (i.e., 2012-2013) is passed in December. Funding decisions were extremely delayed last year and we were told to again expect delays in determining funding for the 2012-2013 school year. We are also anticipating further cuts to federal funding.
- State Monitoring of NCLB  
Updates were provided on the USDE monitoring of states for compliance with NCLB regulations. North Dakota was scheduled to be monitored in the 2010-2011 school year, but was removed so that the USDE could focus on SIG issues. North Dakota is NOT on the USDE monitoring list for the 2011-2012 school year.
- 2012 National Title I Conference  
The 2012 National Title I Conference will be held in Seattle, Washington from January 21-24, 2012. It was announced that conference registration is now open. You can access information on the conference website at [www.nationaltitleiassociation.org](http://www.nationaltitleiassociation.org)
- USDE Title I Director  
The position of federal Title I Director at the USDE has been vacant for the past year. The search for a new director is again being reopened nationwide.
- School Improvement Grants (SIG)  
North Dakota has two Tier I schools that will received SIG funding to implement a reform model. The greatest challenge for Tier I schools is redesigning their teacher evaluation program to take into consideration student achievement. The USDE is inviting states to apply for a waiver that will grant Tier I schools additional time to get the teacher evaluation component implemented.
- Waiver Update  
On Monday, August 8, 2011, the Obama administration directed the USDE to provide a process for states to seek relief from the key provisions in the NCLB through the use of waivers.

The NDDPI will be carefully reviewing this application process, in order to provide flexibility and relief where applicable in the NCLB law for all North Dakota schools and districts.

The nation has been waiting for Congress to reauthorize the NCLB law for several years. It now appears as though there will be no reauthorization until after the presidential election in 2013. This means that we will have two additional years of identifying for improvement those schools that have not made AYP. North Dakota, as well as most other states, will undoubtedly have the majority of our schools identified for improvement by that time.

Over the past month, various national organizations have vocally called upon Education Secretary Arne Duncan to freeze the requirements under NCLB until reauthorization occurs. The plan being proposed will offer flexibility to states and districts that are willing to embrace reform by using the waiver authority granted under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

This plan does not provide a blanket waiver to cease all requirements under NCLB; actually just the opposite. States applying for a waiver will need to commit to meeting rigorous reform efforts.

The specific details of the waiver package will be made public in September 2011. After the department has had an opportunity to review the details of the waiver application package and determine if North Dakota is eligible to apply, we will provide additional information and gather input from North Dakota educators regarding our options.

You can access information regarding this waiver plan at [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov) on the USDE website.

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### **North Dakota Professional Development Website**

**CHECK OUT THE  
ND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEBSITE**

<http://blogs.edutech.nodak.edu/professionaldevelopmentnd/>

- Communicate with educators and share your ideas for professional learning
- Browse a list of professional learning opportunities held in North Dakota
- View the work of the ND Professional Development Advisory Committee
- Locate resources and websites related to professional development

ND Department of Public Instruction  
Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead, State Superintendent

The NDDPI invites you to visit the [ND Professional Development](http://blogs.edutech.nodak.edu/professionaldevelopmentnd/) website, at <http://blogs.edutech.nodak.edu/professionaldevelopmentnd/>. The website features a variety of resources and websites related to professional development opportunities in North Dakota. Educators are encouraged to share their upcoming professional development events and collaborate with other state educators.

Please share this information with your colleagues.

*Lois Myran*

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**Response to Intervention – Enrolling New Schools for 2011-2012**

The NDDPI announces enrollment for **Response to Intervention (RTI) Introductory Training** for the 2011-2012 school year. If your school enrolled previously, but due to complications, did not complete the first year and would like to begin the process anew, we welcome your participation. There is a western North Dakota training in Mandan ND at the Seven Seas Inn (Exit 152 off Interstate 94, 701-663-7401). If there is sufficient interest in the Minot area, an additional site may be added.

**RTI West Training Dates—Seven Seas Inn, Mandan** (*Sessions begin at 8:30 am each day*)

- Monday October 17, 2011
- Monday December 12, 2011
- Thursday February 16, 2012
- Thursday April 12, 2012

Please complete the following information regarding your North Dakota **RTI Leadership Team**.

