



# The Communicator

## Title Programs & Services E-Newsletter

**Issue 12**

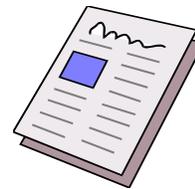
**August, 2009**

### 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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### 2009-10 LCP Application

The 2009-10 Local Consolidated Plan (LCP) Application opened on July 30, 2009. The LCP is the vehicle by which districts gain access to Title I, II A, II D, III, Immigrant, IV, Migrant, ESOL, and At-Risk funding. The due date for the application is August 28, 2009. Federal legislation requires all districts to have an approved plan on file with the state before funds can be allocated to them. With this in mind, KSDE worked very hard to launch the application as early as possible. Final allocation letters were mailed to each district last week. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the LCP consultant assigned to your district.

### ARRA Application

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Application for Title I and IID will reopen in early August. The 2009-2010 Title I ARRA



allocations are being revised. Letters with the revised amounts will be mailed soon along with the Title II D Education Technology ARRA allocations. The Title I ARRA revision is necessary as the result of an error by the US Department of Education. For most districts, the change in allocations is minimal. The revised Title I ARRA allocations will be uploaded into the ARRA LCP application at the same time the Title IID ARRA allocations are uploaded. Districts will be notified via the LCP listserv when the revised allocations and the ARRA application are ready and the process for applying.

### Changes on the Title Programs and Services Team

Welcome to the 2009-2010 School Year!



The Title Programs and Services Team has had a busy summer and are looking forward to a productive new school year. “Change” continues to happen in education everyday and the Title Programs and Services Team is no exception.



Dr. Connie Wehmeyer has accepted a job with Cross & Joftus, LLC and we will continue to work with her through the Kansas Learning Network. We will miss her expertise in school improvement and schoolwides. Laura Jones will now have the responsibility of schoolwide programs. We have added Teresa White and Pat Hill to our team to help with QPA and school improvement. They will also be LCP consultants. Also joining our team is Cherie Nicholson; she will be focusing on charter, virtual, and school improvement. Assisting her is Pat Scrivner. Tara Everhart has left the agency but joining our team as assistant is Donna Matthis, who will help with school improvement.

### Secretary of Education Meets with Title I and Title III Directors



Secretary Arne Duncan recently met with the Title I and Title III directors in Washington, DC at the National Association of State Title I Directors meeting. He provided an overview of the Race to the Top grants which sets the stage for the upcoming reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act currently known as No Child Left Behind. With the Race to the Top grants, he expects states to raise the bar collectively so that students are college ready and international standards ready, to create good assessments behind common core standards; to think differently about data and track students from pre-K through college and use the data to connect students with teachers and their schools of education; and finally, to turn around under performing schools by challenging the status quo. Kansas intends to apply for the Race to the Top grants.

### Waivers for Title I ARRA

The US Department of Education recently released the Non-Regulatory Title I ARRA Waiver Guidance. ARRA refers to the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act. The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) published on July 31 the notice of intent to apply for the waivers on behalf of Kansas districts. The KSDE will apply for the following waivers which are specific to Title I schools and districts on improvement:

Waivers of the “set-aside” requirements:

1. Request to exclude part or all of the Title I, Part A ARRA funds in determining an LEA’s 20 percent obligation for choice-related transportation and SES
2. Request to exclude some or all of the Title I, Part A ARRA funds in determining the 10 percent professional development set-aside for an LEA in improvement
3. Request to exclude some or all of the Title I, Part A ARRA funds in determining the 10 percent professional development set-aside for a school in improvement

Waiver of the “per pupil amount for SES”:

4. Request to exclude part or all of the Title I, Part A ARRA funds in determining an LEA’s per pupil amount for supplemental educational services (SES)

Upon approval of the waiver request from the USED, districts wanting one or more of the waivers will complete an application for KSDE.

Since Kansas is an Ed-Flex state, it will not have to ask for a waiver of the carry-over limitations. Districts choosing to exceed the 15% carry-over limitation or the exceeding the limitation once every 3 years, may request an Ed-Flex waiver.

### Update on ARRA Reporting

Districts receiving ARRA funds will complete quarterly reports with the first one due October 10. The KSDE is processing the information recently received from the Office of Management & Budget (OMB). The KSDE will update district staff when all the requirements, processes and procedures are known.

