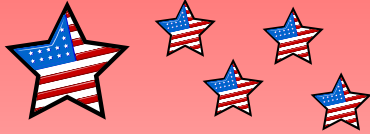




Title I News

July 2003



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Reading First Funded Schools

Congratulations to the schools listed below who will receive funding through the Reading First grant to strengthen their current reading curriculum and practices in the early grades. The intent of Reading First is to ensure that all children learn to read by the end of the third grade. Currently, teaching young children to read is the most critical educational priority facing our country.

In North Dakota, seventeen school districts applied for Reading First funding. Of these seventeen, six have been funded contingent on minor changes having to be made to their current application. These districts include:

- ★ Devils Lake Public School District.
- ★ Fargo Public School District.
- ★ Flasher Public School District.
- ★ LaMoure Public School District.
- ★ North Central Public School District in Rock Lake.
- ★ Park River Public School District.

The Department plans on offering another Request for Proposals (RFP) during the 2003-2004 school year. Please watch your Title I Newsletter and the Reading First website for further updates.

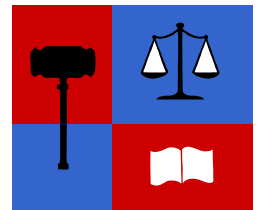
Notice to Adopt, Amend, and Repeal Administrative Rules

The Superintendent of Public Instruction is holding a public hearing on July 9, 2003 at 9:00 am. The meeting will be held in the Ft. Union Room of the State Capitol, 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota.

The intent of the meeting is to take public comment on proposed new, amended, and repealed sections of the North Dakota Administrative Code.

Changes to the North Dakota Administrative Code include:

- Speech language pathology paraprofessionals.
- Reading and mathematics credentials.
- Paraeducator certificate of completion.
- Amending organization of department.
- Repeal filing agreements made with federal agencies.
- Amending school bus rules (to allow use of vans).



The proposed rules may be viewed on the Department of Public Instruction's web page at www.dpi.state.nd.us/resource/rules/index.shtm. Written data, oral data, views, or arguments on the proposed rules will be fully considered if sent to the Department of Public Instruction or faxed to (701) 328-2461 on or before August 11, 2003.

Aide/Paraprofessional Update

You are all aware of the changes regarding aides/paraprofessionals as part of the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) requirements. These requirements now mandate that aides/paraprofessionals must meet one of three requirements to be employed in a Title I program. The reauthorized law requires all Title I aides/paraprofessionals hired after the date of enactment, January 8, 2002, to meet the requirements immediately. All aides that are employed by a school district and who were hired prior to the date of enactment have until July 2005 to fulfill one of the new requirements, which include:

- 1) obtain an associates degree (or higher); or
- 2) complete at least two years of study at an institution of higher education; or
- 3) meet a rigorous standard of quality, which includes an assessment of math, reading, and writing.

With the implementation of these new regulations, the State Title I office will be requiring Title I aides/paraprofessionals to document their compliance with this regulation. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is in the process of designing a certificate which will be issued to aides/paraprofessionals. This certification from the State Title I office will document that the aide/paraprofessional has met one of the three requirements as stated above. This certificate will be a requirement for all Title I aides/paraprofessionals in a targeted assistance setting and all instructional aides employed within the building in a schoolwide setting. Certification of these aides/paraprofessionals will be required in order for your school to have an approvable consolidated application. This certification process will go through the administrative rules process this month. The public hearing date is set for July 9, 2003 at 9:00 am in the Fort Union Room at the State Capitol.

The State Title I office has also been working with the two-year college consortium in North Dakota. Through a series of meetings, the two-year college consortium has put together a two-year degree and a certification program to provide aides/paraprofessionals with another way to meet the requirements under NCLB and to better prepare for the challenges they will meet in their profession. For further information on the degree or certification program, please contact any of the North Dakota two-year schools including: Bismarck State College, Lake Region State College, Minot State University-Bottineau, North Dakota State School of Science, and Williston State College.

