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Title I, IIA, VI and X

Title I, Part A
Virtual Remediation/Credit Recovery Policy
FY2012-2013

Presently, the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE), in support of our most recent efforts toward the *ESEA Flexibility Waiver Plan* is pressing forward with new and innovative strategies for addressing our newly established educational reform efforts.

In light of this, local education agencies, in order to successfully implement the new reform efforts, are determined to meet the educational challenges of at-risk children and youth by implementing innovative strategies that will ensure success for all children enrolled in their schools.

It is well understood that in order to do this, an enormous amount of funding will be necessary. Local education agencies may need to look to federal grant funds to support such reforms. Specifically, Title I, Part A funds are intended to provide supplemental programs that support at-risk, economically disadvantaged students. Title I, Part A funds serve to ensure that these children are given the same opportunity to achieve state-defined academic standards as their more economically affluent peers.

Research has indicated that some virtual learning programs, when utilized and implemented appropriately, serve to increase a child's opportunity to realize success in their academic performance. This potential for student success is largely due to the fact that included within some virtual learning programs is enough 'knowledge and accountability' to thoroughly address all curriculum areas as defined in the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, and presently, those addressed in Oklahoma's newly approved *ESEA Flexibility Waiver Plan*. Therefore, the OSDE is providing guidance in this writing about virtual online programs. This guidance will be considered the official policy addressing using Title I, Part A funds to support *Virtual Remediation/Credit Recovery*.

It has come to our attention that some virtual learning program vendors provide pre-taped courses presented by highly qualified teachers, therefore, multiple courses such as Biology I, English II, and Algebra I, could be offered in the same classroom to several students at the same time. In this instance, the first Title I, Part A requirement that comes to our attention is the need for the attending teacher to be knowledgeable and well prepared for this activity. However, although it is important to have a highly qualified content area teacher in the classroom, under

these circumstances, it may be allowable to utilize the services of a highly qualified core content teacher that is not necessarily highly qualified in all core curriculum areas presented on the virtual learning program. A highly qualified paraprofessional could also be utilized for this situation, if working in close proximity to a highly qualified teacher.

In support of improved student performance and increased graduation rate, Title I, Part A, will fund *Virtual Remediation/Credit Recovery* Title I, Part A, federally funded personnel under the following conditions;

The district must...

- Ensure that the Title I, Part A, Supplement/Not Supplant rule has been applied
- Ensure that the attending teacher or paraprofessional is knowledgeable of the virtual learning program and adequately equipped to oversee this activity
- Provide the attending teachers or paraprofessionals with a detailed job description
- Understand that in order for Title I, Part A to fund this effort, **a student must have failed the course prior to taking the virtual online credit recovery course**
- Provide documentation on how the program would be coordinated with content area teachers such as the teacher of record
- Ensure that appropriate personnel perform the monitoring and tracking of student progress. (Paraprofessionals, if utilized, should not measure and track student progress or submit student credit information to the school or district. This should be performed by the appropriate district personnel.)
- Ensure that all teachers or paraprofessionals be effectively trained in implementing the virtual learning program
- Ensure that the virtual learning program meets all state requirements for coursework in fulfilling graduation requirements
- Ensure that districts consult with the OSDE Title I office to determine if the virtual learning program selected is approvable. These will be approved on a case by case basis.

For further information, please call the following OSDE employees:

- Ramona Coats, Assistant State Superintendent, Federal Programs, (405) 522-0217
- Gloria Bayouth, Executive Director, Title I, IIA, VI and X, (405) 522-3249
- Mary Colvin, Executive Director, School Support/School Improvement, (405) 522-3253
- Eric Hileman, Director, Instructional Technology/Telecommunications, (405) 521-3994

In closing, the OSDE realizes that virtual program learning courses created for the purpose of remediation and credit recovery may serve to increase the possibility of student success.