In addition to the quarterly reporting, any district receiving Title I ARRA funds will also have a one-time report that is due December 1. This is the school by school 2008-2009 instructional expenditure report; the information will be used by the US Department of Education (USED) and Congress to define comparability requirements in the next version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The USED is developing guidance on the school by school reporting. At this time it appears that “instructional expenditures” will be reported as school staff salary data. The school by school report includes both Title I and non-Title I schools. As KSDE learns more, it will share that information with districts.



### Expected Gains

Just a reminder...If your school wants to utilize expected gains for accreditation purposes, it is required to write a school improvement plan and go through a peer review process. While the training is not required to write the school improvement plan, it is highly encouraged. Schools can either attend the School Improvement Training sponsored by KSDE on August 12 in Salina or can access their Service Centers for “On Watch Training”. There is a helpful fact sheet on our website about expected gains, <http://www.ksde.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ZdxI%2BUM%2Fqvw%3D&tabid=1749&mid=5640>.

If you have questions contact Teresa White, [twhite@ksde.org](mailto:twhite@ksde.org) or 785-296-7884.



### Accountability Release



School and district staff has reviewed and signed off on their assessment and adequate yearly progress (AYP) data. Now it is time to release the information to the public. The list of Title I schools and districts identified for improvement will be released on August 11 at the Kansas State Board of Education (KSBOE) meeting. The list of schools and districts not making AYP will be released at the September KSBOE meeting. At the October KSBOE meeting, the report cards which include assessment data, accreditation status, final Title I improvement status and final AYP results will be released.



## Professional Development Opportunities

*Classroom Instruction that Works with English Language Learners – Developing Professional Developers* will be held twice in the upcoming months. The first opportunity will be on September 23-25, 2009 in Garden City and the second will be on February 24-26, 2010 in Topeka. Both workshops will be held from 9:00am - 4:00pm. This workshop is designed for service center providers, teachers and administrators who have English language learners in their classrooms. The first two days will focus on the workbook of the same name, the third day will be designed to provide participants with the skills and tools necessary to deliver the workshop material to others. Participants do not need to have an ESOL endorsement. Workbook and facilitators guide will be provided to all participants. There is no registration fee, and lunch will be provided. For questions about this opportunity, please contact Melanie Manares, [mmanares@ksde.org](mailto:mmanares@ksde.org) or 785-296-7929.

*Classroom Instruction that Works with English Language Learners* will be held on November 5-6, 2009 in Wichita from 9:00 – 4:00. This two-day workshop is designed for teachers and administrators who have English language learners in their classroom to learn why the stages of second language acquisition are important and what their instructional implications are. Participants will also learn how to apply the instructional strategies for ELLs in K-12 mainstream classes. Those who do not have an ESOL endorsement are especially encouraged to attend. There is no registration fee; lunch and a workbook will be provided. For questions about the workshop please contact Melanie Manares, [mmanares@ksde.org](mailto:mmanares@ksde.org) or 785-296-7929.

## Title I Reading Academy



The Title I Reading Academy is a ½ day professional development opportunity for teachers in Title I Schools. The focus of the Academy is on learning how to:

- use assessment to diagnose individual student’s strengths and needs;
- plan instruction that matches the reading needs of the student;
- use research based reading strategies during instruction with at-risk readers; and
- make accommodations to instructional strategies and activities to meet student needs.

The Title I Reading Academy will be offered in two different locations. The Academy in Wichita will occur on Sept. 28 (pre-academy, optional, 1:00-4:00), 29, 30 and Nov. 17, 18 and 19 from 8:30-3:30 each day. The Academy in Lawrence will be Oct. 27 (pre-academy, optional, 1:00-4:00), Oct. 28, 29, Jan. 19, 20 and 21 from 8:30-3:30. Additional information is available on the website provided below.



**Title I teachers from targeted-assistance buildings may register beginning August 3, 2009. Title I and classroom teachers from Title I schoolwide buildings may register beginning August 17, 2009.** All

participants must create an account and then register online at the following website: [www.kansasreadingfirst.org](http://www.kansasreadingfirst.org). Questions regarding registration should be sent to [kdbryant@ku.edu](mailto:kdbryant@ku.edu) and questions about content should be directed to [mherman@ku.edu](mailto:mherman@ku.edu).