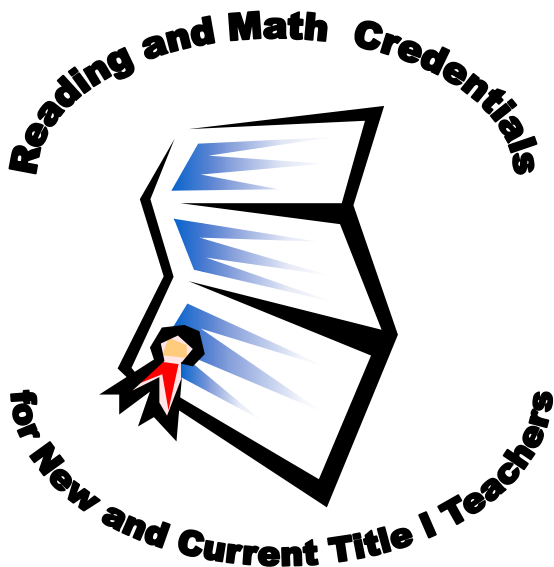


The Department has approved two assessments for meeting the testing requirement for aides/paraprofessionals under the *No Child Left Behind* Act. These assessments include the Praxis I exam and the HELP exam. The Department is also pursuing a third option, ParaPro, which will be added to the list in August 2003. This assessment is offered through the Educational Testing Service. During the 2003 Spring Title I regional workshops, the State Title I office requested recommendations of aides/paraprofessionals from the field who would be available to assist in setting the standards for this exam. From these recommendations, we selected a panel of individuals who will participate in a standard study that examines the assessment and assists in establishing the cut score for the assessment. This study will be held in Bismarck on July 10, 2003.

For questions regarding the Title I aide/paraprofessional requirement or the certification process, please visit the Title I website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/aides.shtm or call Nita Wirtz in the State Title I office at (701) 328-1876.

North Dakota Standards Project

Language arts and mathematics teachers from across North Dakota have been working for several months to transform the current grade-range benchmarks (K-4, 5-8, 9-12) into grade-by-grade benchmark expectations for grades K through 8, 10, and 12. The new benchmark expectations will guide development of the state assessment required under the *No Child Left Behind Act*. To date, the writing teams have met three times (March, May, and June) and have completed a draft of the benchmark expectations as well as checked for gaps and overlaps across grades K-12. The group will meet again in July of 2003 to write descriptions that define the “proficient” level of performance for the defined subtopics, which are clusters of benchmark expectations. The documents will be available for public review by early August 2003.



The State Title I office has updated the Title I Credential website.

A new link has been created outlining the requirements for new Title I teachers in obtaining a Title I credential. This link outlines the requirements for a Reading Credential, Math Credential, Secondary Generalist Credential, and Initial Credential. Log on to www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/require/read/new/index.shtm to assess this information.

Also on the State Title I website is a separate link containing credential information for existing Title I teachers. The link for this website is www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/require/read/index.shtm. Credentialing requirements for current Title I teachers will remain the same until July 1, 2006.

All Title I teachers will need to meet the requirements as outlined for new Title I teachers by July 1, 2006.

Reading Summer Institute Reminder

This is a reminder to all school personnel that the State Title I office is sponsoring a reading summer institute. This year's institute is entitled *Three R's for the 21st Century, Research Based Strategies for Reading, Writing, and Reasoning*.

This institute is being held at the Seven Seas in Mandan, ND on July 17-18, 2003. The deadline for registration is July 7, 2003.

Registration information for the reading summer institute can be found online at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/events.shtm or by contacting Nita Wirtz in the Title I office at (701) 328-1876.



Adequate Yearly Progress Update

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (DPI) had to submit state plans to the US Department of Education (USDE) in January and May of 2003. These plans can be accessed on the Title I website under the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) information link (www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthoriz/index.shtm). Most of the information submitted in both plans pertain to the assessment and adequate yearly progress provisions and how North Dakota planned to meet these requirements from the NCLB Act.

DPI has officially received a letter from Secretary Rod Paige informing us that the North Dakota state accountability plan has been approved. Most of the criteria was approved with minor changes in a few areas. There were two issues not approved that will affect North Dakota schools.

- North Dakota's proposed alpha level for statistical reliability was originally set at 99.9%. The USDE felt this level was set too high. An alpha of 99.0% was approved.
- North Dakota requested and was approved to use statistical reliability for attendance, graduation, and participation rates. Therefore, the USDE will not allow North Dakota to use the "safe harbor" provision for attendance and graduation rates.

DPI anticipates the receipt of electronic achievement results from the 2003 North Dakota State Assessment the first week of July. The Department will review the quality of the electronic data to correct any apparently errant demographic information. The Department will work closely with school districts to validate all corrected data and anticipates the initial cleaning of data to be completed by approximately August 1, 2003.

Provided all information is available and error free, the Department hopes to issue initial Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) reports for all schools and districts on August 1, 2003. Any school or district identified as not having met AYP will enter an automatic appeal process. This process entails an additional review to correct and validate any errant information that may affect a school or district's AYP status. The projected appeal process will span from August 1, 2003 to August 15, 2003.

