



The Buzz

A consolidated federal programs newsletter

Issue 19

April 2005

UPDATE ON THE USDOE MONITORING VISIT

During the week of January 24th, a team from the U.S. Department of Education conducted an onsite review of the Colorado Department of Education's administration of the Title I, Part A program. In order to collect additional information regarding CDE's administration of the program, the team also visited the Denver and Jefferson County school districts and conducted a phone interview with representatives from Aurora and Colorado Springs. The purpose of the visit was to verify compliance with critical Title I monitoring indicators in three broad program areas: accountability, instructional support, and fiduciary.

CDE received the USDE's report on March 15th. CDE must respond to all identified compliance issues by April 25th. USDE will review CDE's response to determine which corrective actions are acceptable and which will require additional documentation of implementation. In some instances, USDE will allow additional time for the implementation of corrective actions. In these cases, USDE will work with CDE to determine a reasonable timeline.

continued on page 5

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A DISTRICT DECLINES TITLE I, PART A FUNDS?

The following questions were submitted to and answered by the USDOE.

Question

If a district declines Title I, Part A funds, what is the impact on allocations under other NCLB? As a State educational agency (SEA), are we required to reduce/eliminate allocations under other programs if a district declines its Title I funding? Are districts automatically ineligible for funding under Reading First and 21st Century Schools if they decline Title I funding.

Response

If a school district declines its Title I, Part A funds, its decision would have serious consequences for funding under other Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) programs. A number of the statutory formulas for allocating funds to districts under other programs are based, in part, on the amount of funding they receive under Title I, Part A. In particular, a district's allocations under the following programs would be affected –

- Title II, Part D, Subpart 1- 50% of funds available to LEAs is distributed according to its share of Title I, Part A in the current year);
- Title IV, Part A- 60% of funds available to LEAs is distributed according to its share of Title I, Part A in the preceding year; and
- Reading First (Title I, Part B, Subpart 1)- an LEA's minimum subgrant is based on its share of Title I, Part A funds in the preceding year, an LEA that declines Title I, Part A funds would not be guaranteed a minimum subgrant. However, it would not be automatically ineligible.

Colorado does not have discretion in reducing a district's allocation under above-referenced programs if the district does not participate in Title I, Part A. It must implement the statutory formula for each program. In addition, a district's funding under the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program (Title IV, Part B) could be affected, depending on how the statutory priority in section 4204(i) plays out in Colorado.

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 3 | To Do List
- 4 | Family Literacy as a Strategy
- 4 | Q & A
- 5 | Updates



Although a district declining Title I, Part A funds would still be eligible for 21st Century funding, it would not receive priority under the statute. A district's allocation under other programs, such as Title III is not dependent on receipt of Title I, Part A funds.

Question

What are the programmatic implications for districts that opt out of Title I? What are the programmatic implications for districts that decline Title I, Part A funding but still receive funding under Title II, Part A and other NCLB programs? Which of the Uniform Provisions apply (Boy Scouts, School Prayer, etc.) and are there any that do not? NCLB requires States that receive Title I funding to ensure that all teachers in the core academic areas are highly qualified but seems to restrict requirements to "LEAs receiving funds under this part". Since Colorado receives Title I funding, must we ensure that all teachers in the core academic areas are highly qualified in districts that don't receive Title I funding? What if that district receives Title II funding but not Title I funding- which of the highly qualified teacher requirements apply?

Response

Colorado, like any State that receives Title I, Part A funds is required to ensure that all districts- even those that decline Title I, Part A funds- comply with certain ESEA provisions. These provisions include: (1) holding all public elementary and secondary school students to the State's academic content and student achievement standards; (2) assessing all students in reading/language arts and mathematics in grades 3-8 and once in grade span 10-12; (3) making AYP determinations for all public schools; and (4) ensuring that all teacher teaching core academic subjects are highly qualified by the end of the 2005-06 school year.

