



The Communicator

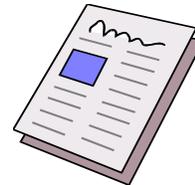
Title Programs & Services E-Newsletter

Issue 16

March, 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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Heads Up! Title IV Safe and Drug-Free Schools Funds Disappearing

Congress did not approve funding for the formula grants for Title IV Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities for next school year. As a result, there will not be any new money for 2010-2011. Districts will still be able to carry over any remaining 2009-2010 Title IV funds into 2010-2011. Please share this information with the appropriate people in your district. Contact your LCP Consultant if there are questions.



The Kansas System of District and School Support

This is a busy time for Kansas Schools and Districts that are on improvement, in corrective action, or restructuring. Of course, this time of year, these districts and schools are concentrating on assessments and hoping their hard work will pay off. Other things going on behind the scene include:

- ◆ The superintendent and others are meeting with the District Facilitator provided by The Kansas Learning Network (KLN) regularly to finalize and implement the technical assistance plan that is an end product of the district appraisal.
- ◆ The Implementation Coach continues to be in the building bi-weekly working with the principal and the leadership team on implementation of the school improvement plan.
- ◆ Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) is working with district staff on suggestions to improve the school improvement plan and helping districts meet spring dates. Some districts and schools will receive a status visit this spring.
- ◆ KLN is providing technical assistance (24 days for first year, and 30 days for second year) to districts on issues that were addressed in their district appraisal.
- ◆ KSDE staff is also working with district staff to make sure schools and districts meet the deadlines for the 1003 (a) school improvement grants. These grants are for the buildings to implement their school improvement plan and for districts to address systemic problems and sub-group issues that are causing the district to stay on improvement.
- ◆ KSDE staff is working with district superintendents and other staff that have buildings identified in Tier I and Tier II to begin the process to plan for a 1003 (g) grant. The guidelines changed in December and again in January and these districts have a deadline of May 1, 2010 to apply for school improvement dollars.

Schools and districts are working hard to improve through a very well developed district plan and technical assistance plan in order to align all resources.



Kansas Title I Supplemental Educational Services 2010-2011 Application is Now Available!

- What is Title I Supplemental Educational Services (SES)?
 - Title I Supplemental Educational Services are additional academic instruction designed to increase the academic achievement of students from low-income families attending Title I schools in their second year of school improvement, in corrective action, or in restructuring. These services may include academic assistance such as tutoring, remediation and other educational interventions.
- Who may apply to become a SES provider?
 - A provider of SES may be any public or private entity that meets the State's criteria for approval. Some examples include: public schools, charter schools, private schools, districts, educational service centers, institutions of higher education, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, business groups, and individuals.
- When may an entity apply to become a SES provider?
 - The Kansas SES Application cycle opened on March 3, 2010 and will close on April 23, 2010.
 - Applicants may receive copies of the 2010-2011 SES application, rubric, and additional information on the Kansas SES webpage located at: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3567>.
- What is the SES potential in Kansas? (As of 2/19/10)
 - Number of districts with schools required to provide SES = 6
 - Number of schools required to provide SES = 21
 - Number of KS Approved SES Providers = 14
 - Number of eligible students for SES = 6,866
 - Number of students receiving SES = 2,854
- Who is the contact person in Kansas for SES?
 - The Kansas SES contact person is LaNetra Guess. You may reach her at: Lguess@ksde.org or 785-296-8965.

School Improvement Plans

School improvement plans have been referred to by a number of different names however; the basic purpose remains the same. The school improvement plan is developed to address the academic issues that data indicates/identifies that need improvement. A new, revised or an existing plan is based on the data that the school has collected, reviewed and analyzed.

The plan is written to reflect what is needed, how those needs will be addressed and the resources needed. Resources can refer to time, or human resources, not just financial. The plan should be comprehensive and allow buy-in from the entire staff. Benchmarks should be a part of the plan that allows the staff to stop and look at where they are and where they need to go. The plan maps out a path towards success for staff and students.

Finally the plan may be adjusted when needed. The following guidelines can be used when developing, reviewing or revising a plan:

- Incorporate strategies based on scientifically based research that will strengthen the core academic subjects in the school and address the specific academic issues for the school.
- Adopt policies and practices concerning the school's core academic subjects that have the greatest likelihood of ensuring that all groups of students can be successful.
- Directly address the academic achievement issues that the schools data indicates.
- Establish specific, annual, measurable objectives for continuous and substantial progress for all students.
- Specify responsibilities for school leadership, staff, and community involvement.
- Include strategies to promote effective parental involvement in the school.
- Incorporate innovative and progressive strategies that can be adapted to meet the needs of all students.
- Incorporate strategies that ensure appropriate high quality professional development for all staff.
- Incorporate check points and evaluation of the plan to ensure implementation by all staff.

