

Title I Final Allocations

- The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction anticipates receiving final allocation amounts from the US Department of Education (USDE) within the next week. Stephanie Gullickson, DPI grants manager, will then recalculate final federal Title allocation amounts for the 2010-2011 school year. We anticipate that these amounts will be available on the website on or before May 24, 2010.

- The department will post FINAL federal allocation amounts for school districts for the 2010-2011 school year at www.dpi.state.nd.us/grants/NCLB.shtm on the department's website for the following programs:
 - Title I Final Allocations
 - Title II A Final Allocations
 - Title II D Final Allocations

- Please note that our state and, therefore, many districts will more than likely see an even greater decrease when final allocations are calculated because the USDE used non-Census data from the prior year to generate the estimated state allocations. In addition, North Dakota had to revise our statewide per-pupil expenditure amount which will have a negative effect on our state allocation. Therefore, please prepare for the possibility of a decrease in funds when the final Title I allocations are released.

- An email will be sent to school districts when the final federal Title I allocations have been calculated and posted. School personnel will need to check our website for this information as no letters will be mailed out.

- The indirect cost rates for the 2010-2011 school year will also be posted on the chart with the final federal allocations.

- The final October free and reduced lunch count is used each year, along with the census and foster child count, to generate the aggregate unit that determines your Title I allocation amount. There is some confusion that if you reported new free and reduced lunch students over the past few months that the count increase would increase the Title I allocation amount. The department must use the October count to determine your Title I allocation.

Adequate Yearly Progress Dissemination Requirements

2009-2010 Adequate Yearly Progress Reports

- The department has created preliminary Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) reports for every school in the state for the 2009-2010 state assessment data. This information has been shared with school personnel, confidentially, through the State Automated Reporting System (STARS). **The department anticipates that the final school AYP reports will be posted on the department's website by June 1, 2010.**
- The department will release preliminary district AYP reports on the STARS for school personnel to review within the next few weeks.

Interpreting AYP Reports

The department provides guidance regarding the interpretation of these AYP reports which aid educators and the public to better understand the major components of the AYP reports. These instructions, as well as additional information on AYP, can be accessed on the department's website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/testing/account/guide_AYP.pdf. The direct link to this document is also posted at the top of each AYP report.

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 AYP status.

Under the new Title I regulations, districts, and schools are required to provide timely notification regarding AYP results. This notification falls into one of three categories:

- Timely notification is defined as no later than 14 days prior to the first day of school for schools identified for program improvement that need to offer school choice.
- Schools and districts identified for improvement not offering school choice need to disseminate the AYP information before the first day of school.
- Schools and districts not identified for improvement are required to disseminate this information by the beginning of the school year.

Information That Should be Included in the AYP Dissemination

- It is imperative that correspondence be included with the AYP reports to explain them to parents. Your correspondence should:
 - ✓ Inform parents that the North Dakota State Assessment measures student performance in terms of the percentage of students who are at or above state-defined academic standards in reading and mathematics as measured by the North Dakota State Assessment and reports the results on a school, district, and state level.
 - ✓ Highlight the various components of the report including the achievement results in reading and math, the participation rule, the subgroups, and the secondary indicator.
 - ✓ Inform parents of your **school and district** AYP status.
 - ✓ Share with parents what your school is doing to maintain AYP status.
 - ✓ Highlight what the AYP reports mean to parents, which includes reminding parents that they are an important influence in helping their children achieve to high academic standards, and they are encouraged to be actively involved in their children's education.

- ✓ Address any unique issues on your AYP report such as an “(i)” because there was *insufficient data to determine AYP due to a small number of students*, or that the report was based on Title I students only and states at the top – “Title I targeted rule applied”.

Samples

There are various samples of parent notification letters for districts and schools available on our website. The state Title I office has created communication toolkits for both schools and districts.

- **Communication Toolkit for Schools**

In this document, you will find sample forms, letters, and general guidance to help schools as they work to meet the requirements for communicating with parents regarding AYP.

www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthoriz/school.shtm

- **Communication Toolkit for Districts**

In this document, you will find sample letters and general guidance to help districts as they work to meet the requirements for communicating with parents regarding AYP.

www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthoriz/district.shtm

Program Improvement

When the 2009-2010 AYP reports are final, all schools and districts identified for program improvement for the 2010-2011 school year will receive correspondence from the state Title I office regarding the designation and action required.