If a district declines to accept Title I, Part A funds but receives any other funds under ESEA, the district would still be subject to the following requirements –

- Military recruitment provisions (section 9528)
- Constitutionally protected prayer (section 9524)
- Unsafe school choice provision (section 9532)
- Gun-Free Schools Act provisions (section 4141)

In addition, if a district receives any federal funds through the Department, the district and its schools must comply with the following requirements – equal access to Boy Scouts and other similar groups for meetings (section 9525); and Pro-Children Act provisions (sections 4301-4304)

There are also other general requirements in Title IX of the ESEA, such as maintenance of effort and equitable services for private school students and teachers, with which a district must comply if it receives funds under a program to which those requirements apply.

continued in next column

Regarding highly qualified teachers, if a district does not receive Title I, Part A funds, the provision that it hire only highly qualified teachers and paraprofessionals to work in Title I programs obviously would not apply. However, if the State of Colorado receives Title I, Part A funds, CDE must ensure that all public school teachers of core academic subjects in the State – including those who teach in a district that does not receive Title I, Part A funds—are highly qualified by the end of the 2005-06 school year. Moreover, prior to the end of the 2005-06, such a district might have requirements placed on it by the State in accordance with the State's plan under section 1119(a)(2)(A) so that the State can demonstrate annual increases in the percentage of highly qualified teachers in each district and school. In addition, regardless of whether a district receives Title I, Part A funds, if it receives Title II, Part A funds or Title V, Part A funds and uses those funds to hire teaches of core academic subjects to reduce class size, those teachers must be highly qualified.

With respect to "Parents Right to Know" (section 1111(h)(6)), those requirements apply only to districts that receive Title I, Part A funds. Thus a district that does not receive Part A funds would not be required to notify parents of their right to know the professional qualifications of their child's teachers.

Question

NCLB seems similarly fuzzy regarding issues around AYP and reporting. We are assuming that an AYP determination must be made for all schools and school districts regardless of NCLB funding. However, if a school district declines its Title I, Part A funding, how must this information be reported and who must report it? Must the school district still produce an LEA report card? What must be included in the report card? Does the State have to produce the LEA report card for districts that decline Title I funding? Who must report to parents? Is it sufficient if the State includes that information in the State Report Card with no LEA Report Card produced?

Response

You are correct that each public elementary and secondary school and school district must receive and AYP determination (section 1111(b)(2)). The school and district improvement provisions in section 1116, however, do not apply to schools or districts that do not receive Title I, Part A funds (section 1111(b)(2)(A)(ii)). Colorado, like any State that receives Title I, Part A funds, must issue a State report card that includes information on all students in the State that took the State's assessment, including students in non-Title I districts and schools (section 1111(h)(1)). However, a district that does not receive Title I, Part A funds is not required to issue a district report card (section 1111(h)(2)). A State would, of course, be required to provide parents information on the achievement of their child on the State's assessments in accordance with section 1111(b)(3)(C)(xii).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January-May

Program Evaluation Training, 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
For more information contact Jason E. Glass at
303-866-6701 or glass_j@cde.state.co.us

April 15th San Luis Valley/Alamosa
May 13th Colorado Springs

April 15th – April 16th

Association for the Education of Gifted
Underachieving Students (AEGUS) 2005
Conference, Developing Talent:
Finding “Islands of Competence”
Radisson Hotel Denver Stapleton Plaza
Registration information available at
www.Aegus1.org

April 25th

27th Annual Title I Pikes Peak Parent Involvement
Conference, First Presbyterian Church (new
location), 219 East Bijou Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado
For registration information contact Jan Johnston at
jjohnston@harrison.k12.co.us

April 29th – May 1st

The Colorado Alliance for Environmental
Education (CAEE) is presenting its
Teaching OUTSIDE the Box Conference
Snow Mountain Ranch, Winter Park
Visit www.caee.org for information or to register.

May 27th – May 29th

Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition
XXV Annual Conference and
XII Annual Youth Institute, Keystone, Colorado
For more information call (720) 890-0123 or visit
www.coparentcoalition.org

June 1st – 3rd

Levels of Use Evaluator Training
For more information contact Michael Ramirez at
(303) 866-6991 or by email at
ramirez_m@cde.state.co.us

June 2nd – 3rd

The Peak Afterschool Conference
Executive Towers Downtown Denver, CO
Register before May 1st for \$209.00
Visit www.mcrel.org for more information.