**2009 Fall Assessment Conference**  
 "Light tomorrow with today" - Elizabeth Barrett Browning

**Save the Date**  
 October 26-27, 2009

Capitol Plaza Hotel & Maner Conference Center  
 1717 SW Topeka Blvd.  
 Topeka, Kansas

An important conference for Kansas educators who need the latest information about Kansas State Assessments and education assessment innovations. This conference is for:

- ✳ Test Coordinators;
- ✳ Curriculum Coordinators;
- ✳ School and District Administrators;
- ✳ School Counselors;
- ✳ Classroom Teachers.

For more information or to register, go to:  
<http://conferences.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2708>

# Save the Date



Register online at:  
<http://conferences.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1976>

**For info. contact:**  
Bev Smith  
Phone: 785-296-1978  
[bsmith@ksde.org](mailto:bsmith@ksde.org)

## 2009 Safe Schools Conference

*“Safe, Prepared and Effective Schools:*

*The Community Approach”*

September 28—29, 2009

Webster Conference Center

Salina, KS

### *Breakout sessions include:*

- *crisis management*
- *youth gangs*
- *bullying prevention*
- *character education*
- *safe facilities and school climate*
- *school violence and more*
- *and more*

### **For conference info. contact:**

**Kent Reed**  
Phone: 785-296-8109  
[kreed@ksde.org](mailto:kreed@ksde.org)



## SCHOOLWIDES – DUE DATES

**Intent to Become Schoolwide** -- forms are due to KSDE by September 7, 2009.

**Continuing Schoolwide** – CHANGE IN DUE DATE: The due date for the Continuing Schoolwide form has been changed to August 28, 2009 to coincide with the LCP Application due date.

**Intent to Become Schoolwide 2009-2010:** If your school submitted a Schoolwide Plan for the 2009-2010 school year and it was returned for revisions prior to the start of the school year, the revised schoolwide plan is due back to KSDE by August 20 for the school to be considered as a schoolwide this school year.

**Title I Schoolwide Training** – Save the Date – This training is tentatively scheduled for October 22<sup>nd</sup> in Wichita for those planning to become schoolwide.



Please send all Schoolwide forms (Intent to Become and Continuing Schoolwide) and revised plans to **Laura Jones**, Title Programs and Services, 120 SE 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612, 785-296-3164  
[ljones@ksde.org](mailto:ljones@ksde.org). Please note the change in personnel from Connie Wehmeyer to Laura Jones!

### **Reminder**

Annual Report was due June 15<sup>th</sup>

ARRA LCP Application was due June 30<sup>th</sup>

Revision/Carryover Report was due July 1<sup>st</sup>

If you need assistance with any of these reports or have questions, please contact your consultant.

## Homeless Update

Homeless--Final allocations have been mailed to districts receiving homeless ARRA funds. More information will follow throughout August.

Homeless--Competitive grant recommendations go to the State Board of Education later this month. Following the board meeting, grantees will be notified.

If your local homeless liaison has changed from last year, please forward that information to Judi Kutzke, [jkutzke@ksde.org](mailto:jkutzke@ksde.org). If you have any questions regarding the education of homeless students, please contact Tate Toedman, [toedman@ksde.org](mailto:toedman@ksde.org) or 785-296-6714.



## Private Schools

Please make sure that you are having ongoing consultations with the private schools in regards to Title I ARRA, Title II-D ARRA, Title I, Title II-A, Title II-D, Title III, Title IV, Migrant, and Immigrant funding. In the near future, we will be adding a webpage with information and guidance specifically for private schools and the uses of Title funding.



## SAVE THE DATE

### ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SPECIFIC MATH WORKSHOPS

In order to assist Kansas schools in improving their performance in meeting AYP requirements in mathematics, specialized math training will be provided for schools on improvement and districts with schools on improvement by McREL on November 4 and 5 in Garden City and again on November 18 and 19 in Topeka. Each location will include two separate sessions, one for elementary and one for secondary math teachers. Each district is to send a team of 5 to one of the workshops. Teams should be made up of 2 elementary math people, 2 secondary math people, plus an administrator or central office person. The workshop sessions will include: Increasing Math Understanding through Literacy, and Strategies Shown to Increase Student Learning. KSDE is excited to offer these math specific workshops. Eligible schools and districts will receive further information and registration information in the near future.



