

COLORADO STATE COMMITTEE OF PRACTITIONERS

August 27th, 2004 Meeting Notes

Purpose: the State Committee of Practitioners serves to advise the State in carrying out its responsibilities under Title I

Members Present:

Sheryl Hutter, Melanie Jones, Paige Grubb, Jan Johnston, Jane Toothaker, Sam Humphrey - proxy for Karen Benner (by teleconference), Carol Harris (by teleconference), Mary Ann Saffer, Evelyn Jacobi, Sandy McHugh, and Robert Finkle. Ex-officio members: Trish Boland, Brad Bylsma, Laura Hensing, & Alyssa Pearson

Members Not Present:

Barb Rhine, Larry Romine, and Kevin Patterson

Guests: Stan Paprocki, Darrell Ryan, Kathy Shannon, and Bush White

- I. Meeting notes from the April 26th, 2004, reviewed for accuracy. The committee co-chair, Sheryl Hutter offered to follow up on the final questions related to Adequate Yearly Progress reporting on the School Accountability Report (SAR). There was clarification needed as to the role of the committee in providing input to the Governor's office. The language in item C was also amended to reference the 10% professional development set aside for program improvement.

These notes will be posted on the Committee's website.

- II. Updates

- a. New members: Sandy Mc Hugh joined the committee following the electronic review of her application and vote by members. Sandy represents private schools through her work in Poudre. Trish introduced Kathy Shannon, legal and policy advisor with the Colorado Association of School Boards. Kathy will pursue the identification of additional school board representatives for the committee, since this is a stakeholder group that is important. Currently Kevin Patterson represents the only school board member on the committee. Her attendance at the meeting was at Trish's request, since it was important for her to understand the group's purpose and communicate this to interested school board members.
- b. A regional database was provided to committee members for the purpose of keeping colleagues in the respective regions informed of committee work and decisions. However, this does not represent a commitment from members to conduct specific duties related to communication. The committee continues to believe that important information needs to emanate from the department and be disseminated broadly.
- c. Monitoring: Darrell Ryan provided an update on the state's monitoring of districts. 10 – 15 districts will be monitored in 04-05. The criteria for selection of these districts have yet to be finalized. However, issues related to the consolidated application will likely play a role in this. The monitoring team will consist of one or two representatives from each of the Title programs, as well as district personnel

from invited LEAs. The state is also expecting a monitoring visit from the USDE in Jan. '05. The federal monitoring of the state will include visits to 2-3 districts. However, any issues revealed by the federal visit to districts will be tracked back as the state's responsibility.

Recommendation: Evelyn Jacobi wanted clarification on the districts to be visited by USDE and suggested that those districts selected should also be considered for a monitoring visit in the fall, in anticipation of the federal onsite. Districts identified for federal monitoring will be notified as soon as possible.

Recommendation: CoP agrees that notification must go to Title I representative/Federal Program coordinator, in addition to the superintendent and consolidated application representative.

Sam Humphrey asked for clarification of Darrell Ryan's suggestion that districts having difficulty may be selected for state monitoring. Darrell clarified this by using the term 'districts needing assistance.'

Recommendation: Need to define compliance vs performance (need to set the purposeful reason for monitoring); could be beneficial to have practitioners as members of monitoring team, in addition to CDE program representatives.

- d. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP): Alyssa Pearson updated the committee on the status of AYP determinations. It appears that approximately 60% of districts are making AYP, while approximately 76% of schools made the targets. This data is very preliminary and will not be final until mid-October. All districts have been given access passwords for the automated data exchange. Districts will have 30 days from the upload of data (Sept. 7) to final school numbers. By October 7th, all determinations will be final. Districts will appeal to the state regarding their data and AYP determination. The preliminary data also suggests that 29 schools will be removed from school improvement designation.
- e. School Improvement/District Improvement Plans: Documents for developing plans related to placement on school improvement and/or district improvement will be posted on the department's website. These templates give guidance so that plans meet the requirements outlined in section 1116 of NCLB. CDE will not need to review the school improvement plans (this is the jurisdiction of the LEA), but will review the district plans. The unit consulted with regional services to be sure that there could be alignment with accreditation plans, if the district chose to work this way. Improvement plans are due three (3) months following identification.

One of the unresolved issues pertains to the State's role in notifying parents in districts on improvement of the improvement status. State law prevents the SEA from having access to names and addresses of students in districts. The department believes that letters will have to be carried home by students or sent home by districts and backbilled to the state.

- f. Unit workplans: Detailed work plans were provided for the purpose of informing committee member about projected focus for the year. Trish drew the committee's attention to the professional development that was established for the State CoP in the work plan. Recommendation: Committee recommended that parameters be established for these funds, since they aren't enough to support all members but could be beneficial to some. Trish will do this and bring back a draft at the

November meeting. Frank Fielden also presented information related to improved communication with Title I A through coordination of family literacy information and support. Several committee members requested copies of materials developed in the Even Start unit, including the *Intergenerational Literacy Activities Notebook*.

III. Discussion Items:

Proposed policy and procedures for Ed Flex

Trish Boland provided an overview of the Educational Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999, and its impact in Colorado, one of 11 states to be granted status as an Ed Flex state. Draft revisions to the current forms used for waiver requests were shared with the group and input requested. Committee Recommendations: consider the inclusion of the narrative section into the plan matrix. Set up dates regionally across the state for the purpose of disseminating and publicizing the Ed Flex parameters.

School Improvement Handbook:

Draft materials for the handbook were not available. These are intended to be distributed at the upcoming Title I Directors meeting. Due personal reasons, the draft version was not available for committee members.

Evaluation of Schoolwide Programs

Stan Paprocki distributed information related to the creation of a schoolwide policy development group. The group is to meet 8 times during the 2004-2005 school year to develop state policies, procedures and guidelines for schoolwide schools within the state of Colorado. Suggestions/nominations for individuals to participate were solicited. No committee recommendations for this process were forthcoming.

Identifying 2004-2005 Committee Priorities

The committee was asked to identify priorities for their work this year, in addition to the providing advice on the ongoing work of the State's Title I staff. The committee recommended a focus on:

- Clarification of the monitoring process, including specific purposes for the monitoring; reporting the results statewide; tracking of outcomes from visits
- Review of the SST work and tools, including a report on the impact
- Review of the Title I Handbook
- Examination of policy changes and IDEA reauthorization
- Work of the state legislature

IV. Remaining 2004-2005 meeting dates:

- November 19th, 2004
- February 25th, 2005
- April 29th, 2005