

# FEDERAL PROGRAMS MESSENGER

JULY • 2016



## SAVE THE DATES!

The Office of Federal Programs is planning ahead for the school year 2016-2017. "Save the Dates" are calendar dates listing activities that will provide school districts lead time to prepare school calendars for future participation in these events.

So, please **MARK** your calendar, *Save the Date*, and join the Federal Programs team as we swing into the 2017 school year.

- JULY 13** FY17 Consolidated Monitoring webinar\*
- 28** Data Entry & Netbook training for Title IC coordinators (webinar hosted by MIS2000)
- AUG. 1** Deadline for submitting FY16 Federal Programs claims in GMS
- 2** Title III WIDA SCREENER webinar\*
- 3** Consolidation of Funds/Title I Flexibility webinar\*
- 3** Title IC Migrant App. webinar\*
- 5** Title IC Migrant Summer School Enrollment/Withdrawal Dates & Supplemental Codes forms due to OSDE
- 8** Annual Title I Report due to OSDE
- 10** McKinney-Vento Homeless Application webinar\*
- 17** Title III App. webinar\*
- 17** Private School webinar\*
- 24** FY17 Consolidated Monitoring training (for FY17 monitored LEAs)
- 25** Title I C Migrant recruiters and coordinators meeting at OSDE
- 26** Last day to submit GMS Closeout Reports
- 30** McKinney Vento FY17 subgrantees meeting
- 31** Private School meeting (for LEAs and participating Private School officials)

**\*Webinars may be accessed by visiting <https://oksdetraining.webex.com> and clicking on "Upcoming Trainings"**

## EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP – MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The SY 2016-2017 is soon approaching, and school districts are scrambling to make the appropriate preparations for a most challenging year. Not only are districts tasked with fiscal matters, the shortage of teachers adds to this dilemma. In spite of the hurdles, there will be opportunities for innovative educational strategies driven by the commitment of Oklahoma educators to provide students with a high quality learning environment.

The “Oklahoma Standard” is the brand all educators will continue to value while blazing a new trail in an era of educational reform. The SY 2016-2017 will usher in a transitional year for the new education law, **Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA), (December 10, 2015)** requiring a purposeful partnership of all stakeholders invested in educating Oklahoma students. The collaboration involves *forward thinking* on issues that may create some trepidation for participants when change occurs in conventional practices.

Positive and authentic educational leadership are the essential components that will drive educational reform. The focus for improving student learning in Oklahoma must be driven with *evidence-based* activities, strategies, and interventions. The Rand Corporation concluded in the research for School Leadership, “Investments in education must produce results. Students’ efforts, teachers’ time, and scarce financial resources are more likely to be well spent when education-improvement activities are selected, because there is evidence that they are effective.”

Did you know that principals are second only to teachers as the most important school-level determinant of student achievement? (Leithwood et al., 2004). Research also demonstrates that principals are important to key teacher outcomes. Teacher turnover is lower in schools led by high-quality principals (Boyd et al., 2011; Branch, Hanushek, and Rivkin, 2012; Grissom, 2011; Ladd, 2011). Therefore, school level leadership makes a difference in the selection of activities that are well meaning and concentrated on the intent for student learning.

A broader meaning for “Educational Leadership – Making a Difference” is not limited to principal, assistant principal, etc., but includes all employees of the district, beginning with the top leadership within a district. Outside of the educational setting, parents, community leaders, and policy makers impact educational leader effectiveness. Working together, the catalyst for change improves leadership across the spectrum and builds the instructional climate needed for student learning.

ESSA is explicit on educational leadership to achieve positive outcomes for student learning. Federal funding from Title I, Part A and Title II, Part A as well as other federal resources provides opportunities for states and districts to implement initiatives to improve quality educational leadership.

## FEDERAL Q & A

- Q.** Does ESSA allow Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) the flexibility to implement and expend funding for educational-leadership programs?
- A.** ESSA allows the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) the authority to support, provide technical assistance, and monitor expenditures according to program requirements. ESSA does not allow OSDE to supersede local authority and dictate how LEAs spend their funds.

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