



# The Communicator

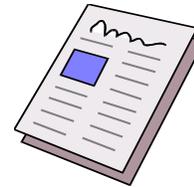
Title Programs & Services E-Newsletter

Issue 17

February, 2010

## Purpose of "The Communicator"

The Communicator is a monthly e-newsletter produced by the Title Programs and Services Team at the Kansas State Department of Education. The purpose of the e-newsletter is to provide information regarding: the implementation of No Child Left Behind in Kansas, Local Consolidated Programs, Service Learning, AmeriCorps and upcoming deadlines and events. Schools and districts will be notified of the e-newsletter around the first of the month and it will be posted on the Title Programs and Services website.



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### Kansas Has Connections!

Judi Miller, one of the assistant directors on the Title Programs and Services team, is the newly installed President for the National Title I Association. This Association is the one in which all State Title I Directors belong. The Association is dedicated to improving and implementing the Title I program so that more children reach their academic potential. The Association provides educational leaders at the state and local levels with the opportunity to work together to share ideas on effective and innovative programs, identify problems and solutions, and represent the needs of Title I families. As the president, Judi will work closely with the US Department of Education and other Title I Directors on issues relating to the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.



Judi was also the Chairperson for the recent 2010 National Title I Conference. She opened the conference and later introduced key presenters including Secretary Arne Duncan and Assistant Secretaries Alexa Posny (former Kansas Commissioner of Education) and Thelma Melendez.

### Things are Changing!!!

"We change, whether we like it or not"

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

#### Six changes that you have heard or will be hearing about....

1. There has been a **change of expectations** for school improvement grants. KSDE has been working with districts and schools on improvement on formulating the new requirements that will be in place on July 1, 2010.
2. The target for graduation rate in Kansas will **change** in the 2010-2011 school year. After the state plan is approved, Kansas will work with districts to communicate new expectations.
3. The Kansas Board of Education is **contemplating changing** state graduation requirements and a survey will go out in the near future to districts.
4. There has been some **changes** in how Kansas will address ELL issues. It is important that districts attend the ELL meeting in Wichita on 16<sup>th</sup>. More on this is in the newsletter.
5. A **large change** from the Department of Education that Drug Free School (Title IV) has been zeroed out for the 2010-2011 school year. Please plan accordingly!
6. The Migrant Data System has **changed** and actually this is very positive!

Over 3700 participants came together at the 2010 National Title I Conference in Washington, DC in late January to celebrate Distinguished Title I Schools; learn from experts, researchers and practitioners; network with colleagues; meet with the US Department of Education staff; and hear from the administration and Congress. The theme of the Title I Conference was *Capitalize Student Achievement*. Sessions focused on instruction for all students, leadership for school improvement and policy for improved student achievement. The National Association of State Title I Directors sponsored the conference. Following are some highlights and information from the conference.

**Data, Data Everywhere** was a presentation by Victoria Bernhardt that focused on the story of one school's achievements by looking at data together to bring about continuous school improvement. The elementary school, Marilyn Avenue, located in Southern California, experienced an explosion in their Hispanic and Free/Reduced Populations, were not making AYP, had a school culture that was resistant to change and the school lacked focus and instructional coherence. Through Bernhardt's continuous improvement planning process, the school staff analyzed multiple measures of data, developed a vision, engaged in schoolwide professional learning in assessment and professional learning, began using common formative assessments, and formed collaborative teams. They created a portfolio to house their data, vision, and plan and saw extraordinary school improvement. Through allowing the school to engage in their own continuous improvement efforts and establishing their own framework, they saw tremendous gains. The continuous school improvement process can be found on our website under resources at: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=404>.

- Carla Payette

## Reauthorization Wheels Are Starting to Turn

The reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act is beginning. Focus groups representing numerous organizations, federal program offices and advocacy groups have been taking place. Information is being gathered by these groups and the United States Department of Education will soon present to congress their recommendations. These recommendations **may** include the following themes: 1) Continue to raise the achievement bar and narrow the gap for all students, 2) tighten the goals but allow more flexibility in attaining them, 3) design a culture of innovation and excellence, 4) recognize, reward and bring success to scale, and 5) foster equity, opportunity and reform by supporting reform at the school, district and state levels.