The KSDE contact is Laura Jones, Title Programs and Services, [ljones@ksde.org](mailto:ljones@ksde.org) or 785-296-3164

## Quality Performance Accreditation

Accreditation of Kansas schools has been the responsibility of the State Board of Education since 1966. The accreditation of schools through Quality Performance Accreditation and school improvement has gone through a long history and truly reflected an "improvement process." From the original schools that were first accredited in 1995 to now, QPA has been the framework for the improvement process for Kansas.

Teresa White will be the new QPA contact and will be working with districts and schools. Questions and concerns should be directed to Teresa, [twhite@ksde.org](mailto:twhite@ksde.org) or 785-296-7884. She will also be working with the QPA Advisory Council. The QPA Advisory Council which has been a part of QPA since the beginning and continue to meet. The role of the advisory council is:

- Review and provide input to KSDE staff concerning Quality Performance Accreditation documents and procedures.
- Advise KSDE staff of field needs, concerns and issues.
- Act as Quality Performance Accreditation advocates in the field and as liaisons to other groups.
- Provide advice and counsel to the State Board of Education on issues of policies, such as regulations, corrective action plans, sanctions, levels of accreditation, etc.

The meeting dates for the Advisory Council are:

September 8, 2009  
December 7, 2009  
April 5, 2010  
June 7, 2010



**DUE DATES**

- LCP Contact Person Information Form due August 14th
- 2009-2010 Schoolwide Plan Revisions due August 20th
- Continuing Schoolwide Application due August 28th
- 2009-2010 LCP Application due August 28th
- 2009-2010 ARRA Application due September 4th
- 2010-2011 Intent to Become Schoolwide Form due September 7th

On Improvement  
Year One: Training

Date: August 26  
Where: Salina, Webster Conference Center  
Time:  
7:30–8:30 registration  
8:30–4:00 Meeting

Register by: Wed., August 12  
Contact person:  
Donna Matthis @ 785-296-3702 or  
[dmatthis@ksde.org](mailto:dmatthis@ksde.org)

**What to Bring:**

\*Laptop \*School Data \*Team of Five

This mandatory training is designed for teams of five from districts/schools in year 1 of school improvement. District/school teams can choose which day they attend, but need to attend as a team on the same day. Team participants should be from the District/School Improvement Team: administrator/principal, instructional coach, reading and/or math teacher, SPED teacher, ELL Teacher, etc...

**Quality Performance Accreditation**

Quality Performance Accreditation (QPA) has moved to Title Programs and Services. Although QPA has moved to Title Programs and Services, it will continue to be a part of the school improvement process. Preliminary letters concerning accreditation status will go out to building principals and district superintendents before the end of August 2009. You will have 15 days to appeal the recommended accreditation status, before final approval by the Kansas State Board of Education.

Teresa White, is the QPA consultant contact and can be reached at: [twhite@ksde.org](mailto:twhite@ksde.org) or 785-296-7884.

Title I: Corrective Action Planning  
for Schools and Districts

This mandatory training is designed for teams of five from districts/schools in corrective action. District/school teams can choose which day they attend, but need to attend as a team on the same day. Team participants should be from the District/School Improvement Team: administrator/principal or district administrator, instructional coach, reading and/or math teacher, SPED teacher, ELL Teacher, etc...

Date: September 3  
Where: Topeka, Holiday Inn Holidome  
8:00–8:30 registration, 8:30–3:30 Meeting

Date: September 4  
Where: Haysville, The Learning Center  
8:30–9:00 registration, 9:00–3:30 Meeting

Register by: Wed., August 24  
Contact person:  
Dee Lewis @ 785-296-3069 or [dlewis@ksde.org](mailto:dlewis@ksde.org)

**What to Bring:**

\*Laptop\*School/District Academic Data\*Team of Five

# H1N1

## Updated Guidance for Schools for the Fall Flu Season

Updated federal guidelines offer state and local public health and school officials a range of options for responding to 2009-2010 H1N1 influenza in schools, depending on how severe the flu may be in their communities. The guidance says officials should balance the risk of flu in their communities with the disruption that school dismissals will cause in education and the wider community.

