



Title I Programs eNewsletter

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Upcoming Events

The 5th Annual Title I Conference will be held June 5-7, 2007 at the Atlanta Airport Marriott.

New Director's training will be held on June 5, 2007 at the Atlanta Airport Marriott.

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The Director's Corner

We are absolutely delighted to introduce the inaugural edition of the Title I Programs Division Newsletter. The goal of the Title I Programs Division is to provide districts with the support needed to serve Georgia's children that are most in need. It is our hope that this bi-annual newsletter will serve as a vehicle to provide each of you with clear guidance and useful information as you work each day to make certain that no child in Georgia is left behind.

With this being our first edition, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the newsletter and the contents we will include in each issue. We are excited about our "Cutting Edge Research" section of the newsletter. This section will allow us to not only take a critical look at some of the important research that re-

lates to education, but more importantly, how its implications can impact student achievement throughout Georgia. Our charge to each of you is that you examine this research and consider ways you can use it to make a difference in your district.

Our "Best Practices from the Field" section will focus on some of the first-rate, innovative work being conducted right here in Georgia. We all know that there are a great number of positive things going on throughout the state. We plan to capture these pioneering trends in this section. As all specialists work throughout the state, they will recommend high-quality work they see taking place for highlighting. We plan to highlight the three units (Monitoring and Technical Assistance, Grants, and Parent Services) of the division and discuss the im-

portant work that they are accomplishing. We also plan to discuss current No Child Left Behind news and information.

We hope that you enjoy our newsletter. Further, we hope that the information provided will go a long way in assisting us with our mission of providing support to the Title I districts in the state. Finally, we hope that this information will help you as we all strive toward "Leading the Nation in Improving Student Achievement." As always, thank you for the work you do for our children in Georgia.

Clara J. Keith,

Associate Superintendent for Education Support

Cutting Edge Research: *What's in a Good Night's Sleep?*

According to a study conducted at the University of Louisville, young children who snored loudly and frequently were found to have lower grades even in middle school.

Children with sleep disorders who have treatment (removal of tonsils and adenoids) have been found to be progressing on track.

Children need at least 9 hours of sleep per night.

Before NCLB was introduced, most states lacked proficient ways of tracking student progress and teacher effectiveness.

Teacher quality has been found to be the most significant factor affecting student achievement.

Ever wonder what's in a good night's sleep? Well, as it turns out, PLENTY! According to the National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, children who report breathing problems during sleep tend to score lower on standardized tests that measured executive function (attention and planning), memory, and general intelligence.

These children were also found to have more behavioral problems than children without a sleep disorder. Sleep disordered breathing (SDB)

may be as mild as snoring and as severe as sleep apnea (a sleep disorder in which breathing stops briefly).

African American children and children from lower socioeconomic levels seem to be impacted more than others. When these children have disruptive sleep, they tend to do worse on cognitive tests than do more affluent socioeconomic groups and white children whose sleep was disrupted. Children that are overweight are also at risk.

Symptoms of SDB include

frequent snoring, heavy, loud, or noisy breathing during sleep, or observed apneas during sleep. Some children may show excessive sleepiness, morning headaches, dry mouth, trouble concentrating, and forgetfulness.

Children exhibiting any of the above symptoms should be referred to their pediatrician. Treatment includes having the tonsils and adenoids surgically removed.

NCLB Update

Five years ago, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation was signed with unprecedented support from Congress. This 1,110 page document called for all states to have standards, assessments, and accountability procedures. It specifically called for bringing highly qualified teachers into the classroom.

This year, this legislation is scheduled for reauthorization with both sides of the fence hedging on what the new law should resemble. The Aspen Commission on No Child Left Behind, a bipartisan group spearheaded by former Georgia Governor Roy Barnes and former Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson, recently released a report that evaluated the law's

effectiveness and made recommendations for reauthorization.

The report recommends creating national standards and exams that are based on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), and it recommends rating teachers based on the growth in their students' test scores. It also supports requiring districts to ensure that at least 10 percent of students in failing schools have an opportunity to attend another public school in the district. In addition, the commission would devise a 12th grade exam that states would use to determine AYP. This exam would also be used in part to evaluate individual teachers and principals.

Congress has weighed in heavily on NCLB reauthorization as well. They recommend setting up a process using NAEP in formulating a guide for national standards. They suggest offering financial incentives for experienced teachers to improve their skills and to mentor new teachers.

Changes to NCLB proposed by others include more multiple achievement measures and less standardized testing and increased funding for the mandate.

NCLB reauthorization is scheduled for the end of this year. This, of course, depends on Congress. It will remain in its current form until the new changes are made into law.

Division News *LEA Monitoring and Technical Assistance*

Guidance on Consolidating Funds in Title I Schoolwide Programs

Schoolwide programs are governed by section 1114 of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The provisions in section 1114 give school districts the flexibility to combine funds from federal programs in order to upgrade the entire educational system of the school. This is unlike the provisions for targeted assistance schools where federal funds can only be expended for eligible students.