These themes are being supported by the following pillars: rigorous standards and assessment, effective teachers and leaders, effective use of data, and transformation models. This is only the beginning of the process but they are hopeful that it will be completed by the start of the 2010-11 school year.

- Norma Cregan

## Secretary Arne Duncan Addresses the Conference

Secretary Duncan was the keynote speaker on the second day of the National Title I Conference. This is the first Title I conference in which the Secretary of Education appeared in person. He talked about the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and his vision for education. He said we have to ensure that our students are college and career ready when they graduate from high school. He talked about having accountability based on a growth model; the importance of effective teachers and having resources go to the schools and districts that are willing to make the changes.

He emphasized that we can't wait for reforms; we have unprecedented resources and have to use them now to make a difference. Some schools need dramatic changes as there are too many students not achieving.

- Judi Miller/Teresa White

## Using Title I to Rethink the Kansas State's System of School and District Support: The Kansas Learning Network (KLN)

Scott Jofus, the co-founder and president of Cross & Jofus and the developer and director of the KS Learning Network facilitated a session on how the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) partnered with five districts last year (Cohort 1) and Cross & Jofus, LLC to form the Kansas Learning Network to create a more productive, positive relationship between the state department and its most struggling districts. Two additional cohorts have been created for the current school year. Presentations were presented by two Kansas school districts, Turner and Leavenworth. Both districts highlighted their reasons for joining the KLN Network, their demographics, and some of the ways they're utilizing the KLN appraisal results. Some of the reasons both districts gave for joining are that KLN:

- provides assistance vs. compliance
- provides an outside, non-biased, legitimate critique of the district's strengths and challenges
- bolsters current leadership vision and change
- strengthens the district's coherence through collaboration, support, professional development and technical assistance
- provides a critical friends process
- validates the district's work
- assists the district in planning for additional improvement

Colleen Riley, Director of Special Education Services (SES) at KSDE, also gave information on the Kansas IDEA State Performance Plan (SPP) and the SPP Public Report posted annually on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Districts are able to review trend data starting with 2006-07 data. A number of KLN districts are addressing special education issues as a result of their appraisal visits.

- Pat Hill

### Wow! What a Way to Start a Conference!

Ron Clark who is a teacher, presenter and author opened the National Title I Conference with his keynote *Teaching through Adversity—Facing Challenges and Making a Difference*. He was wonderful! He shared his journey of teaching in rural North Carolina to inner-city Harlem in New York City. By believing that all students can achieve at the highest levels and then teaching to those high levels and building relationships based on civility, Ron Clark's students have made outstanding growth, conducted projects that gained worldwide attention and were invited to the White House three times to be honored by the President. Ron Clark was named Disney's American Teacher of the Year and Oprah Winfrey called him a "Phenomenal Man." He shared a video clip of his students which was great. Visit YouTube to see it clips of Ron and his students. Ron with his uplifting story and energy motivated the conference participants and set the tone for a positive experience.

- Judi Miller



### Celebrating Title I Distinguished Schools!

**Congratulations** to Fairview Elementary with USD 233 Olathe and Pauline South Intermediate with USD 437 Auburn-Washburn! These two Kansas schools were recognized as Title I Distinguished Schools at the 2010 National Title I Conference. Pauline South Intermediate was recognized for having exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years. Fairview Elementary was honored for closing the achievement gap between student groups. Each school had a team attend the conference which opened with them marching in the Title I Distinguished Schools Parade. At the Distinguished Schools luncheon, Dr. Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana shared her story with the honorees. The team from Fairview Elementary also presented at one of the Distinguished Schools sessions. Thank you for the great work you are doing with your students!

- Judi Miller



### Save the Date! Mark Your Calendars!

The 2011 National Title I Conference is January 31-February 3, 2011 in Tampa, Florida. The theme of the conference is *Innovate!* The conference website ([www.nationaltitleconference.com](http://www.nationaltitleconference.com)) will open in April with registration information and requests for presenters. It's always nice having sessions that share what's happening in Kansas; consider submitting a proposal when the time comes. We'll send out information via the LCP listserv when it is available.

### Focus on School Improvement

Numerous US Department of Education (ED) staff met with the state Title I directors and also did several presentations at the conference on the Title I School Improvement Grants (SIG). Kansas will receive approximately \$22 million for the ARRA School Improvement Grants, Section 1003(g). At the meetings and conference, the ED staff shared the latest guidance and requirements and answered numerous questions. Districts with Title I eligible schools that are identified as persistently lowest achieving will be able to apply for the grants.