**Year 1 School: 2011-2012**

**Team / School Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Address and City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Building Principal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RTI Team Leader:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Team Members</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
_____	_____	_____
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Each school building must complete this form and return it to the Department of Public Instruction by **September 15, 2011**. Please return this form to Michelle Souther at [msouther@nd.gov](mailto:msouther@nd.gov), fax 701-328-4149 or mail to Department of Public Instruction, Office of Special Education, 600 E Blvd Ave, Dept 201, Bismarck ND 58505-0440.

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Souther at 701-328-2277 or [msouther@nd.gov](mailto:msouther@nd.gov).

### **Adequate Yearly Progress/Program Improvement Update**

On August 5, 2011, the NDDPI released the official statewide Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results for all public schools and districts in North Dakota based on 2010-2011 State Assessment data. On August 8, 2011, the department released the list of the Title I schools and districts that have been identified for program improvement for the 2011-2012 school year.

The statewide press release and the list of Title I schools and districts that have been identified for program improvement for the 2011-2012 school year are available on the department's website at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/progress/current.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/progress/current.shtm).

### **Dissemination Requirements**

Under the 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 AYP 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/notifiction.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthoriz/notifiction.shtm). The state Title I office has also created communication toolkits for both schools and districts that are identified for improvement.

### **Program Improvement Status**

<b>School Program Improvement</b>	
Number of public schools in North Dakota	457
Number of Title I public schools in North Dakota (approximate)	367
✓ Number of schools that did not make AYP on the 2010-2011 NDSA	242
✓ New schools identified for program improvement for 2011-2012	18
✓ Number of schools removed from program improvement status for 2011-2012	7
✓ Total number of schools in program improvement for 2011-2012	78

<b>District Program Improvement</b>	
Number of public districts in North Dakota	179
Number of Title I public districts in North Dakota (approximate)	177
✓ Number of districts that did not make AYP on the 2010-2011 NDSA	102
✓ New districts identified for program improvement for 2011-2012	15
✓ Number of districts removed from program improvement status for 2011-2012	2
✓ Total number of districts in program improvement for 2011-2012	46

## **Consolidated Applications Due Soon**

School personnel are reminded of the following:

- The STARS consolidated application report is due on **August 26, 2011**. The report must be completed and submitted by this date. Applications not completed and submitted will forfeit their federal Title funding.
- Districts are reminded that board approval must be documented in board minutes prior to the submission date.
- The state Title I office has assigned a Title I contact person to each school district in the state. This listing is available at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/conapp.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/conapp.shtm). This list has been revised to reflect a new Title I staff person. Please ensure that your district has communicated with your Title I contact person to conduct an initial review of your application.
- The state Title I office has prepared a guidance document to assist school personnel in completing the Title I portions of the consolidated application. This document is available at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/conapp.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/conapp.shtm).

If you have specific questions regarding the consolidated application process, please contact Juliann Vetter at (701) 328-3265 or Stephanie Gullickson at (701) 328-2176. If you have questions specific to Title I, contact Laurie Matzke at (701) 328-2284 or your assigned Title I contact person.

Once the application is approved, an electronic grant award will be generated. This grant award will display the district's final allocation amount, official carryover amount, the amount available to spend for the 2011-2012 school year, and the amount that has been approved by the state Title I office.

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 18, 2011, we recommend that you review the new information shared and contact the state Title I office if you have any questions, as this training focused on the application process to receive regular funds for the 2011-2012 school year. The WebEx handouts can be accessed at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/present.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/present.shtm) on the Title I website.

## **Title I Waiver Application**

On August 15, 2011, the USDE released notice regarding an opportunity for states to apply for a waiver regarding School Improvement Grants (SIG). The USDE is allowing states to apply for a waiver to allow Tier I schools using SIG funds to have additional time to establish a teacher evaluation system that ties evaluations to student achievement data.