NDMILE

(North Dakota Moving to Improve Learning for Everyone)

The ND Department of Public Instruction has a new initiative entitled the North Dakota Moving to Improve Learning for Everyone (NDMILE). NDMILE is a web-based system that is being implemented by the Department of Public Instruction for schools to use to inform, coach, sustain, track and report instructional improvement activities. It is a process to aid North Dakota school districts to increase student achievement and learning. The NDMILE has indicators of evidence-based practices at the school and classroom levels to improve student learning. NDMILE is a tool that will guide improvement teams through a continuous cycle of assessment, planning, implementation, and progress tracking through research-based indicators.

The department has invited about 40 schools to participate in the first phase of the NDMILE. Schools were selected based on various criteria, some of which included their status as schoolwide planning or at risk of being identified for program improvement. It is the department's intent to offer the NDMILE to other schools in the future.

Features of NDMILE:

- Provides a structure for improving performance.
- The structure is built using success indicators.
- The Center on Innovation and Improvement (CII) collected, analyzed, and organized the research so that your time can be spent applying it.

NDMILE is an Online Process that:

- Uses research-based indicators to assist in planning for effective instruction.
- Keeps the planning process moving forward in an organized manner.
- Simplifies the reporting process that schools need to submit to DPI.

The department has created a link to NDMILE on our website to feature key information. Log on to www.dpi.state.nd.us/resource/NDMILE.shtm to access information.

If you have questions regarding the NDMILE, please contact Lois Myran, NDMILE Project Director, at lmyran@nd.gov or (701) 328-2629.

So...What Does the Future Hold?

We live in an ever changing world and there is a lot going on in the education world these days. The best source for school administrators and teachers to stay up-to-date on all current events is through our monthly newsletter, found at <http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/nwsltrs/index.shtm> on the Title I website.

The following information summarizes some of the key legislation enacted or proposed regarding federal education programming.

- **Federal Funding for 2010-2011** – On December 16, 2009, President Obama signed into law the spending bill for the 2010-2011 school year. The bill does not factor in the stimulus funds under ARRA. The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction has calculated estimated district allocations for the federal Title programs and they are posted at http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/grants/est_alloc2010-2011.pdf on the department's website.
- **Literacy Initiative** – The December 16, 2009 legislation also appropriated new Title I funds to create a comprehensive literacy program serving students from birth through grade 12. It appears as though this new program is meant to replace the Reading First program, which has been eliminated. Some highlights of the new program include:
 - \$250 million was appropriated for literacy grant programs to provide effective literacy instruction for children in preschool 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, which will then be required to develop a comprehensive state literacy plan. Each state will receive at least \$150,000 for the State Literacy Team.
 - From the total allocation, \$235 million is reserved for competitive state grants. States must sub-grant at least 95% of their grants to local educational agencies or other nonprofit providers of early childhood education.
 - Grant recipients must use the following guidelines when spending the funds:
 - At least 15% for children birth through age 5;
 - At least 40% for children from kindergarten through age 5; and
 - At least 40% for students in middle and high school, with an equitable distribution between the two grade ranges.
 - Funding may be used for professional development, screening and assessment, targeted interventions for students reading below grade level, and other research-based methods of improving classroom instruction and practice.
- **Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act** – Every five to seven years, all of the federal programs included in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act are reauthorized. This process provides Congress and others an opportunity to make changes to the federal programs. The last reauthorization, known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB), was signed by President Bush on January 8, 2002.

The reauthorization was supposed to have occurred in the spring of 2008; however, was delayed because of the presidential elections. It was further delayed due to the enactment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in February 2009. They are now starting to have conversations at the federal level about the reauthorization.

More and more details are being released each week regarding a potential reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), possibly as early as late summer or early fall of 2010. "A Blueprint for Reform" regarding the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act from President Obama was released on March 13, 2010, and can be found at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/blueprint/index.html> on the USDE website.

If we look at the legislation passed in the ARRA, we can get a good idea of the scope of changes that will be a part of the reauthorized federal law. Listed below are some of the highlights:

What Stays:

- A Strong Focus on Standards – The new proposal continues to focus on the "common core standards initiative" to establish more uniform academic standards in reading and math to prepare students for college or a career.
- Annual Testing – The new proposal keeps the requirement for annual testing in reading and math in grades 3 through 8 and once in high school.
- Reporting Requirements – The new proposal keeps the requirement for disaggregating and reporting on student data for populations such as racial minorities, English-language learners, and students in special education.

