

Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105
Oliver Hodge Building
Conference Call
Meeting of the Title I Committee of Practitioners
August 19, 2009

Minutes

Dr. Cindy Koss called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Attending: Ms. Ester Reyes, Ms. Tuccoa Polk, Dr. Linda DeSpain, Dr. Marsha Gore, Ms. Courtney Ellis-Lockridge, Ms. Sarah Hall, Ms. Terry Fraley, Ms. Ann Ewing, Mr. Eric Webb, Ms. Geneva Matlack, Ms. Nancy Evans, Ms. Karel Nichols, Ms. Trudy Green, Mr. Tim Green, Mr. Tom Sipe, Ms. Debbie Quadracchi, Ms. Jackie White, Mr. Mike Anderson, Ms. Jennifer Mankins, Ms. Kathy Dunn, Mr. Danny Jacobs, Ms. Carol Wood, Dr. Cindy Koss, Ms. Mary Pearson, Ms. Jill Hendricks, Ms. Jackie Mania, Ms. Amber Polach, Ms. Leslie Hobson, Ms. Erin Clapper, Ms. Kerri White, Ms. Andrea Wheeler, and Dr. Gloria Bayouth

1) On agenda item number 1, Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Cindy Koss, Assistant State Superintendent, Oklahoma State Department of Education, stated that the purpose of the conference call was to discuss the draft waiver request that the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) will send in. Recently the United States Department of Education (USDE) released waiver guidance in response to the additional funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

2) On agenda item number 2, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 – Proposed Waiver Requests

Dr. Koss stated the Committee of Practitioners member comments regarding the draft waiver request should be sent to Mr. Brad Clark, Special Assistant to the State Superintendent. Comments will also be requested on OSDE's Web site and at the State Board of Education meeting on August 27, 2009. To date there are eight waiver requests that need comments. Dr. Koss stated that SDE personnel primarily used templates provided by USDE.

- A) The first waiver would waive the prohibition on approving an identified school or local educational agency (LEA) as a Supplemental Educational Services (SES) provider. – No comments were provided by committee members.
- B) The second waiver would allow local educational agencies (LEAs) to offer Supplemental Educational Services (SES), in addition to Public School Choice, to eligible students in Title I schools in the first year of school improvement. – No comments were provided by committee members.

- C) The third waiver would exclude Title I, Part A ARRA funds in determining an LEA's twenty percent obligation for Choice-Related Transportation and SES. Ms. Geneva Matlack, Ardmore Public Schools, asked if sites are required to transport a child out of the district to another site. Dr. Koss stated that yes in some cases transportation to another district might be necessary, and the Public School Choice set-aside should be used. Ms. Jackie White, Union Public Schools, asked if transportation to another district was required if the district had only one site for a grade span. Dr. Koss stated that situations may vary. Please call Ms. Mary Pearson, Executive Director, with any questions.
- D) The fourth waiver would exclude the Title I, Part A ARRA funds in determining an LEA's ten percent professional development set-aside for an LEA in improvement.
- E) The fifth waiver would exclude the Title I, Part A ARRA funds in determining an LEA's ten percent set-aside for a school in school improvement. Ms. Kathy Dunn, Mid-Del Public Schools, asked if the five percent was still required to be set-aside for professional development if the district was not 100% highly qualified? Ms. Amber Polach, OSDE, stated that a five percent set-aside is required unless a lesser amount is needed to meet the goal of having all teachers highly qualified.
- F) The sixth waiver would exclude Title I, Part A ARRA funds in determining the per-pupil amount for SES. - No comments were provided by committee members.
- G) The seventh waiver would waive the provision that prohibits an SEA from granting to an LEA a waiver of the carryover limitations more than once every three years.
- H) The eighth waiver request that will be sent to the USDE is the request to waive the 14-day notice requirement for Public School Choice. Dr. Koss stated that this waiver contains more information specific to Oklahoma. The fourteen day notice is a challenge for Oklahoma for the following reasons: 1) Oklahoma has a state law that prohibits testing before April 10. 2) In Oklahoma a school district may choose when to start school. Dr. Koss stated that issues related to the test scores must go to the Office of Accountability and Assessment. Ms. Carol Wood, Mustang Public Schools, suggested adding a legend to the appendix of the Oklahoma schools start and end date chart indicating which districts that are now closed.

3) On agenda item number 3, Summary of comments and suggestions for proposed waiver requests

Dr. Koss thanked the committee members for their time. She also suggested that all members of the committee take the time to write a letter of support for waivers they feel would benefit their district and schools. The letter should be addressed to Mr. Brad Clark, and should specifically address what waiver the letter is addressing. Dr. Koss plans to send all waiver requests to USDE by the first of September. Once requests are approved then the staff at SDE will create a process for the districts to apply for the waiver. OSDE will need the COP to provide feedback on the process for districts to apply for waivers.

Meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

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