

## **Title I Updates**

### **January 17, 2014**

#### **Save the Date!**

The Federal Program Monitoring and Support Division in collaboration with the North Carolina Association of Compensatory Educators (NCACE) will conduct a statewide Title I Forum on April 29, 2014, at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex, Special Event Center located at 1921 W Lee Street, Greensboro, NC 27403. The goal of the meeting is to highlight our NC Title I Distinguished Schools nominees and State representatives in order to share the best practices that have contributed to their schoolwide success. The sessions may be of particular interest to leadership staff in your Focus Schools.

Registration information will be provided as soon as it becomes available in a separate email.

#### **PowerSchool Data Collection**

In September 2012, NC began transitioning to a new student information system by upgrading from NC WISE to Pearson's PowerSchool product. As a part of this process, federal data collection previously entered through the Consolidated Federal Data Collection (CFDC) system must be entered through PowerSchool beginning with the 2013-14 school year. The first collection for the October Headcount of Neglected and Delinquent was completed January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Additional data collections that will be migrating to PowerSchool by April of 2014 are as follows:

- Annual Collection of Neglected and Delinquent (participants)
- Targeted Assistance Schools
- Rural Low Income Schools
- Homeless Program
- Eligible Schools Summary Report

Similar to when the CFDC was first utilized, the roll-out of a new system may bring unanticipated challenges. In particular, the first year of implementation in PowerSchool will require a limited collection period so please plan ahead for data collections this spring.

Thank you for your support as we work to improve the new collection system. Our goal continues to be to provide you with a collection system and timeline that meets federal reporting requirements and local needs for planning programs.

#### **Excess Carryover**

Title I law states that Local Education Agencies (LEAs) may only carryover a certain percentage (15%) of the current school year allocation. However, if an LEA determines that the carryover of

that allocation exceeds the allowable percentage, LEAs can request a waiver from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) to add the carryover funds to the district's current year expected Title I allocation. Under federal law, this waiver may only be requested once every three years; however, North Carolina has been approved to access the ED-FLEX option to allow flexibility to approve waivers as needed.

For the past three years, NCDPI has approved a large number of these requests due in part to 1) the one-time increase of Title I funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and 2) the across the board cuts of federal funds (i.e., sequestration) that occurred this year. Waivers to the excess carryover provision were granted to allow local districts to effectively implement plans to spend Title I funds wisely to support student achievement. District requests for the waiver must include an assurance that carryover funds will be used in the following year on activities that are most likely to increase the quality of instruction and improve the academic achievement of students.

As you continue the implementation of Title I plans for the 2013-14 school year, please monitor the use of funds at the district and school level to ensure that the 2012-13 carryover funds are being effectively spent along with the current year's Title I allotment so that excess carryover will not occur in 2014-15. As in previous years, notifications regarding potential excess carryover will be sent to local Finance Officers and Title I Directors prior to September 30, 2014.

### **Memorandum of Agreement with Child Nutrition**

Our office has received questions from the field regarding a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Federal Program Monitoring and Support Division and the Child Nutrition Section. As you may be aware, an MOA was in place for a number of years specifically to meet the requirements of Section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) related to the implementation of supplemental educational services (SES). Under ESEA Flexibility, the MOA for SES is no longer needed.

However, due to increased U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requirements for ensuring that a student's confidential meal eligibility status is used only for purposes prescribed under law, a new MOA is being developed. The MOA will allow Title I Directors to review children's free and reduced price eligibility information to calculate poverty percentages of each school in the district and to determine Title I eligibility and within-district allocations. As soon as the MOA is finalized, a copy will be provided to all Title I Directors. Additionally, the complete MOA and list of Title I Directors will be publicly available on the web at: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/program-monitoring/titleIA/>.

### **Community Eligibility Option**

As you may be aware, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Act) the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) now includes a new universal meal program, the "Community Eligibility Provision" (Community Eligibility), which has been phased in over several years by the USDA. Community Eligibility permits eligible schools to provide meal service to all students at no charge,

regardless of economic status, while reducing burden at the household and local levels by eliminating the need to obtain eligibility data from families through a separate collection.

Community Eligibility schools use only “direct certification” data, such as data from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to determine the Federal cash reimbursement for school lunches provided by USDA. They do not rely on annual household applications that are generally used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price meals. A school is eligible for Community Eligibility if at least 40 percent of its students are “directly certified,” i.e., identified for free meals through means other than household applications (for example, students directly certified through SNAP).

Since this option will be available to all states beginning in the 2014-15 school year, state specific guidance is currently being developed by NCDPI through a cross-agency team. Information will be provided to Title I Directors as soon as it becomes available.

To view the full version of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, go to:  
[www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-111publ296/pdf/PLAW-111publ296.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-111publ296/pdf/PLAW-111publ296.pdf).

### **Read-to-Achieve**

Our office has received questions about the use of Title I funds to support the Read to Achieve program. In general, Title I funds must be used to supplement the education of students in Title I programs. Please see excerpt from February 2009 USED Title I Fiscal Issues:

*An LEA may use Title I funds only to supplement and, to the extent practical, increase the level of funds that would, in the absence of Title I funds, be made available from non-Federal sources for the education of students participating in Title I programs. In no case may Title I funds be used to supplant--i.e., take the place of--funds from non-Federal sources.*

To determine compliance with “supplement not supplant” requirements, the LEA must determine what services would be provided in the absence of Title I funds to students in Title I schools. The presumption of supplanting would be rebuttable if the LEA can demonstrate that it would not have provided the services with non-Federal funds had Title I funds not been available.

In this case, it would be challenging to provide a rebuttal since the summer camps are required by the State under the Read to Achieve program. In other words, a district that does not provide the camps would be non-compliant with State law.

If you have specific questions about supplementing the Read to Achieve program with Title I funds, please contact the Title I Program Administrator that serves your region of the state.

### **Omnibus Spending Bill**

As you may have learned, Congress recently passed an omnibus spending bill, which will now move forward for the President to sign. The \$1.1 trillion government-wide spending bill passed in time to

avoid another federal government shutdown. Embedded in this bill, which is more than 1500 pages long, are the funding levels for the federal education programs. We will analyze the bill's contents over the next several weeks to determine what levels will be offered for NC's federal programs in hopes that funding is sufficient to reverse at least some part of the sequestration impact which LEAs suffered for the current school year. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

To read the Huffington Post article, go to: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/16/senate-passes-spending-bill\\_n\\_4613011.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/16/senate-passes-spending-bill_n_4613011.html)

To read the NPR article, go to: <http://www.npr.org/blogs/itsallpolitics/2014/01/14/262518737/5-takeaways-from-the-omnibus-spending-bill>

### **2014 Collaborative Conference for Student Achievement**

The 2014 Collaborative Conference for Student Achievement (CCSA) will be held March 3-5, 2014, at the Sheraton Four Seasons/Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC. The program will feature a range of sessions on topics related to the conference theme "Engaging North Carolina in Transforming 21st Century Teaching and Learning." For more information and the link to registration, go to: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/conference/?&print=true>.

### **Committee of Practitioners**

The North Carolina Committee of Practitioners (COP) will meet on Tuesday, January 21, 2014, in room 150N of the Education Building located at 301 N Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC. The meeting will begin at 10:00 and is scheduled to end around noon.