What Changes:

- The Title I program would receive a new name and be called "College and Career Ready Students".
- The proposal eliminates the NCLB's 2014 deadline for bringing all students to academic proficiency and replaces it with a goal of ensuring that all students are ready for college or a career by 2020.
- It replaces the focus on teacher quality with teacher and principal effectiveness. States and districts would be required to publish, at least every two years, a performance level report card on teacher and principal effectiveness.
- Under the new plan, all or nearly all of the new federal money will go to innovation and be competitive money.
- The new proposal eliminates many of the NCLB sanctions, including the provision of offering Supplemental Educational Services (SES), when schools have not made AYP for three consecutive years.
- The ESEA reauthorization plan replaces AYP with a more comprehensive review of student performance that looks at student growth and school progress.
- The new proposal places a focus on the nation's lowest 5% of schools by requiring them to take drastic steps to improve.

Both the House and the Senate are scheduled to release draft reauthorization bills in June 2010.

- **Common Core Standards Initiative** – The Common Core Standards Initiative is a joint effort of the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers. In March, draft standards were released for math and English/language arts. The standards define what knowledge and skills students need to be prepared for post-secondary success; whether that be on college campuses, in trade schools, or in a job market.

So far, 48 states (all but Alaska and Texas), have signed on to adopt the standards that will be finalized this summer.

- **2011 Federal Programs Budget Proposal** – On February 1, 2010, President Obama released the FY 2011 budget proposal. The budget proposal is built around the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization. In fact, the proposal would require the passage of a reauthorized bill before the funds could be appropriated because much of the requested funding is for the new programs. Many question whether it is realistic to think that the ESEA could be reauthorized so quickly. Listed below are some highlights of the potential changes in the budget proposal.

- The proposal consolidates 38 programs into 11 funding streams and eliminates many programs.
- With regard to early childhood programs, the President's budget proposal creates record-setting increases for childcare.
- The budget proposal focuses all new money on competitive grants rather than formula grants.
- The proposed budget would also include a substantial boost for the Title I School Improvement Grants, a program that helps districts target interventions to schools struggling to meet the goals of the ESEA law.
- The proposal includes funds for Effective Teachers and Leaders Grants, which would provide formula grants aimed at helping districts recruit, prepare, reward, support, and retain highly effective teachers.

- **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act** – The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 provides approximately \$100 billion for education, creating a historic opportunity to save hundreds of thousands of jobs, support states and school districts, and advance reforms and improvements that will create long-lasting results for our students and our nation including early learning, K-12, and post-secondary education.

The act provides targeted funds for existing programs including Title I and Special Education. It also provides significant funds for numerous competitive grants.

- **Title I School Improvement Grant (SIG)** – The SIG, authorized under both the ESEA and ARRA, are specific funds to improve student achievement in Title I schools identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring so as to enable those schools to make adequate yearly progress (AYP) and exit improvement status.
- **Fiscal Stabilization** – In order for states to get their phase two funding under the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, they must submit an application. In the application, states must provide information in four key areas of education reform:
 - Achieving equity in teacher distribution,
 - Improving collection and use of data,

- Standards and assessments, and
- Supporting struggling schools.

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction submitted our application to the USDE on January 11, 2010. North Dakota is waiting to receive official approval.

- Race to the Top State Application – The federal Race to the Top grant is a competitive, \$4.35 billion education reform program enacted as part of the ARRA. The USDE released the Race to the Top application on November 12, 2009. To qualify, states must have no legal barriers to linking student growth and achievement data to teachers and principals for the purposes of evaluation. Applications for the second round will be due June 1, 2010, with the announcement of all recipients by September 30, 2010. North Dakota will not be applying for this grant for the June 2010 submission.
- Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) – In February 2010, the USDE released information for a new \$439 million competition to support states, school districts, charter schools, and non-profit organizations in partnership with any of these entities in the development and implementation of performance-based compensation systems for teachers and principals. The goals are to increase educator effectiveness and student achievement in high-need schools. Applicants apply for funding to develop differentiated pay systems that reward teachers and leaders who demonstrate effectiveness in improving student learning. Applications are due in June 2010.
- Investing In Innovation i3 Program – On March 8, 2010, the USDE released final priorities and applications for its \$650 million Investing in Innovation (i3) grant competition. States are not eligible to apply. The competition is open to school districts and groups of school districts.