LEAs have the option to combine funds or not to combine funds. It is important to note that section 1114 does not require LEAs to combine funds but gives LEAs the option to combine funds. A summary of the steps an LEA must follow is listed below:

1. Determine the amount from all eligible federal programs that will be allocated for schoolwide schools.
2. Combine all funds from eligible federal program that will be allocated to schoolwide schools into

accounting Fund 400.

3. Determine an allocation for each schoolwide school from the combined funds.
4. Develop, in collaboration, with each school principal, a budget for each schoolwide school from all eligible federal programs.

Please note that LEA accounting personnel must charge expenditures back to the federal program that participated in the consolidation of funds in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-87.

If an LEA chooses **not to** combine funds, the schoolwide school can implement its Title I schoolwide plan but the Title I schoolwide school must limit its Title I expenditures strictly to those costs appropriate for Title I use of funds. LEAs must account for all expenditures paid with Title I funds and must use Title I funds only for allowable Title I expenditures such as:

- Core content area teachers and the instructional materials needed for instruction – this does not include art teachers, media specialists,

band directors, etc.

- Supplemental Educational Services
- Public School Choice
- Summer School
- Extended Day

Basically, the above expenditures would be treated as if the Title I program is a Targeted Assistance Program, although all the children would be eligible for services. Auditors would audit at the expenditure level - they would follow the expenditures to the funding source and make sure the expenditures are appropriate for the funding source.

The Financial Review Division, in collaboration with the Title I Programs Division has conducted numerous regional workshops throughout the state for district level accounting and Title I staff. In addition, the following activities are scheduled to provide additional guidance and an opportunity to hear LEA concerns:

- The Title I Programs Division will continue to meet with RESA Boards of Control to provide specific details to superintendents on combining funds in schoolwide schools.
- Title I Programs Division will sponsor sessions at its annual Title I Statewide Conference on combining funds. The Title Statewide Conference will be held June 5-7, 2007 at the Atlanta Airport Marriott in Atlanta. Registration details will be sent directly to Title I directors and coordinators.
- The Title I Programs Division is producing a handbook on combining funds in a schoolwide school. The handbook is being developed in collaboration with the seven LEAs currently participating in the Department's schoolwide pilot.

Grant Programs

Homeless Liaisons: The Heart of Homeless Education

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, requires that every LEA appoint a qualified person to serve as the LEA's Homeless Liaison overseeing the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The Liaison is responsible for ensuring the identification, school enrollment, attendance, and opportunities for academic success of students in homeless situations.

Homeless Liaisons from every school district are expected to attend the 5th Annual Title I Conference to be held at the Atlanta Airport Marriott on June 6-7, 2007; where they will participate in an intensive training session.

As a Homeless Liaison for your LEA, you should ensure that the following are in place immediately:

- Public notice of the educational rights of students in homeless situations is posted in schools, shelters, and other locations where children and youth receive services.
- All school personnel responsible for

enrollment are given information and training to understand that students claiming homelessness must be immediately enrolled.

- The District Student Information System (SIS) Coordinator working with district schools has assured that all identified homeless children are coded and accurately reported.
- District Policies for transportation, identification, dispute resolution, etc. have been reviewed/ revised to meet the McKinney-Vento requirements. (Policies prior to 2002 are obsolete.)

5th Annual Title I Conference

The **Georgia Department of Education** will host its **5th Annual New Title I Directors' Workshop and Title I Conference** on June 5 - 7, 2007.

The **pre-conference workshop (June 5), for New Title I Directors**, is designed for Title I Directors with two years or less experience as a Title I Director. As requested by new directors, the workshop is by invitation only and will have several hands-on sessions. The pre-conference workshop will continue the tradition of including all the legal mandates for the Title I program, sessions on implementing

Title I programs, designing effective programs, and the expenditure of funds.

The **Annual Title I Conference** (June 6-7) is designed for administrators who work with Title I programs including central office staff, homeless liaisons, school principals, assistant principals, and lead teachers. Other federal program coordinators at the local and state level, as well as school improvement specialists and RESA consultants are encouraged to attend. This two-day conference will continue the Department's focus on informing participants of current educa-

tional trends and best practices for leaders of Title I programs.

The official Web site for this year's Title I conference is now open. The link to the site is http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/tss_title.aspx. The site has been designed to allow conference goers to register for the **New Directors' Workshop**, the **Annual Conference**, as well as make reservations at the Atlanta Airport Marriott, the conference hotel.

The theme for this year's conference is "Title I: Making it Work for Georgia's Children".

Division News *LEA Monitoring and Technical Assistance*

Equitable Services for Private School Children

A goal of the Georgia Department of Education's Title I Division is to provide centralized guidance and support to local education agencies (LEAs) and private school officials, to ensure uniformity in the implementation of the Title I services.

The Title I, Part A Program provides funding to offer equitable services to eligible participating public and private school children who are failing or are at risk of failing to meet the State's student academic achievement standards or other more appropriate standards for private school Title I students, as determined in consultation.