North Dakota has completed a state application for the waiver. We believe it will be beneficial to North Dakota Tier I schools implementing the transformation model to have additional time to meet the federal requirements. The USDE requires states to provide all districts in the state with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment on our application. We are providing this statewide notice by sending an email over the Title I administrative distribution list, posting the waiver application on the Department of Public Instruction's website, and disseminating the information in our monthly newsletter. To review a copy of our state waiver application, log on to [www.dpi.state.nd.us/news/2011/082311.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/news/2011/082311.shtm) on the department's website. If anyone would like to comment on our waiver application, please send written comments to [lmatzke@nd.gov](mailto:lmatzke@nd.gov) by August 25, 2011.

## **Title I Fall Mailing**

Title I personnel and authorized representatives will soon be receiving the annual Title I fall mailing via email. This mailing will contain a wealth of information on issues concerning Title I. A few items we would like to highlight are listed below:

- Registration information for the 2011 Title I/Special Education/21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Fall Conference in October

- Dissemination requirements for Title I
- Process for monitoring Title I programs for the 2011-2012 school year
- Information on the Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition Program

We encourage you to review this information carefully, as it is pertinent to your Title I programming. The mailing will be disseminated electronically using our district list. The district list may not yet include all the Title I personnel for the 2011-2012 school year and, therefore, will also be posted online at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/correspondence.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/correspondence.shtm) .

### **2011 Title I, Special Education, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Fall Conference Questions and Answers**

**Q. *When is the conference and where will it be held?***

A. The conference has been scheduled for October 5-7, 2011 at the Bismarck Civic Center.

**Q. *When are registration forms due?***

A. The registration deadline will be September 28, 2011.

**Q. *Will registrants receive confirmation letters?***

A. All participants that have registered and paid will receive a confirmation letter via email.

**Q. *What are the hours of the conference?***

A. Registration for Wednesday's pre-conference will begin at 5:00 pm. The keynote speaker will begin at 6:30 pm and conclude at 8:00 pm. Thursday's registration begins at 7:15 am. Thursday's conference sessions begin at 8:00 am and run through 4:20 pm. On Friday, conference sessions begin at 8:00 am and conclude at 3:55 pm.

**Q. *Will credit be offered?***

A. Credit will be offered through the University of Mary. The workshop can be taken for one graduate or undergraduate credit. Credit registration and payment will be accepted on the final afternoon of the conference. To receive credit, you must attend ALL THREE DAYS with a total of 15 contact hours. The assignment for credit will be available at the pre-conference session and will be collected Friday. Please note, only **check**, **cash**, or **money orders** will be accepted for credit. Unfortunately the department is not currently set up to accept credit cards.

**Q. *Can registrations be cancelled?***

A. If participants are unable to attend, cancellation must be made with the state Title I office by 12:00 pm. on Thursday, September 29, 2011. If this deadline is not met, the registration fee is non-refundable.

**Q. *Whom can we contact for more information?***

A. If you have questions specific to the conference, please contact Jacki Harasym at [jharasym@nd.gov](mailto:jharasym@nd.gov) or (701) 857-7770. Information is also available online at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm).

### **Outstanding Title I Educator Nominations**

In the upcoming fall mailing, Title I personnel will receive information regarding the 2011-2012 North Dakota Outstanding Title I Educator Award. Please consider nominating an Outstanding Title I Educator in your school or district.

This individual can be an authorized representative, coordinator, teacher, paraprofessional, or anyone who works in a Title I program. The individual chosen for this award will receive recognition at the 2011 Title I, Special Education, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Fall Conference. More information regarding the Outstanding Title I Educator is available online at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/awards/educator.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/awards/educator.shtm).

## Upcoming NDMILE Workshop

The NDDPI will be hosting a NDMILE (North Dakota Moving to Improve Learning for Everyone) workshop on **Thursday, September 15, 2011** from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm in the North Dakota State Water Commission Conference Room on the lower level of the building located at 900 East Boulevard Avenue in Bismarck, North Dakota.

The workshop will provide participants with an overview of the NDMILE online process and how it can be used to meet education improvement, Title I schoolwide requirements and program improvement requirements.

The workshop is intended for the following audiences:

- 1) Schools not participating in NDMILE and are considering using the NDMILE for their education improvement process.
- 2) Schools already participating in the NDMILE and would like to use the NDMILE for their education improvement process.
- 3) Schoolwide schools who have a paper plan and would like to use the NDMILE for their schoolwide plan.
- 4) Schools at risk of being identified for program improvement and would like to use the NDMILE for their program improvement plan.

