



**NJDOE Advisory Committee for Federally Funded Programs (ACFFP)  
Meeting Notes  
Friday, January 20, 023**

**TICOP Members in Attendance**

Amanda Adams, Marita Bivans, Block-Ropiecki, Corine Meredith Brown , Gerry Crisonino, Tatsiana DaGrosa, Diahann DeRuggiero, Linda DiGiacomo, Connie Drakeobrien, Kasey Dudley, Victoria Duff, Barbara Evans, Amy Fratz, Karla Fratz, Rosie Grant, Robyn Ivanisik, James Knipper, Wanda Knox, Charles Kolinofsky, Janina Kusielewicz, Jeannine Lanphear, Suzanne McCottes , Michael Patron, Brenda Patterson, Regina Postogna, Thomas Puryear, Michelle Redd, Madeline Roman, Carroll Sanchez, Bickram Singh, Liane Stone-Ingalls, Mercedes Tellez-Gil, Stephenie Tidwell

**NJDOE Staff in Attendance**

Kelly Allen, Shawanda Beale, Cierra Belin, John Boczany, Cary Booker, Cierra Belin, , Eileen Burch, Antoinette Caldwell-Wong, Tamira Chapman, Clark Coe, Christopher Cox, Kate Czehut, Tonia Davis, Jill Dobrowansky, Kathy Ehling, Aida Epifanio, Leslie Franks-McRae, Barbara Haake, John Iko, Ginger Klosinski, Jacquelyn Leon, Lisa McCormick, Jessica Merville, Ginger Klosinski, Susan Naples, Lisa McCormick, Dianna Pasculli, Peggy Porche, Luiz Pereira, Barbara Pugh, Jamar Purnsley, Lori Ramella, Maria Romero, Daniel Sackner, Lisa Sansome, Dorothea Specht, Francine Stromberg, Saba Suleman, Andrea Sunderville, Phoebe Thomas, Brenda Patterson-Toppin, Kim Walker, Azan Wardell, Wendi Webster-O'Dell, Rebecca Wills. A. Charles Wright

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was conducted via Microsoft TEAMS.

**Call to Order**

Dr. A. Charles Wright, Executive Director/Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Division of Educational Services, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m., with the following quote:

“By passing this bill, we bridge the gap between helplessness and hope for more than 5 million educationally deprived children.

We put into the hands of our youth more than 30 million new books, and into many of our schools their first libraries.

We reduce the terrible time lag in bringing new teaching techniques into the Nation's classrooms.

We strengthen State and local agencies which bear the burden and the challenge of better education.

And we rekindle the revolution--the revolution of the spirit against the tyranny of ignorance.

As a son of a tenant farmer, I know that education is the only valid passport from poverty.

As a former teacher--and, I hope, a future one--I have great expectations of what this law will mean for all of our young people.

As President of the United States, I believe deeply no law I have signed or will ever sign means more to the future of America”.

Lyndon B. Johnson, Remarks in Johnson City, Tex., Upon Signing the Elementary and Secondary Education Bill. April 11, 1965

### **Welcome delivered by**

Ms. Kathleen Ehling, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Services

Ms. Ehling opened by welcoming everyone to the first meeting for 2023 and wished everyone in attendance a Happy New Year. Ms. Ehling pointed out the agenda which was jam packed with information for the members to take back and share with their colleagues. Speaking for the DOE team, assembled, she said, “We are very excited to share with you all the wonderful work being done and look forward to a robust discussion today”.

### **Review of September 23, 2023, TICOP Meeting Highlights**

Dr. A. Charles Wright  
Executive Director/Deputy Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Services

The September 23, 2022, meeting notes were sent out in advance electronically for members to review. Dr Wright asked that all questions, comments, and concerns be addressed using the chat feature.

### **Discussion:**

#### **Proposed TICOP Name Change Results**

Dr. A. Charles Wright  
Executive Director/Deputy Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Services

Dr. Wright presented to those in attendance, a review of the votes casted in favor of a name change (25/49). As a result of the votes casted, the new name of the Title I Committee of Practitioners (TICOP) is now the NJDOE Advisory Committee for Federally Funded Programs (ACFFP). The email address now reflects the current name change [ACFF@doe.nj.gov](mailto:ACFF@doe.nj.gov).