Each state has to identify and publish the list of schools that fall into one of 3 tiers. Tier I are Title I schools on improvement, corrective action or restructuring that the lowest achieving based on math and reading assessment results over several years. Kansas has 32 schools on improvement so 5 of these schools will be identified as the lowest-achieving. Tier II are high schools that are eligible for Title I that are also low achieving or have a graduation rate below 60% for several years. Tier III are the remaining Title I schools on improvement that were not identified for Tier I. States are required to post the list of schools in each tier.

The schools in Tier I and Tier II are required to implement one of 4 intervention models if they receive a grant: turnaround model, transformation model, restart or closure. Each school has the potential to receive between \$50,000 and \$2 million each year for three years.

- Judi Miller

### Heads Up! Title IV Funds Disappearing

Congress did not approve the formula grants for Title IV Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities for next school year.

As a result, there will not be an allocation for 2010-2011. Districts carry over any remaining 2009-2010 Title IV funds.

The administration is moving toward competitive grants which focus on school climate rather than formula programs. As we learn more about the future competitive grants, we'll keep you informed.



**DUE DATES**

- YSA's Get Ur Good On Grants due February 22nd
- Virtual School/Program Visits completed by April 1st
- AmeriCorps State Formula Grants due April 8th
- 2010-2011 Learn and Serve Grant Applications due April 16th
- Ed Flex Waiver for Schoolwide due June 1st
- Schoolwide Application due June 1st



## Guide for Preventing and Responding to School Violence



To be effective, violence prevention programs require community-wide collaborative efforts that include students, families, teachers, administrators, staff, social and mental health professionals, law enforcement, emergency response personnel, security professionals, school board members, parents, the business community, and others. School administrators should bring together all of the above constituencies to develop strategies appropriate for their own particular school and community environments.

The Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) in coordination with the International Association of Chiefs of Police has published a new edition of its "Guide for Preventing and Responding to School Violence." Designed to assist local communities, the guide describes the roles of the school, community, families, law enforcement, and justice system in working together to take effective action to address school violence.

The purpose of this document is to present different strategies and approaches for members of school communities to consider when creating safer learning environments.

Guidance for school violence prevention and response is offered in each of the following areas:

- Ways to prevent student violence
- Threat assessment
- Planning and training for what to do during an actual crisis
- How to respond during a crisis
- How to handle the aftermath of a crisis
- Legal considerations
- Recommendations for the media



The roles of school administrators, teachers, and staff are discussed. In addition, student, parent, law enforcement, and community roles are addressed. Throughout the report, text boxes provide more in-depth information or illustrate the potential value of the suggestions using actual cases of school violence.

The BJA's "Guide for Preventing and Responding to School Violence" is available online at: [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/IACP\\_School\\_Violence.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/IACP_School_Violence.pdf)

Questions about Title IV: Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities may be directed to Laura Jones, Education Program Consultant, Title Programs & Services by email at: [ljones@ksde.org](mailto:ljones@ksde.org) or 785-296-3164.

### Title I Supplemental Educational Services (SES)

The Title I SES Application and Rubric for 2010-2011 will be posted online in early March and due in May. You may browse the Title I SES requirements, powerpoints, and resources now at <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3567>. If you have any questions about the SES program, contact LaNetra Guess at: [Lguess@ksde.org](mailto:Lguess@ksde.org) or 785-296-8965.



### Kansas Reading Academy

Registration (for targeted buildings) opens Monday, February 1st for the Kansas Reading Academy. The Kansas Reading Academy is part of the Kansas Reading First initiative developed to provide teachers with research-based instructional techniques and academic achievement monitoring tools in the five core areas of reading identified by the National Reading panel. This five day professional development opportunity will provide research-based instruction about teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, and language.



**Registration will only be accepted online at:** [www.kansasreadingfirst.org](http://www.kansasreadingfirst.org). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Norma Cregan at: [ncregan@ksde.org](mailto:ncregan@ksde.org) or 785-296-4906.

