

Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"

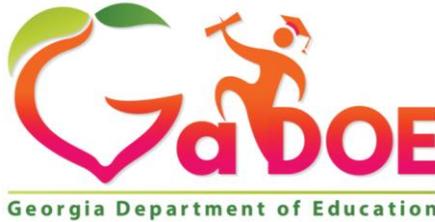
Georgia Department of Education
Title I Committee of Practitioners Report
2014-2015

The Georgia Title I Committee of Practitioners as established under Section 1903, State Administration of ESEA is directed to be substantially involved in the review and comment on any proposed or final State rules, regulations, and policies relating to Title I prior to their publication. In an emergency situation where such rule or regulation must be issued with a very limited time to assist local school districts with the operation of the program under Title I, the Department may issue a regulation without prior consultation, but shall immediately thereafter convene the State Committee of Practitioners to review the emergency regulation before issuance in final form. The Committee is also provided with updates on national education reform activities, changes in Title I legislation and regulations, and other pertinent State and Federal information.

The 2014-2015 Committee of Practitioners consists of 36 members representing the required groups as defined in Section 1903 of the ESEA Act of 1965 and each of Georgia's 13 Congressional Districts. The State Board of Education approved its membership at its August 21, 2014 board meeting. Members represent Title I and Curriculum Directors, superintendents, assistant superintendents, principals, vocational teachers, classroom teachers, parents, Local Education Agency (LEA) Board of Education Members, private schools, LEA charter schools, Migrant Education Program Coordinators, pupil services personnel, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Department of Early Education.

The Committee of Practitioners will meet twice during 2014-2015. The first meeting was convened on November 7, 2014. Title Programs personnel attended the meeting held at the Georgia Department of Education in Atlanta. **Each of the Title Programs gave a brief summary of their Program to the Committee of Practitioners.** The purpose and duties of the committee of Practitioners as an Advisory Group was discussed. The specific item for input was the **Community of Eligibility Provision**. The CEP was discussed after a presentation was given by Dr. Jennifer Davenport, GA DOE Title I Program Manager. Each individual was asked to respond on the Committee of Practitioner Review Form and email the form to Robyn Planchard, rplanachard@doe.k12.ga.us. Their comments and/or recommendations will be placed in a summary report for review at the next Committee of Practitioner meeting in March. **The second meeting date was set for March 12, 2015.**

The second meeting was convened at the Georgia Department of Education in Atlanta on March 12, 2015. There were three presentations to the Committee. The first presentation was on **Georgia's Equity Plan for Title II, Part A** presented by Julie Noland. After much discussion, it was recommended that Georgia's Equity Plan for Title II, Part A will help decrease teacher attrition levels because more support will be provided and there will be a uniform Data Plan from the practitioners view point with more planning time for planning and professional learning. However, the Committee did not want more work put on teachers. They felt those in the



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field were overwhelmed and they seldom get to share their experiences. The Committee felt that the decision-making is top heavy.

The second presentation was on **OSEP's State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)** by Zephine Smith-Dixon. Committee members were glad to see collaboration between Special Education and Title I and they felt that Special Education students are frequently the ones (subgroup) that the Title I schools are struggling with on achievement. However, even though they saw five years as being good for kids, they felt it is unfortunate that it negatively impacts graduation rates.

The final presentation was on the **FY16 ESEA Amendments** presented by Margo DeLaune. The Committee felt the change in identification of schools was positive and easier to understand. However, they were concerned regarding the correlation between CRCT and Milestones to track student growth.

The Committee has been a major contributor of many valuable suggestions to assure that a true collaboration of practitioners from school districts who would be responsible for the implementation of the **Community of Eligibility Provision, Georgia's Equity Plan for Title II, Part A, OSEP's State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), and the FY16 ESEA Amendments** was an integral part of the process. By having the Committee look at the barriers and the enablers at the district, school, and classroom level, the Department is able to change and clarify areas of concern.

The committee members continue to request the two face-to-face meetings each year. They also agree small group work sessions in evaluating proposed items is of more value than evaluating items alone. In addition, they found having the information sent to them ahead of time via email is a positive way for them to arrive at the meeting with enough background knowledge to make their discussions more meaningful. The Department plans to continue with the two face-to-face meetings per year schedule with the flexibility to have called meetings as needed. **The meetings for the 2015-2016 year will be in November, 2015 and March, 2016.**