FY 2010 GRANTS TO REDUCE ALCOHOL ABUSE COMPETITION



The Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools in the U.S. Department of Education announces the release of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 *Grants to Reduce Alcohol Abuse* program grant application (CFDA 84.184A). The FY 2010 grant application package may be downloaded from the following Department of Education's websites: <http://e-Grants.ed.gov> or <http://www.ed.gov/programs/dvpalcoholabuse/index.html>.

The application deadline date is April 16, 2010.

The purpose of the *Grants to Reduce Alcohol Abuse* program is to support efforts by local school districts to develop and implement innovative and effective projects to reduce alcohol abuse in secondary schools. The estimated available funds for this grant are \$3,311,000 with the estimated average size of awards being \$368,000 and the estimated number of awards being 9.

For additional information visit the Federal Register announcement at:

<http://www2.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2010-1/030210b.html>

For specific questions regarding the *Grants to Reduce Alcohol Abuse* program, please contact the Competition Manager, Nicole A. White at nicole.white@ed.gov.



Non Public schools

Public schools should be starting the consultation process with non public schools now, for the 2010-2011 school year. Preliminary allocations are sent out to districts in mid to late April. Districts should discuss what programs the non public schools qualify for, noting that Title IV will not be funded next year for Safe and Drug Free Schools. If ARRA funds are being used over a two year period, consultation on these funds must occur. Non Public schools should determine through a needs assessment how they plan to use the funds allocated for non public schools. All expenditures need to be approved by the public school district and the public school district must retain financial responsibility for the non public funds. Consultation forms for the 2010-2011 school year are available at: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3761>.



World Wise Schools

Peace Corps week is March 1-7, 2010. Peace Corps Volunteers serve in 74 countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe, and the Middle East.

Collaborating with local community members, Volunteers work in areas like education, youth outreach and community development, the environment, and information technology.

World Wise Schools is a program that connects Peace Corps Volunteers with classrooms in the United States. Explore the possibilities of connecting a Heritage language class with a volunteer serving abroad, or a class with ELLs from a particular country with a volunteer serving in that country to give the whole class a better understanding of the ELL's home country. To learn more about World Wise Schools and opportunities for bringing the world into your classroom visit <http://www.peacecorps.gov/www/index.cfm> or <http://www.peacecorps.gov/www/about/>.



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

KSDE will sponsor another workshop from McREL on May 12-14, 2010 in Topeka. This workshop is being provided for Districts on Improvement for Title III, Service Centers and Title III Consortia. Please watch the ESL listserv and ESOL website under "Upcoming Conferences and Workshops" for registration information – coming soon!

Homeless

As of the December 1st, 2009, the state of Kansas is reporting 5,246 homeless students for the 2009-2010 school year. Ninety-four school districts have reported homeless students this school year. 4,458 were reported "doubled up", 278 as staying in a "hotel/motel", 413 students were in "shelters, transitional housing, or awaiting foster care", and 97 were counted as "unsheltered." Please continue to make sure all students who are identified as homeless are coded correctly in your SIS (Student Information Systems) in order for an accurate count during the KIDS EOYA submission.

Title III Improvement Plans due April 1

Districts on improvement for Title III are required to write an Improvement Plan and send it to Melanie Manares by April 1, 2010. A list of districts on improvement can be found at: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3443> under "District AMAO Status 2009-2010". Please go to the second page of this document for improvement status.

The improvement plan and rubric can be found at: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=405> under the blue heading titled "Improvement Plan and Rubric Templates".

ESOL Standards – public comments due April 1

The current English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Curricular Standards (2004) are being reviewed. The ESOL Standards committee has worked very hard on the current standards, taking into consideration latest research on second language learning and recent trends in education. The committee is requesting your comments and suggestions on the new draft version. Please go to <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3444> and find the current drafts under "Draft 2010 Standards for Review". Instructions for providing feedback can be found under "Feedback Request" and a form to provide us your thoughts and suggestions can be found under "Feedback for Revised Kansas ESOL Standards 2010". We are very interested in your comments. If you have questions, please contact Melanie Manares at mmanares@ksde.org or 785-296-7929.

