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 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 2017-2018 Committee of Practitioners consists of 50 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 a fall 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 FY18. The first meeting was convened on Tuesday, November 14, 2017. The Summary Minutes from the March 2017 meeting and the special called June 2017 meeting were presented by Title I Area Specialist, Robyn Planchar and approved by the Committee.

John Wight, Title I Director, welcomed the group, and gave an overview of the FY19 Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). He discussed the draft of the two options, one off-line and one within the SDLS. The LEAs have a choice of which one they want to do noting that it will be a revision of the FY18 CLIP, which was mandated by the Department. The group then participated in a partner discussion of how this would be received by the LEAs. The Committee members then participated in a “Parking Lot” Activity responding to questions for the Department to review. Feedback was requested on various ways to train and seek guidance at the SEA and LEA levels, the CLIP, and follow up of how the FY18 CLIP is being implemented.

Ken Banter, Title I Program Manager, presented to the Committee the updated Schoolwide Plans. “The well-rounded education” noted in the Schoolwide Plan matches the “whole child” in the Department’s School Improvement Template. Committee members were asked for their feedback and it was discussed that we should try to keep the verbiage in all areas at the Department the same.

Randy Phillips, Title I Program Manager, then discussed the Targeted Plans. Not many changes were made in the law. Citations from the law will be added to this template. Compliance issues in a Targeted Assistance Program become conscripted. Evidence-based strategies are also required at all grade spans. Homeless, Foster, and N&D are automatically part of the Targeted Assistance program.

Field Trips are not found in the law. The Field Trip form is a Georgia form and is a result of a finding Georgia received from the Federal Title I Monitoring Team. It is our CAP. It has been updated and revised to match the language of School Improvement.
Shaun Owen, Director of Consolidated Federal Initiates, then gave an update of Private Schools and her role as the State Ombudsman. A discussion followed on how to ensure all private schools within an LEA are contacted and notified of the date (October 31) to meet and discuss how to serve the Private School eligible students. Shaun Owen then presented the Consolidation of Funds Initiative Update (Fund 150) and some of the positives an LEA can receive if they consolidate federal, state, and local funds. It gives the LEA flexibility with these funds.

Randy Phillips, Title I Program Manager, then discussed the RAMP (This is for Title I only.) It is a description of how you would use your state and local funds to run your schools. It has been presented throughout the state. The Department is looking for the equitable use of funding in the LEAs.. The discussion then continued to include Comparability and when it would be open. Randy continued and spoke about Reward Schools and Reward Districts. The Department is looking at including a new category of Innovative Schools. This category has been added by National as well. We do want a way to recognize Georgia schools. Based on the old guidelines the Department will recognize Reward Schools and Reward Distsrats.

John Wight gave concluding remarks and Lynn Howard lead a discussion and concluded December 7, 2017 at 10:00am for a Go To Meeting and March 8, 2018 would be the spring meeting date.

The December 7, 2017 Go To Meeting began at 10:00am. This was a follow-up meeting scheduled during our November meeting to discuss/review a couple of time sensitive items. The items to discuss were the 2018 CLIP and Modified-CLIP and Reward School and Reward District Determination criteria. After these items were discussed, the membership was reminded there would be a March 8, 2018 meeting.

The third meeting was convened on March 8, 2018 was called to order by Lynn Howard, Chairperson. The Minutes from the March 2017 meeting and the special called Go To Meeting on December, 2017 meeting were presented by Title I Area Specialist, Robyn Planchard and approved by the Committee.

Title II gave a presentation on Equivalent Qualifications for CTAE Teachers for reporting In/Out-of-Field for ESSA. Cindy Saxon, Associate Superintendent, lead a discussion on how there is more movement toward equity.

Randy Phillips, Title I Program Manager, reviewed the reorganization of Reward Schools. The discussion that followed resulted in a positive consensus being reached regarding this new direction.

Ken Banter, Title I Program Manager, then devoted the remaining time on updates regarding Private School Equitable Services. It was determined that the November 2018 meeting would be scheduled in September in order to accommodate more fall calendars. Lynn Howard, Chairperson, then adjourned the meeting.

Robyn S. Planchard, Ed.S.
Title I Education Program Specialist