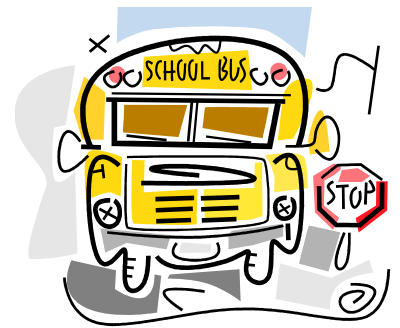
To register for the workshop go to [www.dpi.state.nd.us/resource/NDMILE.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/resource/NDMILE.shtm).

Please contact the following if you have questions regarding:

Education Improvement: Lois Myran, NDMILE Project Director, at (701) 328-2629 or [lmyran@nd.gov](mailto:lmyran@nd.gov), or Jane Gratz at (701) 328-3266 or [jmgratz@nd.gov](mailto:jmgratz@nd.gov).

Schoolwide Planning: Stefanie Two Crow at (701) 328-2292 or [sttwocrow@nd.gov](mailto:sttwocrow@nd.gov).

Program Improvement: Ann Ellefson at (701) 328-2488 or [aellefson@nd.gov](mailto:aellefson@nd.gov).




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## Preschool Curriculum and Assessment Initiatives Presented at Title I, Special Education, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Fall Conference

Last fall, Title I and Special Education determined a need to gather input from Title I and Special Education preschool professionals regarding preschool curriculum and assessment best practices and statewide needs in North Dakota. In November, a Preschool Curriculum and Assessment Task Force met to address four major goals as they relate to the provision of early childhood special education or Title I services in North Dakota. These goals are to: 1) develop a common understanding of statewide and national requirements; 2) review and establish current best practices regarding curriculum and assessment; 3) review current statewide practices relating to requirements and best practices; and 4) provide direction relating to appropriate guidance to North Dakota school districts.

As a result of the task force meeting, it was determined that the next steps would be to pursue two areas relating to preschool curriculum and assessment. The first area would focus on the alignment of current North Dakota preschool guidance documents. The second area would focus on research of current information as it relates to the question, "What are the critical components of a comprehensive early childhood curriculum?"

To address the “next steps” established by the Preschool Curriculum and Assessment Task Force, NDDPI pursued the development of two projects to be completed during the spring and summer of 2011. The first project was the review and alignment of key documents currently used by North Dakota early childhood professionals, i.e., the NDDHS North Dakota Early Learning Guidelines: Ages 3 through 5; the North Dakota Early Childhood Outcomes Process: Age Expectation Developmental Milestones Quick Reference; the NDDPI Title I Kindergarten Reading and Math Standards; and the NDDPI Kindergarten Standards.

After completing a systematic comparison of these and other North Dakota early childhood documents, a supplement was developed to provide comprehensive guidance for early childhood professionals in the key areas relating to the aligned documents.

The second project focused on research of current information as it relates to the question, “What are the critical components of a comprehensive early childhood curriculum?”

One of the main goals of this project was to develop a document that embedded the criteria to provide guidance for professionals to use when evaluating and selecting a quality preschool curriculum. This project included analyzing current research focusing on the indicators of quality preschool curriculum materials. A final product resulting from this analysis will be guidance for preschool personnel focusing on: 1) the current research and best practices relative to preschool curriculum; 2) the critical components of a preschool curriculum; and 3) a set of criteria for guiding preschool personnel in making decisions on the selection of published or locally developed curriculum materials.

To hear more about each of these projects, join us at the Title I/Special Education/21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Fall Conference on October 5-7 in Bismarck, North Dakota. Both of the above mentioned projects will be presented in separate sessions during the Conference.

### **Title I Supported Aides/Paraprofessionals**

With the onset of the 2011-2012 school year, this is an opportune time to remind all district staff that **all** aides/paraprofessionals working in a program supported with Title I funds must hold a valid Paraprofessional Certificate of Completion or North Dakota Educator’s Professional License to document compliance with the NCLB requirements.