DUE DATES

- Virtual School/Program Visits completed by April 1st
- 21st CCLC Grant Application due April 1st
- Title III Improvement Plans due April 1st
- ESOL Standards Public Comments due April 1st
- AmeriCorps State Formula Grants due April 8th
- 2010-2011 Learn and Serve Grant Applications due April 16th
- 2010 Grants to Reduce Alcohol Abuse Applications due April 16th
- SES Provider Applications due April 23rd
- Tier I and II Grants due May 1st
- Ed Flex Waiver for Schoolwide due June 1st



ESOL Directors Meeting

A meeting for State ESOL Directors was held February 16 in Wichita and a Live Meeting follow-up was hosted by KSDE on February 23, 2010. In case you missed these opportunities to learn about changes and notifications on English for Speakers of Other Languages programs, you will find handouts and a powerpoint on the ESOL Webpage at <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3376>.

Some of the topics discussed at the meeting include: changes in Title III funding and AMAOs, Title III Improvement, resources for becoming more knowledgeable about students from other cultures, MTSS for ELLs, and professional development opportunities. Please take time to review what was presented and discussed at the meetings. Also note the opportunities to provide feedback on the KELPA, MTSS for ELLs, and professional development that you would like KSDE to assist with or provide. Feedback forms are provided in the documents from the February 16 meeting found at the web address above. Please contact Melanie Manares at: mmanares@ksde.org or 785-296-7929 if you have questions.

FREE ... FREE ... FREE ... COMPREHENSIVE WEBSITE ON INTERNET SAFETY

How do everyday parents manage to keep their kids (and themselves) mindful of the future consequences of their current online/wireless activity? To provide educators, parents, and other adults with the tools necessary for helping kids use social technologies in a safe and savvy manner, the National Education Association has developed a comprehensive website. This resource is designed to help educators and parents learn more about the risks and opportunities of technology and to better guide young teens in using social technology and safely navigating their digital world.

Bnetsavvy.org is a one-stop shop for adults. There educators and parents can find internet safety information, classroom activities, news stories, credible links and interactive message boards; articles written by educators, parents, experts, and young people, and a variety of internet-related activities, tools and resources. Topics cover the spectrum of social technology from social networking sites like MySpace and Facebook to instant messaging (IM), chat rooms, texting and online gaming. Adults will be provided with insights into the world that kids are entering from computers, gaming units, and cell phones.

To visit the website go to <http://www.bnetsavvy.org>.

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



Parent Involvement

This month The Communicator is focusing on PTA Parent Involvement Standard #2 – **Promotion and Support of Parenting Skills.**

There are many great resources available for parents to help them enhance their parenting skills and participate in the education of their children. The key for districts and schools is to make sure that parents are aware of the resources.

Many organizations offer tips to better parenting. [Parenting.org](http://www.parenting.org) is a site sponsored by Boys Town that offers free resources for parents. This website is full of information that parents will find helpful for any age level. [Ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov) is another website with specific information for parents focused on helping their children with academics. Check out this link http://www2.ed.gov/pubs/parents/hvc_archive.html for some great ideas.

The state of Kansas is fortunate to have the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center available to any person (parent, teacher, school, and district) to ensure that parents continue to play a key role in each child's education. Visit [KPIRC.org](http://www.kpirc.org) for timely information and resources centered on parent involvement.

Virtual Schools Programs Audit Visits



The last date for audit visits this year will be March 26, 2010. The Virtual Advisory Sub-Committee members will be analyzing the gathered information and reporting it to the State Board in April.

As an FYI - Don't forget the end of year report due June 15, 2010. The information requested will be the same as last year. The format may change and will become available soon.

Currently approved schools/programs will need to complete the Desktop Audit 2010-2011 and revise the information. Select the word "Update" on your form.

New Schools/Programs:

If you are interested in starting a Virtual School/Program the requirements can be found at www.ksde.org under topics – scroll to Virtual Schools .

New schools/programs have to complete an Intent Form (Due May 1, 2010) and the 2010-2011 Desktop Audit. Under regulations, all new schools/programs will be required to have an approved program prior to enrolling students. This requires a visiting team visit for reviewing documentation, etc.

Questions should be directed to Cherie Nicholson at: cnicholson@ksde.org or 785-368-7356.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

May 12-14

McREL “Classroom Instruction that Works with English Language Learners – Developing Professional Developers”, Topeka



For questions regarding “The Communicator” E-Newsletter, contact:

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(or)

Dee Lewis, 785-296-3069, 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:

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