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STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA
MEMORANDUM

TO: Title I Committee of Practitioners
Federal Programs District Contacts

FROM: Ramona J. Coats, Assistant State Superintendent
Federal Programs
Title I, IIA, VI and X, Bilingual/Migrant, Child Nutrition

DATE: June 8, 2011

TOPIC: Use of Title I Funds to Support Common Core State Standards

The office of Federal Programs wanted to ensure that we are supporting the newly approved ESEA Flexibility Waiver by taking a deeper look into the use of Title I funds for FY2012-2013.

We have received phone calls from districts asking if Title I funds may be used to support a successful transition from PASS to Common Core State Standards. This was a highly valid question, especially with the new educational reform efforts that not only our State is implementing, but other states as well. We determined to take this question before USDE and share Oklahoma's thoughts toward receiving approval to expand the use of Title I funds for such activities as districts/sites providing professional development addressing best practices for teacher instructional delivery of CCSS, and also for instructional materials above and beyond reading and math. Consider the math teacher that is teaching CCSS, and wants to ensure his students understand the concepts of math well enough to journal each day. Also, what about using Title I funds for providing globes and maps for all core curriculum areas? We can certainly understand how the use of journals, globes, maps, and science materials would truly benefit teachers as they proceed with CCSS.

Our Washington contact responded to our need in Oklahoma by stating that it looks like we are moving in the right direction by making Title I funds available to support CCSS. His only caution was to make sure that Title I funds are not being used to supplant, and that the requests for expenditures are reasonable and necessary, and are used to address needs identified in Schoolwide sites.

I trust this information will assist in clarifying district questions. For further information, please contact Ramona Coats, Assistant State Superintendent, Federal Programs @ (405) 522-0217 or email Ramona.Coats@sde.ok.gov.

Thank you.