Under NCLB law, aides/paraprofessionals must have a secondary diploma, or its recognized equivalent, and meet one of these three requirements to be employed in a Title I program. These three include:

1. Obtain an associate’s degree (or higher) from an institution of higher education; or
2. Complete at least two years of study at an institution of higher education; or
3. Meet a rigorous standard of quality, which includes an assessment of reading, writing, and math. North Dakota has three assessments on our State approved list.

This requirement pertains to all Title I-paid aides/paraprofessionals in a targeted assistance school. In a schoolwide program, Title I funds support all teachers and paraprofessionals; therefore, these requirements apply to all aides/paraprofessionals with instructional duties, regardless of whether or not the position is supported with Title I funds. This includes instructional aides paid with district, Title I, SIG, Special Education, BIA, or other funding sources.

If your school district is employing instructional aides/paraprofessionals with Title I funds and is found out of compliance, you are putting your Title I funding in jeopardy. The state Title I office will be monitoring for compliance of this issue during the 2011-2012 school year.

If you have questions on these requirements or wish to obtain further information, please visit the Title I website at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/aides.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/aides.shtm).

## Contract Requirements Reminder

In the process of reviewing various consolidated applications, the issue of contracts frequently arises. When North Dakota's state Title I program was monitored in 2005, we were cited out of compliance on the contract requirement because the districts they visited did not have contracts on file to support purchased services.

Object code 300 is labeled as Purchased Professional and Technical Services. This code is to be used any time funds will be used to purchase a service. The following are examples of a purchased service:

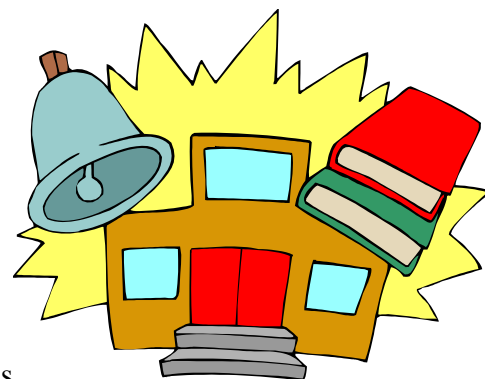
- ▶ Paying a consultant or speaker to do a presentation for staff development.
- ▶ Paying a company, such as Compass Learning, to receive technical assistance or professional development on their product.
- ▶ Paying a provider, such as Sylvan Learning Center, to provide tutoring services to at-risk students.

If funds are being used to purchase a service and will be listed in object code 300, the school district must have a signed contract with the vendor. The contract must include, at a minimum:

- Scope of services,
- Duration of the contract,
- Method and amount of payment, and
- Be executed by both parties.

A contract template can be found at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/resource/sample.pdf](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/resource/sample.pdf) on the department's website. School districts can use or modify this form to fit their needs.

If you are purchasing a service with federal funds, it is crucial to have a contract or agreement which shows exactly how the funds will be used to demonstrate that the services are appropriate for the program. A document that sets forth the specific goods and services being purchased with your federal funds proves to auditors and the USDE your intentions for spending federal funds.




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## IDEA Update

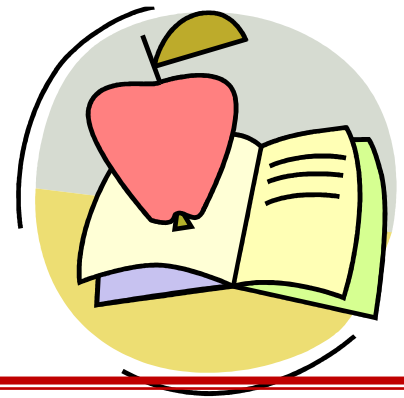
*What Really Matters for Struggling Readers: Designing Research Based Programs* by Richard Allington compiles research findings on improving reading instruction for struggling readers that teachers or PLCs may wish to discuss as a staff development activity (Allington includes a book study guide in the back). The first chapter provides the historical context and background information related to reading instruction in the United States; the remaining five chapters discuss current reading research findings on the key elements associated with improving student reading proficiency: volume of reading, accessibility, fluency, thoughtful literacy skills and effective instructional strategies. Allington provides an alternative instructional framework for addressing the needs of this population. He suggests that the money spent on reading programs and basal series that claim to be research-based would be better spent on books because much of the research these publishers use in their advertisements and promotions is weak, nonexistent or biased.