To qualify, applicants must address one of the four key areas that are driving President Obama's education reform agenda: building common standards and assessments, using data to improve student achievement, supporting effective teachers and principals and turning around consistently low-performing schools. The deadline to apply is May 11, 2010. North Dakota may have districts and schools participating in two applications for an i3 grant.

- Math Professional Development Opportunity – The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) was looking for a consortium of schools to apply for the i3 grant. The grant will support students' math performance and readiness for algebra in grades 3-6 with the aim of improving the quality of instruction. An email was sent to administrators providing them with information on who to contact if they were interested.
- Turnaround/Leadership Academy – Grand Forks, in collaboration with the Education Commission of the States, is applying for an i3 grant. The Mandan, Fargo, and Solen Public School Districts will also be a part of this grant. This project is designed to increase principals knowledge and skills in leadership domains (cognitive, interpersonal, and intrapersonal) and in mastering school "turnaround" strategies, so that these principals can become effective instructional leaders, increase student achievement, including high-needs students, close achievement gaps, and transform their schools to become successful in meeting the educational needs of all students.
- Race to the Top Assessment Program – On April 6, 2010, the USDE announced the launch of the Race to the Top Assessment Program. Secretary Duncan has set aside up to \$350 million of Race to the Top funds to support a consortia of states in

developing and implementing a new generation of assessments. North Dakota is participating in this grant as a member of the “Smarter Balanced Consortium”.

- **Keep Our Educators Working Act** – Senator Tom Harkin from Iowa has proposed a \$23 billion bailout bill to help avert layoffs of tens of thousands of teachers and other school personnel in the coming academic year. Some are referring to the bill as a sequel to the ARRA, passed in February 2009. The funds, if approved, would most likely flow to states via a formula program attached to the State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) program.

- **Early Childhood Education** – There will definitely continue to be a focus on early childhood education in the future. Many advocates have expressed concerns that the ESEA reauthorization proposal is very weak on early childhood education. Secretary Arnold Duncan recently stated that the USDE plans to support early childhood programs through a proposed \$8 billion Early Learning Challenge Fund. There is huge bipartisan support for early childhood education; everybody understands how important it is.

School Administrator Title I Responsibilities “What Do I Need To Do”?

Spring

- Work with your Title I teacher(s) to ensure that the Title I Personnel Report (SFN 7357) is submitted to the state Title I office. – **Due: May – June**
- Determine date to close out year one ARRA funding. Submit Title I-ARRA Final Financial Report (SFN 7822). – **Due: May – September**
- Submit Title I ARRA Budget Revision (allocations under \$200,000) or Application (allocations over \$200,000). – **Due: May – September 30, 2010**

Summer

- Schools participating in the NDMILE must have assessed all key indicators and planned for ten as outlined in the NDMILE timeline. – **Due: June 30, 2010**
- Title I schoolwide programs submit the Revision to the Schoolwide Plan (SFN 52806). – **Due: June – July**
- Submit the Title I ARRA Quarterly Report to Title I Contact. – **Due: June 29, 2010**
- Submit the Title I Final Financial Report (SFN 7822) to the state Title I office. – **Due: July**
- Disseminate the official 2009-2010 school and district adequate yearly progress reports and written explanation to your parents and community members. – **Due: May – August**
- Submit the Consolidated Application for Federal Title Programs. (Document board approval before submitting). – **Due: August 27, 2010**

Fall

- Disseminate Parents’ Right to Know information to all parents. – **Due: September**
- Submit Title I ARRA Quarterly Report to Title I Contact. – **Due: September 29, 2010**

Winter

- Submit Title I ARRA Quarterly Report to Title I Contact. – **Due: December 17, 2010**
- Disseminate information on the school and district report cards (profiles) to parents and community members. – **Due: December – January 2011**
- Submit Mid-Year Title I Financial Report (SFN 7822) documenting all expenditures through December 31. – **Due: January 2011**

Ongoing

- Submit Request for Funds form (SFN 14660) to the state Title I office on a monthly or quarterly basis to receive reimbursement for Title I expenditures. – **Due: Monthly or Quarterly**
- Schools participating in the NDMILE must meet requirements outlined in the timeline during the 2010-2011 school year. – **Ongoing**
- Monitor expenditures and submit a budget revision to allow for changes that arise during the school year. – **Ongoing**