



**NJDOE Advisory Committee for Federally Funded Programs (ACFFP)
Meeting Notes
Friday, March 17, 023**

ACFFP Members in Attendance

Lorraine Aklonis, Marita Bivans, Block-Ropiecki, Gerry Crisonino, Linda DiGiacomo, Vincent DeLucia, Kasey Dudley, Victoria Duff, Barbara Evans, Amy Fratz, Karla Fratz, Candy Fredericks, Rosie Grant, William Kimmick, James Knipper, Wanda Knox, Charles Kolinofsky, Janina Kusielewicz, Celeste Merriweather, Heather Mills-Pevonis, Michael Patron, Brenda Patterson, -Toppin, Regina Postogna, Thomas Puryear, Michelle Redd, Carroll Sanchez, Vincent Schmidt, . Bickram Singh, Liane Stone-Ingalls, Stephenie Tidwell, Ana Washington, Corey Wolkenberg, Jennifer Yanucil

NJDOE Staff in Attendance

Kelly Allen, Clare Barrette, Shawanda Beale, Eileen Burch, Susan Bruder, Antoinette Caldwell-Wong, Maria Casale, Kate Czehut, Jill Dobrowansky, Michelle Dohrenwend, Kathy Ehling, Aida Epifanio, Kimberly Friddell, Leslie Franks-McRae, Barbara Haake, John Iko, Lisa McCormick, Jessica Merville, Dianna Pasculli, Luiz Pereira, Barbara Pugh Lori Ramella, Maria Romero, Daniel Sackner, Lisa Sansome, Saba Suleman, Andrea Sunderville, Phoebe Thomas, Constance Webster, Wendi Webster-O'Dell, Rebecca Wills. A. Charles Wright

Guest/Proxies

Asanti Nicholas for Diahann DeRuggiero

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 10:36 a.m., with the following quote:

“The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) was a Great Society program enacted in 1965 that allocates federal funding for primary and secondary school education. Additionally, this Act also provides a mechanism to hold schools accountable as well as increase equitable opportunities in education nationally, who is covered under this Legislation.

Who is covered under this Act?

The children of low-income families, particularly rural, Native American, neglected, migrant, homeless and English learners. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act further aims to provide for their long-term welfare by improving efforts in these funded schools to include available resources.

Moreover, in 1965, when this Act became law, there was a large “achievement gap” stratified by race and poverty. To this end, the provisions of this act aims to close the achievement gap by setting benchmarks and goals to measure the progress of students.”

Welcome delivered by

Ms. Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Ms. Ehling began by wishing everyone in attendance a Happy Saint Patrick's Day. She went to quote Irish proverb, “May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow and may trouble avoid you wherever you go”, and hopefully you find your pot of gold today.

Review of January 20, 2023, TICOP Meeting Highlights

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

The January 20, 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.

Federal Update

Ms. Aida Epifanio, Federal Liaison
Office of Strategic Operations

Ms. Epifanio began with an overview of her presentation with a reminder of the fast-approaching deadline for ESSER funds, update from Secretary Cardona, a few of the National K12 supports, highlights of work being done at the New Jersey Department of Education and an update on the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act introduced at the January Meeting.

For more information, see slides **8 - 15** from the attached slide deck

Office of Supplemental Educational Programs

Ms. Leslie Franke-McRae, Director
Division of Educational Programs

Mrs. Franks-McRae, shared highlights from the recent conference for the National Association of ESSA State Program Administrators. In addition, the group heard from Ms. Phoebe Thomas, State McKinney Vento, and Migrant Coordinator, briefed the group on the 2022 Federal Monitoring Review, and Ms. Andrea Sunderville, Title I, Part A Coordinator, shared ways the members of this group may share their expertise by volunteering to serve on upcoming committees.

For more information, see slides **17 - 28** from the attached slide deck

Proposal to Collect Student Participation in Title I, Part A Programs

Dr. Katherine Czehut, Director
Division of Educational Services

Dr. Czehut, presented Phase I, of a proposal to collect students' participation information for Title I, Part A programs. She stressed the importance of feedback the NJDOE will glean to include meaningful information on students who participate in and are served by Title I, Part A programs.