### Non Public Schools

We have developed a webpage for "Title Services for Non-Public Schools". It is located at <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3761>. We have also included the links for the private school consultations forms on this webpage. Please feel free to contact your KSDE LCP contact with any questions you may have regarding services that public schools need to be providing to the non public schools.

### Virtual Schools/Programs Audit Visits

The Virtual Advisory Sub-Committee members are busy with gathering requested information for the State Board. The tasks have been assigned and a timeline for completion set. Surveys will be coming soon for input from administrators, teachers, parents and students that are involved with virtual education. The State Board will receive their report in April.

Virtual audits are underway and as a reminder the requirements with documentation need to be available at the time of the scheduled visit. Requirements for the visits were distributed via the virtual listserv and can be found on the KSDE website.

Questions should be directed to Cherie Nicholson at: [cnicholson@ksde.org](mailto:cnicholson@ksde.org) or 785-368-7356.





## Graduation Requirements

Kansas graduation requirements for high schools are outlined in the QPA regulations. Each district has the option of increasing those requirements, but the basic requirements must be met in each curriculum area.

### 91-31-35. Graduation requirements.

- (a) Each local board of education shall adopt a written policy specifying that pupils are eligible for graduation only upon completion of at least the following requirements:
- (1) Four units of English language arts, which shall include reading, writing, literature, communication, and grammar. The building administrator may waive up to one unit of this requirement if the administrator determines that a pupil can profit more by taking another subject;
  - (2) three units of history and government, which shall include world history; United States history; United States government, including the Constitution of the United States; concepts of economics and geography; and, except as otherwise provided in S.B.R. 91-31-32, a course of instruction in Kansas history and government;
  - (3) three units of science, which shall include physical, biological, and earth and space science concepts and which shall include at least one unit as a laboratory course;
  - (4) three units of mathematics, including algebraic and geometric concepts;
  - (5) one unit of physical education, which shall include health and which may include safety, first aid, or physiology. This requirement shall be waived if the school district is provided with either of the following:
    - (A) A statement by a licensed physician that a pupil is mentally or physically incapable of participating in a regular or modified physical education program; or
    - (B) A statement, signed by a lawful custodian of the pupil, indicating that the requirement is contrary to the religious teachings of the pupil;
  - (6) one unit of fine arts, which may include art, music, dance, theatre, forensics, and other similar studies selected by a local board of education; and
  - (7) six units of elective courses.
- (b) A minimum of 21 units of credit shall be required for graduation.
- (c) Any local board of education may increase the number of units of credit required for graduation. Any additional requirements of the local board of education that increase the number of units of credit required for graduation shall apply to those students who will enter the ninth grade in the school year following the effective date of the additional requirement.
- (d) Unless more stringent requirements are specified by existing local policy, the graduation requirements established by this regulation shall apply to those students who enter the ninth grade in the school year following the effective date of this regulation and to each subsequent class of students.

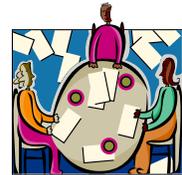
## Classroom Instruction that Works with English Language Learners – Developing Professional Developers

This workshop provides practical guidance for improving ELL achievement in mainstream classrooms.

Based on McREL's popular book, *Classroom Instruction That Works with English Language Learners*, this workshop applies the nine categories of research-based instructional strategies identified in *Classroom Instruction that Works* to five stages of language acquisition. Teachers learn how to adapt research-based teaching strategies, many of which they may already be using, to successfully engage and raise the achievement of English language learners in their mainstream classrooms.

In this three-day workshop, participants will:

- learn instructional strategies that enhance student achievement;
- learn the stages of second language acquisition and their instructional implications; and
- learn strategies for engaging English language learners in K–12 mainstream classrooms.



On the third day, participants will have an opportunity to practice delivering what they have learned to others. Participants will be expected to take the knowledge they have gained at the workshop and share it with others.

Participants will receive a workbook, facilitator's guide, and access to the powerpoint used in the workshop to help them deliver the material in their districts.

Registration for the workshop taking place in Topeka on February 24-26, 2010 is now CLOSED. Future opportunities to attend this workshop will be announced as they become available.