- Sign up for a Consolidated Federal Programs Regional Workshop at

www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/regionalwrkshps.asp

April 5	Pagosa Springs
April 7	La Junta
April 12	Denver
April 14	Longmont
April 19	Grand Junction
April 21	Vail
April 26	Sterling
April 28	Colorado Springs

- Complete the information requested for the Consolidated Performance Report by April 8th.
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/ConsPerfCollection/index.asp>
- Evaluate the District's Parent Involvement policy.
- Begin planning for next year's Consolidated Federal Programs Application with other district personnel. Don't forget to include staff from Neglected and Delinquent Institutions to develop a plan and budget for next year.

Is family literacy a needed strategy for your district?

No Child Left Behind requires that the State encourage local educational agencies and individual schools participating in Title I, Part A to support family literacy services with Title IA funds. Family literacy is a legitimate strategy when Title I agencies or schools have determined that a substantial number the parents of students served have low literacy skills or do not have a high school diploma/GED. In conjunction with Frank Fieldon, State Coordinator for Even Start and Debbie Butkus, Coordinator of the Colorado Family Literacy Training Center, materials have been assembled that will help districts determine if family literacy is a barrier to greater parent involvement or a needed strategy for the Title I program. This packet includes an informal needs assessment and a link to a website that includes district-by-district indicators of adult educational attainment. The link to this information can be found at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/tia.htm>.

SOA/SBD Training Registration



Registration is open for the 2005 Student Biographical Data review training sessions. The School of Accountability (SOA) portion of the review will be from May 16-19 and the Student Biographical Data review (SBD) portion will be May 25-June 6. Below you will find a list of the trainings dates and sites.

District Assessment Coordinators should register all of those that will be attending from each district.

To register, click on the link below and fill out the short form. Once the form is completed, applicants will be directed to a schedule that has all the necessary information about each training site.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=83608927291>.

Here are some important points to keep in mind for the 2005 version of SBD.

1. As was stated in an earlier memo from Title I, districts will not be allowed to appeal their AYP calculations without having **downloaded, uploaded back to ADE, and approved** a file of their 2005 student biographical data during the 2005 SBD window.
2. This year's process will be divided into two separate portions. All School of Accountability (SOA) reviews will be made during the first part of the process with the review of the other biographical data fields (SBD) making up the second window. Districts must participate in **both** processes to qualify for being able to appeal AYP data.
3. As was the case last year, the data review will include CSAP, CSAPA, and CSAPA Online data.
4. It is very important that District Assessment Coordinators assure that the district personnel responsible for the actual data entry work for this review process attend the training.
5. **After April 1, 2005 updated documentation** for the Student Biographical Data review may be found on the ADE site at https://ade.cde.state.co.us/doc_toc.htm#sbd

2005 SOA-SBD Training Sites

April 21	Westminster (Mapleton 1)
April 26	Pagosa Springs (Archuleta County 50 Jt)
April 27	Delta (Delta County 50J)
April 28	Glenwood Springs (Roaring Fork RE-1)
May 4	La Junta (East Otero R-1)
May 5	Fountain (Fountain 8)
May 6	Littleton (Littleton 6)
May 9	Akron (Akron R-1)
May 10	Milliken (Johnstown-Milliken R-5J)

Can a district pay stipends for non-title teachers in targeted assistance programs for attendance at professional development outside the work day? For instance, if a school wanted to train all of its teachers in a particular reading methodology, which will be used with Title I students; the idea being that the same strategy may be used in the general, ELL, and special education classes as well.

The law has two references to professional development in targeted assistance programs (Section 1115):

- 1) Provide opportunities for professional development with resources provided under Title I, and, to the extent practicable, from other sources, for teachers, principals, and paraprofessionals, including, if appropriate, pupil services personnel, parents, and other staff, who work with participating children in programs under this section or in the regular education program (Section 1115(c)(1)(F)).
- 2) Each school receiving Title I funds for any fiscal year shall devote sufficient resources to carry out effectively the professional development activities described in subparagraph (F) of subsection (c)(1) (discussed above) in accordance with section 1119 (Qualifications for Teachers and Paraprofessionals). A school may enter into a consortium with another school to carry out such activities.