For more information, see slides **31 - 37** from the attached slide deck

ESEA Implementation

Grants Management

Mr. Martin Egan, Director
Division of Finance and Business Services
Ms. Jill Dobrowansky, Planning Associate
Division of Finance and Business Services

Ms. Dobrowansky, reminded those present and by way of the meeting notes some very important dates such as the ESSER 2, also known as CARISSA funds will expire September 2023. Any amendments are due by July 15th. The reimbursement request deadline is set for September 15th which is in line with the process for the majority of the federal programs with regards to due dates. Please note, the liquidation period ends for this grant typically on October 15th; however, this year it falls on a Sunday therefore the date has been changed to the Friday before October 13th. Please be on the lookout for upcoming broadcast with updated information on final expenditure reports.

For more information, see slides **39 - 41** from the attached slide deck

School Performance Report Update

Ms. Jessica Merville
Division of Educational Services

Ms. Merville informed the group of the upcoming release of the 20221-2022 School performance Reports scheduled for April. The report will be opened for district review starting Monday, March 20, 2023, to March 31, 2023, at which time districts will have two weeks to review the report. Please note, these will be the first report that include assessment and accountability results since 2018-2019.

For more information, see slides **43 - 44** from the attached slide deck

Collaborative Monitoring

Ms. Lisa McCormick, Director
Office of Discal Accountability and Compliance

Ms. McCormick reported the beginning of the collaborative monitoring cycle for fiscal year 2023 on March 7, 2023. She went on to say, monitoring of federal programs is a highly valuable form of technical assistance for the districts selected in terms of the selections process and the intensive support they receive. As well as gain this year a total of nine LEAs were identified using the assessment tool presented previously. A total of seven school districts and two charter schools were identified and notified on

January 13, 2023. In terms of the monitoring visit, they typically last three to four days. At this time, it is expected that the monitoring visits will conclude by June 30, 2023.

For more information, see slides 46 - 50 from the attached slide deck

Office of Comprehensive Support

Ms. Eileen Burch

Division of Field and Support Services

The Office of Comprehensive Support (OCS), in accordance with New Jersey's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan, NJDOE differentiates support by grouping districts into three levels. OCS provides Level three support, which is defined as on-site support for districts with Comprehensive and Targeted schools. This is achieved primarily by deploying field support teams with expertise in instructional leadership, data-driven action planning, and cycles of continuous improvement guided by a growth mindset. The presentation that followed provided more detailed overview to include:

- ESEA Timeline Summary
- Federal Waivers
- Accountability Indicators
- Drivers of School Identification
- Exit Criteria: TSI
- Notifications and Outreach
- Exiting CSI School Requirements
- Newly Identified Schools
- Title I, SIA Deadlines
- Program Supports

For more information, see slides 52 - 88 from the attached slide deck

Collaborative Federal Desk Monitoring

Ms. Barbara Haake, Manager

Office of Fiscal and Data Services

The Uniform Grant Guidance at 2 C.F.R. § 200.331(b) requires that pass-through entities such as NJDOE evaluate each subrecipient's risk of noncompliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the sub-award. Additionally, under 2 C.F.R. § 200.331(d), NJDOE must monitor the activities of the subrecipient as necessary to ensure that the sub-award is used for authorized purposes, in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the sub-award.

Further, under 2 C.F.R. § 200.303(a), non-Federal entities must establish and maintain effective internal control over the Federal award that provides reasonable assurance that the non-Federal entity is managing the Federal award in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the Federal award.

The goal of this presentation is to:

- Review the Federal monitoring requirements.
- Provide an overview of the Risk Assessment Tool.
- Review the desk monitoring process; and
- Provide answers to any outstanding questions

For more information, see slides **52 - 88** from the attached slide deck

Meeting ended at 12:34 pm

Next Meeting, Friday, May 19, 2023