



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Advisory Committee for Federally Funded Programs (ACFFP) Meeting Notes September 22, 2023

ACFFP Members in Attendance

Amanda Adams, Carla Block-Ropiecki, Maurita Bivans, Corine Brown, Bridgette Burt, Tatsiana DaGrosa, Diahann DeRuggiero, Linda DiGiacomo, Connie Drakeobrien, Amy Fratz, Karla Fratz, Robyn Ivanisik, James Knipper, Wanda Knox, Charles Kolinofsky, Janina Kusielewicz, Jeannine Lanphear, Phillis Lewis, Celeste Merriweather, Michael Patron, Brenda Patterson, -Toppin, Regina Postogna, Thomas Puryear, Michelle Redd, Sharon Roseboro, Bickram Singh, Liane Stone-Ingalls, Mercedes Tellez-Gill, Ana Washington, Jennifer Yanucil

Guest/Proxy

Linda Reid for Rosie Grant

NJDOE Staff in Attendance

Kelly Allen, Clare Barrette, John Bozany, Shawanda Beale, Eileen Burch, Susan Bruder, Marianne Cappello, Clark Coe, Katherine Czehut, Jill Dobrowansky, Michelle Dohrenwend, Kathy Ehling, Aida Epifanio, Leslie Franks-McRae, Barbara Haake, John Iko, Dianna Pasculli, Barbara Pugh, Lori Ramella, Maria Romero, Leslie Sansone, Crystal Siniari, Francine Stromberg, Saba Suleman, Constance Webster, A. Charles Wright

This meeting was conducted both in-person at the LRC Central and 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 9:31 a.m.

Greetings delivered by

Ms. Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Ms. Ehling thanked everyone for taking time out of their busy schedule to join the meeting, in-person or remotely. She emphasized the importance of the work of the committee and pointed out the information packed agenda for this meeting.

Acknowledgement of the Passing of Ms. Andrea Sunderville

Dr. A. Charles Wright
Executive Director/Deputy Assistant Commissioner

Ms. Andrea Marie Sunderville, Title I Coordinator, Office of Supplemental Educational Programs, Division of Student Support Services, passed away on July 1, 2023. In her role as Title I Coordinator, she retained a wealth of knowledge and information, which she shared freely. When anyone speaks of Andrea one common statements is echoed, "she was always so helpful to me." Andrea, graduated from both Penn State University and University of Pennsylvania - with her

doctorate in education - graduating summa cum laude. Andrea will be remembered for her love of education and M&Ms. She will forever be in our hearts. (See tribute slides 6-11)

Review of May 19, 2023, ACFFP Meeting Highlights

Dr. A. Charles Wright

Executive Director/Deputy Assistant Commissioner

Division of Educational Services

The May 19, 2022, meeting notes were sent out in advance electronically for members to review. The floor was opened for questions and/or comments from those attendees in the room, as well as those joining the meeting via TEAMS be addressed using the chat feature. We would like to thank Ms. Wanda Knox for her advance review and comments on the meeting notes.

With no objections the notes were entered into the records as approved.

Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Review

Dr. A. Charles Wright

Executive Director/Deputy Assistant Commissioner

Division of Educational Services

The purpose of the sub-committees is to help guide us through the process of self-evaluation. Members will be asked to review existing procedures and protocol to provide suggestions as well as feedback, with a focus on improving the process. There are no committees forming at this time, however ACFFP members are asked to volunteer to participate in any committees as the need arises.

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, information on USDE Fiscal Sustainability Resources, highlights from the Raise the Bar efforts in New Jersey, announcing the NJ's 2023 National Blue-Ribbon Schools and information on the SY 22-23 K-12 supports. (See slides 14-20) For more information, see slides **8 - 15** from the attached slide deck.

ESSA Consolidated State Plan: Upcoming Revision Project

Ms. Diana Pasculli, Executive Director

Office of the Assistant Commissioner

Division of Educational Services

Ms. Pasculli provided an introduction and update on the work being done by the Department on updating and revision of the ESSA State Plan and the culture of support. She was joined by Mr. John Iko, who spoke on ESSA Accountability and Proposals. (See slides 24-39 for more details)

ESEA Implementation

Title I, Part D

Ms. Francine Stromberg, Coordinator

Office of Fiscal & Data Services

Ms. Stromberg began by presenting the Title I, Part D program goals for children and youth in local, tribal, and State institutions who are neglected or delinquent. She continues by reminding those in attendance of the allowable use of funds in subparts 1 and 2. In addition, Ms. Stromberg shared the FY23-24 Title I, Part D allocation. Finally, information was shared on the FY23 monitoring and follow-up monitoring review. (For more information see slides 44-51)

Fall 2023 Graduation and Accountability Report Update

Ms. Jessica Merville, Director

Mr. John Iko, Data Analysis

Office of Performance Management
Division of Educational Services

Mr. Iko presented the 2023 Graduation Rate Update by using a flow chart to show the progression from August to November 2023 reports and deadlines. With November 2023 set for the release of district final graduation rate report in NJSMART. In addition, he outlined the 2022-2023 ESSA accountability process. He also pointed out that the NJDOE receive approval through the COVID-19 State Plan Addendum for a one-time change to the identification timeline which allows the NJDOE to identify schools for CSI and ATSI status in both fall 2022 and fall 2023 instead of every three years. (See slides 55-58 for more information)

Nita M. Lowery 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Dr. Shawanda Beale, Assistant Division Director and
State Coordinator

Office of Student Support Services
Division of Educational Services

Dr. Beale began by introducing her team and offering a overview of the Nita M. Lowery 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) , program expatiations, and eligibility requirements, Dr. Beale also touched on 23-24 grantee data and the availability of the free toolkit developed by the NJ School Age Child-Care Coalition with information needed to assist school district leaders to partner with qualify afterschool providers. (See slides 63-68 for more information)

Federal Grants Update

Ms. Jill Dobrowansky, Planning Associate
Office of Grants Management
Division of Business and Finance Services

Ms. Dobrowansky began with a review of the FY23 Final Expenditure Reports, a reminder that the ARP-ESSER III amendments and reimbursement request remain open until 023. (See slides 72-74) Note: Slides 72 through 74 were updated after the meeting.

Meeting ended at 11:34 pm

Next Meeting, Friday, January 26, 2024