- [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)
- [CDC Guidance for State and Local Public Health Officials and School Administrators](#)
- [Preparing for the Flu: A Communication Toolkit for Schools \(Grades K-12\)](#)

## Overview and General Information

- [Joint Letter to Schools and School Districts Regarding H1N1 Influenza Preparations](#) - June 11, 2009

It is critical for schools to plan to prevent disease transmission and protect students and staff, as well as local communities, from flu infection. Depending on the timing and severity of a potential fall H1N1 wave, interventions could include: extra measures to ensure that commonly touched surfaces are disinfected, strict enforcement of exclusion policies for students and staff with flu-like symptoms, or extended school closures. In addition, because schools could be used as vaccine distribution locations, schools should consider how they might accommodate such requests. While all of us want to do all we can to keep students engaged in learning and maintain a sense of normalcy, we need to be ready for whatever the fall may bring.



- [H1N1 Flu Information](#) (U.S. Department of Education)  
Find FAQs and guidance for school leaders. <http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/emergencyplan/pandemic/index.html>

For information about H1N1 and the Kansas guidelines, please check the KSDE website main page. It is anticipated that our H1N1 site will be available in the near future.



## The Kansas Learning Network Seeks Implementation Coaches

In August 2008, Cross & Jofus, LLC began working with the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) to implement an approach—called the Kansas Learning Network. The goal of the Learning Network is to increase capacity in struggling districts to raise achievement and close significant gaps in student learning. This process bypasses less

effective “top-down” attempts at reform and engages professionals directly in improving results. They assess needs, establish strategic priorities, gain essential technical assistance, and collaborate with peers across the state. They work as partners to establish a more coherent understanding of roles, responsibilities, challenges, strategy, and available resources at the state and district levels.

To support the education received by all students, the Kansas State Department of Education plans to appoint an “implementation coach” to serve as a resource for School Technical Assistance Teams (STAT), building principals, and other district personnel for schools that are on improvement, in corrective action, or in restructuring to implement fully the school improvement or restructuring plan. KSDE seeks individuals who have experience as a “turnaround” principal or district administrator who can serve as implementation coaches to schools. It is expected that each implementation coach will spend approximately two days per month with each school and attend additional trainings throughout the year. More information including an application may be found at <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=405>

If you have questions, feel free to contact Dr. Julie Ford, Director of Title Programs and Services, [jford@ksde.org](mailto:jford@ksde.org) or (785) 296-3069.

## Title I and LCP Trainings

We have been asked by many districts because of travel limitations to rethink our Title I and LCP trainings. We basically will “chunk” our trainings and give districts the opportunity to attend shorter sessions spread out through the fall. In the near future, we will announce some opportunities for virtual training through our list serve and in September Communicator!



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### August 26

On Improvement Year One Training, Webster Conference Center, Salina, KS

### September 10-11

MTSS Symposium, Hyatt Regency, Wichita, KS

### September 16-18

Title IV Federal Monitoring Visit

### September 23-25

McREL Classroom Instruction That Works with English Language Learners: Developing Professional Developers, Wheatlands Convention Center, Garden City, KS

### September 28-29

2009 Safe Schools Conference, "Safe, Prepared and Effective Schools: The Community Approach", Webster Conference Center, Salina, KS

### September 29-30

Title I Reading Academy, Wichita, KS

### October 6-9

PDK Curriculum Assessment and Design and Delivery Training, Holiday Inn Holidome, Topeka, KS

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PDK Curriculum Assessment and Design and Delivery Training, Holiday Inn Holidome, Topeka, KS

### October 22

Title I Schoolwide Training, Wichita, KS

### October 28-29

Title I Reading Academy, Lawrence, KS

### November 4-5

McREL What Work in Mathematics: Math Strategies for School on Improvement, Lee Richardson Zoo, Garden City, KS

### November 5-6

Classroom Instruction That Works with English Language Learners: Wichita, KS

### November 18-19

McREL What Work in Mathematics: Math Strategies for School on Improvement, Ramada Inn, Topeka, KS



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

Dr. Julie Ford, 785-368-7274, [jford@ksde.org](mailto:jford@ksde.org)

(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