Based on this language, it appears that stipends can be paid to staff who provide services to students served in the Title I program. This may include general classroom teachers, ELL teachers, and special educators, where applicable. It would not apply to preschool personnel, where the preschool is not supported with Title I services.

Do you have a question?

Email your questions to Laura Hensinger at hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us



FY 2005-2006 Allocations

Preliminary allocations have been released and will be posted at www.cde.state.co.us/cdefisgrant. Allocations are based on the March 7, 2005 posting by the USDE. The USDE based these allocations on income year 2002 census estimates of the number of children ages 5-17 in families in poverty, the total school-age population, and the total resident population for each LEA. In addition, these allocations factor in final State per-pupil expenditure data from SY 2002-03 and data on the number of children in locally operated neglected or delinquent institutions, foster homes, and families above poverty receiving assistance under the TANF program that were used last year to determine SY 2004-05. Note that these preliminary allocations will change with the use of updated non-census data and because of possible changes to the 2002 census data that result from the process used to verify the school district boundary survey on which these data are based.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT: POLICY COMPLIANCE & EVALUATION

NCLB contains many requirements related to parent involvement and notification. A number of these requirements can be found in the Title I school- and district-level parent involvement policies. In order to assist schools and districts with compliance and evaluation of these policies, the Consolidated Federal Programs Unit at CDE is providing additional guidance and sample tools.

The resources and tools are designed to guide and focus districts on the key elements of the Parent Involvement legislation that the State and districts are required to monitor and evaluate. Suggestions are provided for methods that districts can use to evaluate the key components that are outlined in the legislation, as well as checklists to assess implementation of required activities and methods for evaluating the effectiveness of parent involvement activities. This information will be on the Title I page of CDE's website by mid-April www.cde.state.co.us/cdeunified/tia.htm.

Included in this guidance is:

- An overview of the Legislation
- Oversight of parent involvement requirements
- Compliance checklist
- Evaluating the effectiveness of parent involvement activities
- Logic models for use in building an evaluation
- Description of logic models and how to use them

It is important to note that, until such time as the USDE has reviewed and approved CDE's documentation that all compliance issues identified in the monitoring report have been corrected, the state's Title I grant award will be conditional.

In its report, the USDE team found CDE to be out of compliance with 14 of the critical monitoring indicators. In addition, the team made recommendations for improvements related to 6 of the indicators. Overall, the findings of the team were fairly consistent with our expectations. Findings of note include:

- CDE must ensure that ELL students participate in annual state assessments of reading and math proficiency. Those results must be included in making AYP determinations.
- CDE must ensure that the English language proficiency of all ELL students is assessed annually.
- CDE must ensure that, before the beginning of school, AYP determinations are made and all required Improvement, choice, and supplemental service communications are sent to parents.
- CDE must do a better job of ensuring, through monitoring, that LEAs are in compliance with all NCLB requirements such as comparability, LEA report cards, parental notifications, paraprofessional's requirements, parent's right to know provisions, and setasides, schoolwide and Improvement planning.
- CDE must establish a process for reallocation of Title I funds.
- CDE must establish a process for resolving complaints related to the Title I program.
- CDE must work with LEAs to ensure that applications for funding are submitted, reviewed, and approved more quickly.

CDE will place the full report and the Department's response on the "State and Federal Grants" website in the near future. In the meantime, CDE will work with the Title I Committee of Practitioners, school districts, and others in developing a reasonable plan of action to address the findings and recommendations of the U.S. Department of Education.

Colorado Department of Education
Office of Special Services
201 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203



Did you miss the last Buzz? Visit www.cde.state.co.us/index_funding.htm for a copy.

Concerns!!

Questions??

Comments

Do you want to be on the mailing list?

Contact Laura Hensinger at (303) 866-6675 or hensinger_l@cde.state.co.us