

Committee of Practitioners
Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2005

Members Present: Angelika Schroeder, Larry Romine, Patsy Roybal, Mary McGrane (remote), Jane Toothaker, Paul Johnson, Sheryl Hutter, Evelyn Jacobi (remote), Ann Hausler

Members Not Present: Jesús Escárcega, Anita Burns, Holly Brilliant, Michelle Moss, Melanie Jones

Ex Officio: Patrick Chapman, Trish Boland, Bill Windler

Visitor: John Sutton (RMC Research)

Updates:

C-FIRS

Trish Boland provided information on where Consolidated Federal Programs Unit is in terms of federal monitoring of LEAs. Three LEAs have been notified regarding an integrated onsite review for 05-06. This type of review reflects a site review that involves Titles I-A, II-A, II-D, III, IVA, V, and VIB. Additional site reviews will occur by individual programs, and, in some cases, in conjunction with one or two other programs. CFPU intends to reduce the number of visits made by the State to LEAs by making efforts to combine site visit dates across programs.

A desk review currently is underway for all LEAs that accept Title I-A funds for NCLB School Improvement Plans, School-level Parent Involvement Policy, and Comparability. The C-FIRS document and desk review schedule is on the department's website.

Amendments to NCLB State Application & AYP

Patrick Chapman reported that the AYP committee is considering application for the USDE longitudinal growth model through the safe harbor provision. However, there is still a possibility that the State would be able to make changes regarding Safe Harbor under the current state plan and current NCLB law. The AYP committee is investigating this possibility.

Discussion revolved around whether application for a growth model best met the state's current assessment system and would result in something valid.

The progress report shared with the State Board was reviewed for clarification purposes. Some discussion related to the need for good communication to the field with respect to technical committee work and information that is reported through the mass media. Gaps

in what people know are variable. A local district accountability committee was offered as an example.

Point four required some word adjustment to reflect the intent of the Committee. Committee recommended the addition of a number 15, which reflects a differentiation of districts and the number of AYP targets met; includes verbiage related to those districts that are decreasing the number of targets met and/or miss few targets, and those districts that are missing increased number of targets from year-to-year. There also needs to be increased clarity regarding the school Improvement status and district or program Improvement.

Paul Johnson moved and Sheryle Hutter seconded approval of this draft. There was a unanimous approval of this draft of amendments to the state's NCLB workbook.

Ed-Flex Partnership Act

Trish Boland updated the Committee with respect to the sunseting of the Ed-Flex Partnership Act on June 30 of 2006. Legislation to reauthorize this act was not a part of any congressional bills this past year. This means that there is a strong likelihood that Ed Flex waivers granted to districts will expire in June of 06 rather than the date originally identified with the approval of the waiver. However, the state is examining the potential of using Title IX of NCLB to request waivers from the USDE. This process would entail something similar to how districts currently apply to the state for a waiver and may permit approved districts to continue with greater flexibility.

Future Work

Operationalization of the State plan: (1) Typical year's time-table around major requirements; (2) Exemplars of particular points of interest, starting first with the 15 recommendations for the workbooks; (3) User-friendly version of a FAQ for the field with respect to areas that often cause confusion and angst in the field.

Send out the final version State amendments to the Committee prior to the State School Board meeting in January.

Next Official Meeting by phone to be January 26th, 2006, at 2:00 p.m.

Tentative meetings that will held if needed: March 10th, 2006 and May 9th, 2006.