#### **Bipartisan Safer Communities Grant**

Ms. Antoinette Caldwell-Wong,  
EPDS/Title IIA & IVA Coordinator  
Office of Supplemental Educational Programs

Ms. Caldwell-Wong provided the group with an overview of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BISCA), Stronger Connections Grant. The BISCA of 2022, provides historic funding to support state educational agencies, local educational agencies, and establishing safe, healthy, and supportive learning opportunities and environments. This included a \$1 billion through Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), known as Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). It is worth noting, New Jersey’s share is \$20,905.551 with at least 95% distributed to high needs local educational agencies (LEAs) through a competitive Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO).

For more information, see slides **.8-16** from the attached slide deck

## **Chapter 15-Bilingual Code**

Ms. Jacquelyn Leon, Education Specialist  
Office of Supplemental Educational Programs

Ms. Leon shared with those in attendance an overview of the amendments and readoption of N.J.A.C. 6A:15. Some of the proposed amendments are a responsive approach to shifts occurring in education. To include definitions, identification broadened to include preschool students as Multilingual learners (ML), Program Design elements, and Educator Capacity.

For more information, see slides **.18-36** from the attached slide deck

## **Professional Resources – Book Review**

Dr. Maurita Bivans, ACFFP Member Emeritus

Dr. Bivans shared information on two new professional references she discovered during the summer of 2022. The books and authors were presented at an international conference with the theme, Children Trauma and Stress. While attending this conference Dr. Bivans discovered two professional books she wanted to share with the group:

- *Ordinary Magic: Resilience and Development* by Ann Masten. Dr Masten is a Regents Professor of Child Studies at the Institute of Child Development at the University of Minnesota.
- *Responsive Collaboration for IEP and 504 Teams* by Albert Johnson-Mussad and Lauren Pelter

For more information, see slides **.38-41** from the attached slide deck

## **Federal Update**

Ms. Aida Epifanio, Federal Liaison  
Office of Strategic Operations

Ms. Epifanio reported to the committee that President Biden signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, in December 2022: This law provides federal funding for FY2023. Included was, \$18.4 billion for Title I grants; \$14.2 billion for special education grants to states; \$1.4 billion for career and technical education state grants, \$111 million for school mental health grants; \$150 million for full-service community schools; investments in support of a diverse and well-prepared educator workforce.

For more information, see slides **43-49** from the attached slide deck

## **ESEA Implementation**

### **Title I, Part D**

Ms. Francine Stromberg, Coordinator  
Office of Fiscal and Data Services

Title I, Part D: Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth who are Neglected, Delinquent or At Risk (N or D) . This grant is intended to improve educational services for children and youth in local, tribal, and state institutions who are neglected or delinquent children and youth, so they may have the opportunity to meet the same challenging state academic standards that all children in the state are expected to meet.

Ms. Stromberg emphasized the intended uses for Title I, Part D programs and projects that are:

- consistent with the state plan.
- provide participants with the knowledge and skills need to successfully advance their education, career and technical education, or employment.

This presentation included a short video which showcase a certified construction course housed in a juvenal detention center.

For more information, see slides .52-64 from the attached slide deck

### **Accountability and Performance**

Mr. John Iko, Analyst

Office of Performance Management

Mr. Iko began by presenting bit of background, New jerseys, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA) state plan outlines the use of median student growth percentiles (MGPS) as the measure of academic progress in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Math for the 2021-2022 school year for grades three through eight. In other words, non-high schools, because data is not available to calculate MSG's for the 2021-2022 school year. In addition, Mr. Iko, provided an updated timeline for both the school performance reports and the ESSA School Support Identification Release. The performance reports are currently being updated for the 2021-2022 school year, and they'll include assessment and accountability data once again. The last time this data was updated was for the 2018-2019 release. The reports are expected to be released on a similar timeline as in the last few years, approximately in April.

For more information, see slides .66-69 from the attached slide deck

### **Assessments**

Mr. John Boczany

Office of Assessments

Mr. Boczany began by mentioning the Fall 2022 Start Strong Individual Student Reports (ISRs) arrived in district by December 12, 2022, distribution to parent/guardians by January 12, 2023, with the deadline to present to their local BOE, February 13, 2023.

The Spring 2023 Assessment schedule is available on the Assessment website at

[Statewide Assessment Testing Schedule 2022-23](#)

For more information, see slides .71-76 from the attached slide deck

**Meeting ended at 12:09 pm**

**Next Meeting, Friday, March 17, 2023**