The first step in the process of ensuring equitable services and benefits is to schedule timely and meaningful consultation sessions between public and private school officials. Through the consultation process, the LEA must design a program that meets the needs of the private school and its students. The LEA is responsible for plan-

ning, designing, and implementing the Title I program and shall not delegate that responsibility to the private school.

Consultation sessions planning for the school year FY08, should have been held during December/January and February/March, and should continue throughout April/May. At minimum, the LEA must consult on the following:

- Identification of the needs of eligible children.
- Identify services the LEA will offer to eligible children.
- Identify how, when, where, and by whom the LEA will provide services.
- Identify how services will be academically assessed and how the results will be used to improve Title I services.
- Identify and determine set-aside amounts to deliver equitable services based on determined needs.
- Identify method or sources of data that the LEA will use to determine the number of private school children from low-income families residing in participating public school attendance areas.
- Identify the equitable services to be provided to teachers and families of participating private school children through set-asides for proportionate

professional learning and parent involvement activities.

In summary, once consultation has occurred, both the LEA and participating private school officials should have a thorough understanding of participating attendance areas, per pupil allocations, and all benefits and services needed for eligible Title I students, their teachers, and their families. Equitable participation offered may be in the areas of instructional services, professional development, and parental involvement and may incorporate district-wide activities, such as Summer School, Saturday School, etc.

Division News *Parent Services*

Supplemental Educational Services

In 2001, the No Child Left Behind Act created Supplemental Educational Services (SES). Supplemental Educational Services were designed to increase student achievement of low-income students who attend qualifying schools in the areas of reading, language arts, and math.

A student who qualifies for Supplemental Educational Services is eligible for free or reduced priced meals and is enrolled in a Title I school that has been placed on the states "Needs Improvement" list for two or more years. The school districts will notify parents if their child is eligible for these services.

There are currently 129 approved SES providers located across the state who provide free tutoring to eligible students. Depending on a student's geographic location, many of these providers may be able to offer free tutoring services. Providers serving specific school districts can be identified through the local school district's Title I office or at the Supplemental Educational Services web page found in the Department of Education web site at this link: http://www.gadoe.org/tss_title_parent.aspx?PageReq=TSSTitleSES. The SES Provider's Directory is located on the right side of this web site. Using the drop down menu to identify a county and clicking the "Find Providers" button will create a list of approved providers serving that school district.

These providers have served or are currently serving Georgia's students during this 2006-2007 school year.

In an effort to maintain providers' program and instructional effectiveness, the Department of Education, in conjunction with local school districts, continually monitors provider services. Each provider is also monitored annually by the Department's SES monitors. Providers are evaluated on standards in the areas of Program Implementation, Policies and Procedures, Staff Qualifications, Instructional Program, and Instructional Environment. More than 80% of current providers have met all the expectations of the Department. Those providers who do not meet one or more of the Department's standards are required to correct any deficiencies or face removal from the state's approved providers list.

To learn more about Supplemental Educational Service, parents may contact their child's teacher, school principal, or school district's Title I office. Parents may also contact the Department of Education toll-free at 1-800-311-3627 or visit our web site at www.doe.k12.ga.us. Any questions, concerns, or complaints should be directed to the local school district's Title I office.

According to the federal government's National Assessment of Title I Interim Report, the number of state-approved supplemental service providers tripled between May 2003 and May 2005.

Private firms accounted for 76% of approved providers in May 2005. Faith-based organizations accounted for 9% of the approved providers. School districts and public schools accounted for 17% of the provider's list.

In Georgia, there are a total of 129 state-approved providers. Private firms make up 93% of the provider's list, and 7% of the providers are school districts or public schools.



Education Support Organization

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Interesting Facts....

Division Reorganization:

The GaDOE is currently undergoing a reorganization. Teacher and Student Support, under the auspices of Deputy Superintendent Dr. Diane Bradford, has now been renamed the Office of Education Support and Improvement (ESI). This office now has associate superintendents for School Improvement and Education Support.

Clara Keith has been named the Associate Superintendent for Education Support. The Title Programs Division includes Titles I, V, VI, and X, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and Migrant Education. The Parent Outreach Division includes Safe and Drug-free Schools, TAADRA, and Supplemental Educational Services.

Did you know.....

A good night's sleep can be compromised by several things: Exercising right before bed; eating a heavy meal right before bed; drinking sodas or caffeine before bed; staying up too late.

When we sleep, the brain keeps working as the body recharges itself. The brain is busy sorting and storing memories.

In some states, the number of prisons being built in a decade is determined by the number of children who cannot read by the end of third grade.

Georgia receives the 10th largest Title I allocation in the country.

A recent study conducted at UCLA found that at age five, we engage in creative tasks 98 times a day. We laugh 113 times a day, and we ask questions 65 times a day. However, by the age of 44, the numbers decrease considerably. We conduct 2 creative tasks a day, we laugh 11 times per day, and we ask questions 6 times a day. The study also found a 91% negative response rate among adults exposed to new ideas.