



Federal Program Monitoring and Support Updates June, 2016

SAVE THE DATE: NEW DIRECTORS TRAINING

Please mark your calendars for the 2016-17 New Directors Training. The training will be held on July 20, 2016, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at The McKimmon Conference Center on. The Center is located on the campus of NC State University at 1101 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC 27606. Click [HERE](#) for directions to the Center.

To register for the meeting, please complete this [REGISTRATION FORM](#).

NCSTAR TRAINING AND LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOL

At the end of May, a message was sent to superintendents regarding school improvement planning in [low-performing schools](#) as defined under North Carolina's General Statute 115C-83.15. The message included the following information:

“...we are excited to announce that low-performing schools identified from the 2015-16 accountability results will be asked to develop their School Improvement Plan utilizing the NCStar management tool for submission to the North Carolina State Board for feedback. Aligned to the Deming Cycle, the school improvement process managed through NCStar requires district and school teams to assess the school's current status on indicators of effective practice, create a plan to address areas of need and provide ongoing progress monitoring toward the full implementation of specific indicators. The indicators provided by NCStar help schools target areas for improvement; and the system provides the structure for continuous improvement monitoring and the potential for a blended model of onsite and virtual coaching.”

In order to support training for schools that will be using NCStar for 2016-17 school improvement planning, we will hold additional sessions in June for educators that might be interested in learning about the free NCStar tool that helps schools manage their school improvement process. The sessions are open to any school or district in the state, but are scheduled especially to meet the needs of schools that may be identified as low-performing in the 2016-17 school year. We are expecting another 1,000 educators to attend so please make sure to register soon. Registration will close for each session as soon as we have reached site capacity.

- Registration Link : <http://goo.gl/forms/TiXdyZHpuOTzeJDt2>
- NCStar information can be found at www.ncstar.weebly.com

Additional information will be provided to superintendents soon. If you have any questions about state-identified low-performing schools, please contact District and School Transformation Director [Nancy Barbour](#). If you have questions about NCStar, please contact [Alessandro Montanari](#) or [Chris Vecchione](#).



TITLE I EXCESS CARRYOVER WAIVERS

As you are aware, 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, the LEA may request a waiver from the State education agency (SEA) to waive the carryover limitation. Under federal law, this waiver may only be requested once every three years; however, North Carolina has approved Ed-Flex authority which allows the SEA to approve waivers more than once in three years if 1) the request is reasonable and necessary; or 2) supplemental appropriations become available.

If you believe that your district will need a waiver, please use the attached template and send your request to Paula Langill at paula.langill@dpi.nc.gov by **August 30, 2016**, in order to continue using carryover funds for the 2015-16 Title I, Part A allotment beyond September 30, 2016. If you have already submitted a request, please ensure that your approval letter is maintained on file for any audit purposes that may be needed in the future.

PRIORITY AND FOCUS SCHOOL PLANS

As stated in an email sent on May 31, 2016, only Focus Schools that have been identified for the first time in 2015-16 will submit school-level plans (i.e., Needs Assessment, Focus School Components) in the Planning Tool of CCIP. In an effort to reduce duplication, continuing Focus Schools and Priority Schools will develop school-level plans using NCStar.

However, LEAs with Priority Schools and charter schools identified as Priority Schools that are eligible to receive funds through program report code (PRC) 105 for the 2016-17 school year must continue to submit the Funding Application (i.e., Budget, Grant Details, Plan Relationships, and Related Documents) in order to receive PRC 105 funds. Please remember that you will need to add the School Improvement Grant 1003(a) as a Fiscal Resource once in the district plan within the Planning Tool of CCIP to avert an “error” message. If you have any questions regarding PRC 105 funds, please contact Chris Vecchione at chris.vecchione@dpi.nc.gov.

CCIP AND BAAS REMINDER

We are aware that some budgets for 2016-17 federal funds have been submitted through BAAS and have received a few calls regarding budget approval. Please remember that once planning allotments are released, the application for funds must be completed and approved through the web-based grants management system, the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) before budgets can be approved in BAAS. Additionally, charter schools that use an outside financial accounting firm may need to share this information with staff at the firm as well.



FREE SUMMER RESOURCES

This spring, in support of President Obama's ConnectED initiative, The New York Public Library, the Digital Public Library of America and First Book joined forces to launch Open eBooks, an app that provides FREE access to a library of thousands of eBooks for children from Title I schools and children served by special education teachers to use in school and at home. We invite you to host a download party at your school so that students have access to this world-class library of books when they go home for the summer! [Follow these instructions](#) to get started.

ConnectED has [additional free resources](#) that have been committed by companies and we've attached a flier to detail these offerings, which include things like professional-grade software and mobile broadband.

LOCAL EQUITY PLANS

As you are aware, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) submitted its State Plan to Ensure Equitable Access to Excellent Educators (Equity Plan) on June 1, 2015. North Carolina's plan was approved by USED on November 18, 2015. Since teacher hiring and assignment decisions are made by local school districts and principals, districts and schools that receive federal Title I, Part A and Title II, Part A funds must revise existing Equity Plans as necessary to ensure that economically disadvantaged and minority students are not taught at higher rates by ineffective teachers.

Please remember that for 2016-17, local equity plans must be uploaded into CCIP as a part of the application for formula funds beginning in the fall of 2016. NCDPI will review local equity plans and provide feedback as necessary as part of the funding application and approval process.

To view NC's approved Equity Plan, please go to: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/program-monitoring/titleIA/equity-plan/>.