

ESEA Committee of Practitioners (CoP)  
February 25, 2016  
Colorado Children's Campaign Conference Room

Attendees:

Jesús Escárcega, Arlene Salyards, Dawn Roedel, Bridgett Muse, Mitzi Swiatkowski, Lori Cooper, Holly Goodwin, John McKay, Clint Allison, Mary Ellen Good, Christy Bloomquist, Inés Stabler, Myra Westfall, Kirk Banghart, Amy Spruce (phone), Melanie Jones (phone)

CDE Presenters:

Jeff Klein, Brad Bylsma, Sarah Cohen, Stacy Goodman, Jennifer Simons, Anna Young, DeLilah Collins, Colleen Brooks

The meeting was called to order by chairman, Jesús Escárcega. The committee reviewed the minutes from the November 2015 meeting. Minutes were approved with two typographical corrections. Correction were made to final document

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Update – Brad Bylsma

- Title I Conference information was high-level and indicated guidance and clarification in some areas would be forthcoming
- Colorado Department of Education (CDE) will need to submit a state plan
  - Extensive stakeholder input, including from CoP, is required
- CDE will need to develop a state accountability system that meets ESSA requirements
- Omnibus budget bill passed one week after ESSA clarifies that ESSA will not be fully implemented until 17-18 school year
- 16-17 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) programs will be implemented under No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) rules
  - Slight funding increase
  - Preliminary allocations are expected by late March or early April
- Regulatory process has begun and final regulations for ESSA are expected in October 2016
- Waivers will be null and void after this summer
- Focus and Priority school interventions, including Supplemental Educational Services (SES) and schools choice, are still required
- CDE will carry forward the same list of Focus and Priority schools that were in place for 15-16
- States will not report on Highly Qualified (HQ) in 16-17
  - Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) will still need to follow state licensure requirements

The CoP asked for CDE to provide clarifying information regarding the following at the April 2016 meeting:

- Procedure for determining the non-public school set-aside
- Definition and required documentation for “meaningful consultation”

- Future of Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) and implications for English Learner programs
- ESSA updates to McKinney-Vento programs

School Improvement Grant Program (section 1003) Under ESSA – Brad Bylsma and Sarah Cohen

- CDE, with stakeholder input, will need to determine whether to allocate school improvement dollars (7% of state’s Title I allocation) on a competitive or formula basis.
  - LEAs receiving funds under this part must represent the geographical diversity of the state
  - Allotments for this section must be of sufficient size to effectively implement selected strategies
  - LEAs will apply for funds either way

The CoP discussed the merits of formula and competitive

- Many districts who struggle to use formula dollars well also lack the capacity and resources to compete effectively for grants
  - Formula seems to be more accessible for smaller and struggling districts
    - More aligned to a hope and growth mindset
  - Application process provides accountability for formula allocations
    - SEA is responsible for monitoring implementation and effectiveness of strategies
  - Members suggested more students would receive support with a formula program
  - There should be a guaranteed minimum for formula program to ensure effectiveness
- CDE, with stakeholder input, may reserve a further amount (10%) to provide direct services to the field
    - The CoP shared experiences with direct services of various degrees of effectiveness
    - Several members expressed a greater need for resources than services that the state can provide
  - CDE, with stakeholder input, may withhold an additional three percent for direct services (LEAs will apply for these funds)
    - Advanced coursework, career and technical coursework, credit recovery, post-secondary examination support, SES, costs associated with school choice

The CoP asked if the 7% could be broken up (part formula / part competitive)

The CoP asked what factors would be used to allocate money for a formula program

The CoP asked for historical data about smaller districts accessing competitive funds

The CoP asked for effectiveness information about vendors used in school improvement program

The CoP asked for data to support effectiveness of CDE direct services, particularly in rural areas

The CoP asked if direct services set-aside could be revisited in one or two years

The CoP asked how many schools would be impacted by these decisions

- CDE will try to provide a response at the April meeting

#### ESSA HQ Requirements – Jennifer Simons

- Jennifer shared a document that describes new ESSA requirements and United States Department of Education information on an orderly transition.

#### UFPA Communications and Technical Assistance Plan – Jennifer Simons

- Jennifer shared multiple venues where information about ESEA and the transition to ESSA can be found
  - <http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/ESSABlog>
  - <http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/virtualacademy>
- Jennifer also asked for suggestions about topics for upcoming technical assistance from CDE
  - Private Schools
    - Consultation
    - Equitable services
- The committee noted that recordings of webinars are helpful because those who cannot attend live can watch them later

#### Consolidated Application Update – DeLilah Collins, Anna Young, Stacy Goodman, Colleen Brooks

- CDE showed a mock-up of the new platform and content and asked for feedback
  - CoP members provided the following comments and concerns
    - Clarify what is being asked in each question in basic terms – do not include statutory language
    - Descriptions seem unnecessary burdensome for BOCES with large numbers of member districts
    - Clarify that associated expenses only refers to ESEA funds
    - Remove gray “Considerations” boxes and show contents in pop-up boxes to reduce clutter
    - Timeline is short to develop high-quality responses to questions in the mock-up
    - Simplify application, given that new LEA plans will be required for 17-18 school year
    - Multiple committee members thanked CDE for soliciting feedback and including practitioners in the development of the application

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00