Basal series and other reading programs limit student choice and reduce the volume of reading rather than expanding them. Allington's four criteria for determining high quality research and eight professional journals with a reputation of publishing "high quality studies or reviews of research" (p. 39) will be valuable resources to support teacher discussions.

Allington and the new Common Core Standards that North Dakota recently adopted hold that every teacher has a responsibility to help **every** student develop thoughtful literacy skills. Teachers at all levels and in all content areas must remember that the volume of high success reading plays a fundamental role in developing higher order thinking and improving reading proficiency. Supporting and accelerating reading development requires teachers to ensure students have texts they "can read accurately, fluently and with good comprehension" (p.73). In addition, Allington provides examples of instructional strategies that support students while reading the text. Teachers may wish to consider incorporating this short list of instructional strategies (their location in the book) as they prepare for the coming year: 3-Finger Rule (p. 79); Preview, Pause, Prompt, Praise (p.109), Six Researched Based Comprehension Strategies (p.136), Vocabulary (p. 141) and Question the Author (pp.149-50).

When organizing instructional time for reading, special education and Title I teachers should consider that discussions or conversations related to text are powerful tools for improving student comprehension. Research has shown that frequent and long conversations related to text will produce significant increases in student reading proficiency and academic achievement in all content areas. These discussions support the development of self-monitoring skills and the ability to adjust or apply the strategies students have been taught.

Again as you plan for the coming year, consider whether your program reduces the volume of reading or expands it? Does the organization of your instructional time permit repeated readings of text to build fluency, self-monitoring skills and strategies, as well as multiple opportunities to participate in literary conversations? Provide students additional time for "actual reading, especially silent reading" beyond the 40-45 minutes of each hour that should be allotted to reading instruction in the regular classroom? More importantly, do you have time to help students make connections to other content areas? And/or coach students in the thinking and strategies needed to meaningfully participate in collaborative endeavors and literate conversations? Food for thought...




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## **N&D Update**

### **2011-2012 N&D Application Status**

Jacki Harasym is currently reviewing 2011-2012 Neglected and Delinquent grant applications. It is estimated that approval and final grant awards will be disseminated to districts by the beginning of September. If you have questions regarding your 2011-2012 Neglected and Delinquent grant application status, please contact Jacki at [jharasym@nd.gov](mailto:jharasym@nd.gov).

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## **Monthly Featured Articles**

### **Writing to Read: Evidence for How Writing Can Improve Reading**

The report *Writing to Read: Evidence for How Writing Can Improve Reading* and the synopsis provided by the Center on Instruction examines and summarize various approaches on how writing instruction impacts students' reading skills and comprehension. Outlined below are several of the instructional practices that have demonstrated a positive effect on reading outcomes:

Have students write about the text they read

- Have students respond to a text
- Have students write summaries of a text
- Have students write notes about a text
- Have students answer questions about a text in writing, or create and answer written questions about a text
- Teach students the writing skills and processes that go into creating text
  - Teach the process of writing, text structures for writing, paragraph or sentence construction skills
  - Teach spelling and sentence construction skills
  - Teach spelling skills
- Increase how much students write

For more information on these instructional practices and guidance on how teachers can use writing instruction to strengthen students' reading performance, please visit <http://centeroninstruction.org/synopsis-of-writing-to-read-evidence-for-how-writing-can-improve-reading>

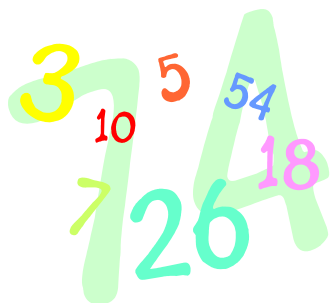
### Understanding Math Anxiety

Math anxiety is really an epidemic, according to educators and researchers who gathered recently at the Learning and Brain Conference in Chicago. Math anxiety can even be a generational problem – adults who are uncomfortable with numbers pass negative feelings to their children or students. “I was on the edge of failing. I didn’t do any of my homework. I would try it sometimes and then I would just give up because it was completely over my head,” says Nathan, age 18. Nathan is taking Advanced Placement calculus. But that doesn’t mean math has been easy. “There are plenty of times where I just flat out say, ‘I can’t do it,’” he says.

