



**NJDOE Advisory Committee for Federally Funded Programs (ACFFP)
Meeting Notes
Friday, May 19, 2023**

ACFFP Members in Attendance

Amanda Adams, Lorraine Aklonis, Maurita Bivans, Block-Ropiecki, Gerry Crisonino, Tatsiana DaGrosa, Diahann DeRuggiero, Linda DiGiacomo, Vincent DeLucia, Amy Fratz, Karla Fratz, Candy Fredericks, Robyn Ivanisik, James Knipper, Wanda Knox, Charles Kolinofsky, Jeannine Lanphear, Celeste Merriweather, Regina Postogna, Michelle Redd, Bickram Singh, Liane Stone-Ingalls, Stephenie Tidwell,

NJDOE Staff in Attendance

Kelly Allen, Clare Barrett, 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, Phoebe Thomas, Constance Webster, Wendi Webster-O'Dell, Rebecca Wills. A. Charles Wright

Guest/Proxies

Linda Reid in for Rosie Grant

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:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act was signed into law on April 11, 1955, by President Lyndon Baines Johnson, who believed that full educational opportunity should be our first national goal. "You can find the worst condition that you run into in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, or South Carolina, and if you could just take that one illustration and get it on radio and get it on television and get it in the pulpit's, get it in meetings, get it, and get it in every place you can. Pretty soon, the fellow that didn't do anything but follow will say, well, that's not fair. " President Lyndon B. Johnson to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. , January 15, 1955, which shortly thereafter led to President Johnson's crusade on the War on Poverty, ultimately leading to the enactment of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Welcome delivered by

Ms. Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Ms. Ehling began by commenting, "I can't believe this is our last meeting for the year." She went on to address the assembled by saying, we very much appreciate everyone taking time out of their busy day to be here with us this morning, we're very excited to present another robust agenda of items to share with you, to include some areas where we need your feedback. So once again, thank you very much for being here with us today and we look forward to an engaging conversation.

Review of March 17, 2023, ACFFP Meeting Highlights

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

The March 17, 2023, meeting notes were sent out in advance electronically for members to review. Dr Wright acknowledged advanced feedback received from Ms. Wanda Knox. He then asked the assembled body if there were any questions, comments, or concerns. If so, he asked for them to be entered into the chat feature to be addressed/amended; subsequently, filed accordingly.

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 expenditures, update on President Biden's budget request for the U.S. Department of Education for FY 2024, update on Raise the Bar Lead the World: USED's vision and priorities for 2023, For more information, list of SY 22-23 National K-12 Supports, and shared the news that six New Jersey Students were named 2023 U.S. Presidential Scholars (please see slides 7- 13 from the attached slide deck).

Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Ms. Lisa Haberl, Executive Director

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) plans to submit an amendment to Section D.1 of the State's ARP ESSER plan to the United States Department of Education (USDE) to fund foundational literacy initiatives for early learners.

The NJDOE welcomes your thoughts and feedback for the purposes of gathering public commentary and on the proposed amendment (please see slides 15-20 from the attached slide deck).

ESSA Implementation**ESEA Nonpublic Consultation**

Dr. Constance Webster, ESEA Nonpublic Ombudsman
Office of Nonpublic School Services

Division of Field Support and Services

The goal of consultation is to come to an agreement between the local educational agencies and nonpublic school officials on how to provide equitable and effective programs for eligible nonpublic school children, staff, and families. The NJDOE has provided the LEAs and nonpublic school personnel all the necessary resources for successful consultations on our website at [Nonpublic Equitable Services \(nj.gov\)](https://www.nj.gov/education/essanj/) (please see slides **23-28** from the attached slide deck)

Office of Supplemental Educational Programs

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

The team introduced the updated NJ ESSA Website located on the NJDOE's website at <https://www.nj.gov/education/essanj/> where you can find the new Technical Assistance Request Form, information on Student Records and Rights, as well as ESEA Programs. In addition, the site provides information on the new Office Hours, dates and time listed for more information relative to specific topics. (please see slides **30-33** from the attached slide deck).

ESEA Complaint Policy Ad Hoc Committee Update. (please see slides **35** from the attached slide deck).

School Performance Report Update

Ms. Jessica Merville, Director
Division of Educational Services
Office of Performance Management

School Performance Reports for the 2021-2022 school year were released on April 5, 2023. The reports included all data available prior to the pandemic, except for median student growth percentiles (mSGPs). The NJDOE expects to resume reporting on mSGPs in the 2022-2023 reports. The 2021-2022 reports link to the alternate growth measure (RSIM) used for 2021-2022 accountability. While some data are comparable to pre-pandemic performance, other data elements continue to be impacted. The NJDOE recommends caution in comparing data from 2019-2020 to 2021-2022 across years. (please ee slides **37-50** from the attached slide deck0.

Office of Assessment

Mr. John Boczany, Director

With the successful reinstatement of the NJSLA in the Spring of 2022, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) discontinued the Start Strong Assessments effective Fall 2023. NJDOE is grateful to the education community for their partnership in successfully implementing the Start Strong assessment over this period. The official notification was sent out on March 22, 2023 by NJDOE Broadcast which may be viewed at [Discontinuation of Start Strong Assessments](#)

Mr. Boczany introduced the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) which began in 1969 and administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). He further mentioned that schools and students are randomly selected. Please note, Title I schools MUST participate per National

Education Statistics Act of 1994. For more information on topics such as test content, parent resources and practice tests go to the [New Jersey Assessments Resource Center](#)

Meeting ended at 11:4 3am

Next Meeting, Friday, September 22, 2023