## ESOL Directors Meeting

February 16, 2010

Wichita Holiday Inn Select

Topics for the ESOL Directors meeting on February 16 will include:

- Clarifications in criteria for ESOL funding
- Where to find sample and translated documents
- Supplement not supplant
- Title III updates from Washington
- Update from the ESOL Standards Committee
- AMAOs and Title III improvement
- MTSS for ELLs
- Professional development opportunities

Please join us in Wichita! Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Registration is now available (for ESOL Directors) at <http://conferences.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2996>. There is no fee for registration.

A Live Meeting webinar on February 23 at 10:00 will be provided for those who would like a brief update on what took place at the meeting.

## Migrant Director's Meeting Migrant Recruiter's Training

Wichita Holiday Inn Select

February 16th and 17th, 2010

The Migrant Recruiter's Training will be conducted February 16th and will focus on Identification & Recruitment of Migrant students. Topics to be covered include:

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Completing the National COE            | The ID&R Manual        |
| Changes to the Non-Regulatory Guidance | Eligibility Issues     |
| The School Advocate                    | Recruitment Strategies |

**The Migrant Director's Meeting will be February 17th and include:**

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Migrant System        | Out of School Youth Consortium          |
| ESL/Migrant Academies | Non-Regulatory Guidance                 |
| ID&R Reorganization   | Need Assessment & Service Delivery Plan |
| On Sight Monitoring   |   |

Please register if you plan to attend either or both the Migrant Education meetings.

To register you may email Stacey Farrar at: [sfarrar@ksde.org](mailto:sfarrar@ksde.org).

We plan a webinar on February 23 at 10:00 am for those who cannot attend the meetings.

## KSDE Homeless Webpage



<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=372> is the web link for the KSDE homeless webpage. You can find a liaison contact list, federal guidance, USDA memos, homeless posters, web links, and other helpful information regarding the education of homeless children and youth.

## Parent Involvement

The National PTA has developed standards to encourage parent involvement in their children's education. The National PTA highlighted six standards it believes are essential for any school or program involving parents and families. The Kansas State Board of Education endorses these national standards.

The six factors identified by the National PTA are:

- Regular, two-way, meaningful communication between home and school
- Promotion and support of parenting skills
- Active parent participation in student learning
- Parents as welcome volunteer partners in schools
- Parents as full partners in school decisions that affect children and families
- Outreach to the community for resources to strengthen schools



Each month, "The Communicator" will highlight one of the National PTA Parent Involvement Standards. The focus this month will be on Standard #1: Regular, two-way, meaningful communication between home and school.

Most Kansas schools are very successful in offering parent/teacher conferences at least once each school year. The following are examples of how schools can expand on the regular, two-way communication with parents.

- ⇒ Weekly Classroom Folders
- ⇒ Student Planners (with room for correspondence between parent and teacher)
- ⇒ Positive Phone Calls

Please devote time to ensuring each district school is supporting positive parent involvement.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### February 1

Kansas Learning Network (KLN) Cohort 2 & 3 Meeting, Salina, Webster Conference Center, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### February 16

Migrant Program Recruiter's Training Workshop

ESOL Directors Meeting, Wichita, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### February 17

Migrant Program Director's Meeting, Wichita, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Schoolwide Technical Assistance Webinar #3, 10:00 a.m.

### February 23

ESL and Migrant Directors Webinar, 10:00 a.m.

### February 24-26

Classroom Instruction that Works with English Language Learners—Developing Professional Developers Workshop, Topeka

### March 9-10

Youth Leadership Retreat, Junction City, Rock Springs 4-H Center

### March 31

Schoolwide Technical Assistance Webinar #4, 10:00 a.m.

### April 23-25

Global Youth Service Day, April 23-25, 2010



### *Title I Neglected and Delinquent Programs*

Check out the *Title I Neglected and Delinquent* web page at: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3488>. This page highlights federal program requirements, state and national data on confined youth, professional organizations, and other valuable resources. In addition, you will find links for evidence-based prevention and intervention programs that have been successful in working with neglected and delinquent youth. If you have any questions about the *Title I Neglected and Delinquent* programs, contact LaNetra Guess at: [Lguess@ksde.org](mailto:Lguess@ksde.org) or 785-296-8965.

### For questions regarding "The Communicator" E-Newsletter, contact:

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(or)

Dee Lewis, 785-296-3069, [dlewis@ksde.org](mailto:dlewis@ksde.org)

<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=121>



### An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

KSDE General Counsel  
120 SE 10th Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66612  
785-296-3201