Millions of students struggle with math. At the Learning and Brain Conference, researchers and educators shared insights into the causes of math anxiety – the stress that literally uses the brainpower needed to learn and solve problems. Educators confirm: Math is further complicated by the fact that it is cumulative — one concept builds on the next.

“If you miss one piece along the way and you don’t have that connection to make and the next time through it doesn’t quite work, builds up,” Meredith Many, a high school math teacher. *One* missing link can stunt a student’s math growth. A tutor, a new teacher, a fresh teaching approach can help many students get back on track. “I’ve seen

students hear the material in a different way and get it: writing- instead of hearing or getting a handout that presents it in a different way,” says Many. Unlike *any other subject in school*, she says, too often we give students *permission* to do poorly in math. “Somehow it’s okay not to know math very well and people confess it so easily.” Many say math isn’t easy for *anyone*... even the smartest student... the key is perseverance. “You can’t do well in math without working hard. You have to have the dedication, the perseverance, the desire and the willingness to do what it takes.” And Nathan agrees. “When I don’t understand something and I’ve been struggling with it for a long time and finally it hits...it’s an amazing experience,” he says.



### Upcoming Events

#### × New Title I Teachers Training

**August 26, 2011** at the Comfort Inn in Bismarck, ND from **8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**  
Registration information can be found at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm).

- × **2011 Title I, Special Education, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Fall Conference**  
**October 5-7, 2011** at the Bismarck Civic Center in Bismarck, ND  
 More information will be posted as details are available.
- × **2012 National Title I Conference: Soaring to Excellence**  
**January 21-24, 2012** in Seattle, WA  
 Registration can be found at [www.nationaltitleiassociation.org/page/T12Conference](http://www.nationaltitleiassociation.org/page/T12Conference).
- × **NDRA Spring Reading Conference 2012**  
**April 19-21, 2012** in Dickinson, ND  
 Discovering Literacy on the Western Edge hosted by the Badland Reading Council  
 For more information go to [www.ndreadon.com/](http://www.ndreadon.com/)
- × **NCTM 2012 Annual Meeting**  
**April 25-28, 2012** in Philadelphia, PA  
 Will be posted as details are available
- × **IRA 57th Annual Convention**  
**April 29, 2012 – May 3, 2012** in Chicago, IL  
 Will be posted as details are available



### **Title I To Do List**

#### Administrators

- Submit consolidated application – **DUE** August 26, 2011
- Disseminate AYP reports and correspondence
- Disseminate Parents' Right to Know and Dispute Resolution information

#### Teachers

- Determine caseload, instructional practices, and student eligibility

#### Schoolwide Teams

- NDMILE Schoolwide Planning Year – Share information learned at the NDMILE and Schoolwide Planning Training
- NDMILE Schoolwide Planning Year – If not already done, view *Schoolwide Information WebEx* recording with ALL staff
- NDMILE Schoolwide Planning Year – If not already done, submit forms to state Title I office
  - *Statement of Intent and Documentation of Poverty*
  - *Commitment to Schoolwide Planning*
- NDMILE Schoolwide Planning Year and Schoolwide Programs – Establish the schoolwide planning team
- NDMILE Schoolwide Planning Year and Schoolwide Programs – Begin the comprehensive needs assessment process
  - Conduct the needs assessment. Collect data
  - Conduct a data review, disaggregate data, and cross-analyze data
  - Document comprehensive needs assessment by completing the *NDMILE Title I Schoolwide Supplemental Report – Question 1*
- NDMILE Schoolwide Planning Year and Schoolwide Programs
  - Begin/Review NDMILE tool Steps 1, 2, 3
  - Begin/Review SMART Goals
  - Assess KEY indicators – Step 4
  - Participate in NDMILE WebEx training sessions, as available
  - Document meeting agendas and minutes with NDMILE tools

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