Following the completion of appeals, the Department will issue the final statewide AYP reports for all schools and districts. It is anticipated that this final AYP report will be issued around August 15, 2003.


Please note that all schools are required by law to share and disseminate this information to parents and community members. Sample letters are available on the Title I website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthoriz/index.shtm.

Program Improvement Status Report

Under Title I law, schools that do not meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two consecutive years must be identified for program improvement. Currently in North Dakota, there are twenty-three schools that have been identified as program improvement schools. The first year of a school's identification, the school must submit an improvement plan that explains how the school plans to raise academic achievement scores as well as offer school choice within the district to the school's parents. If a school does not make AYP for an additional year, the school must continue to implement its improvement plan, offer school choice, and in addition, offer supplemental services to its highest poverty students.

When a school submits its required improvement plan to the State Title I office, this plan is reviewed by a state peer review team using an official scoring rubric. Training is going to be held on July 30, 2003 for the state peer review team. At the training, the team will revise the current rubric to align with the improvement plan requirements of the *No Child Left Behind* Act.

Currently, there are six state-approved supplemental services providers in North Dakota. The state is presently accepting applications for entities interested in becoming a North Dakota state-approved provider. Applications will be accepted until August 15, 2003. The Request for Proposals, Supplemental Services Application, as well as all other information on North Dakota program improvement, can be found on the Title I website under "Program Improvement" at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/progress/index.shtm.



Director's Corner

Summer is officially here and staff in the State Title I office will be busy reviewing consolidated applications throughout the summer and fall. Once a district's consolidated application has been approved, they will receive a grant award and an approval letter. In addition, feedback will be provided on the three Title I forms that were required to be submitted with the consolidated application. These forms include the Title I Parent Involvement Policy, the Student Selection Worksheet, and the Title I Report Card. Please check with your administrator in August to see if your district has received official notification and feedback on the application and these forms.

The first meeting of the legislative *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) oversight committee has been scheduled for July 8, 2003. The committee consists of six representatives and five senators. The committee will hear testimony from Department of Public Instruction staff on the implementation of the NCLB Act in North Dakota. In particular, the legislators will hear an overview of North Dakota's adequate yearly progress plan, a presentation of the rules relating to the reading and math credentials, and a description of the federal funding in the NCLB Act.

The State Title I office will be holding an IVN session on August 18, 2003 to update school personnel on the NCLB Act and other pertinent Title I issues. Agenda topics for the IVN session include: meeting the "highly qualified staff" provision, analyzing the 2003 Adequately Yearly Progress information, previewing the material in the August mailing, and additional Title I information. The IVN session will be broadcast at ten locations throughout the state. It has been scheduled for 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Registration forms and additional information will be mailed in August.

Reading First Training Sessions

All K-3 staff from districts that receive Reading First funds are required to attend the North Dakota Reading Academy. This academy was tentatively planned for the end of July. However, it has been postponed to allow time for a Train the Trainers workshop for the academy. The Reading Academy will be rescheduled during the 2003-2004 school year and will be a condensed version so it can be fit into one or two days. Next summer, the full four-day academy will be scheduled and K-3 staff of Reading First school buildings will be required to attend. More information on the dates will be provided at a later time.

Currently, there are two training sessions scheduled for August. *Train the Trainers for the North Dakota Reading Academy* is scheduled for August 4-8, 2003. *Train the Trainers for DIBELS* is scheduled for August 13-15, 2003. If you or anyone you know would be interested in training to be one of the trainers for the North Dakota Reading Academy or to be a trainer for the DIBELS, please contact Gail Burkett at (701) 328-2285 or gburkett@state.nd.us for more information. Those involved with the North Dakota Reading First program will be given priority, but anyone is welcome to request participation.

Great Internet Resources for North Dakota Teachers!

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| ★ Department of Public Instruction
www.dpi.state.nd.us | ★ North Dakota Teacher Center Network
www.sendit.nodak.edu/tcn |
| ★ North Dakota MarcoPolo
www.marcopolo.k12.nd.us | ★ North Dakota LEAD Center
www.ndlead.org |
| ★ North Dakota Curriculum Initiative
www.ndsu.edu/ndci/index.php | ★ North Dakota Education Association
www.ndea.org |
| ★ North Dakota Reading Association
http://ndreadon.utma.com/intro.htm | ★ Education Standards and Practices Board
www.state.nd.us/espb/default.htm |
| ★ North Dakota Parents and Supportive Schools
www.pathfinder.minot.com/index2.html | ★ North Dakota Council of Teachers of Mathematics
www.sendit.nodak.edu/ndctm |

