

Committee of Practitioners
April 23, 2015
Colorado Children's Campaign Conference Rom

Attendees: Jesús Escárcega, Mary Ellen Good, Holly Goodwin, Laura Gorman, Bridgette Muse, Ines Stabler, Jeff Klein, Nazanin Mohajeri-Nelson, Jennifer Phillips, Mark Rangel, Myra Westfall, Trish Boland, Lynn Bamberry

The meeting was called to order by chairman, Jesús Escárcega. The committee reviewed the minutes from the November, 201, and February, 2015 meetings. Minutes were approved as written.

ESEA Allocations – Trish Boland

- Allocations for Title IA in Colorado decreased by roughly \$2 million
- Seven districts saw a decrease of 36 – 92%
 - CDE has established a one-time grant to replace portions of these funds for 15-16
 - Committee recommended announcing the grant to all districts, even though only a small number will be eligible
- Titles IIA and III decreased less drastically
- Title VIB has not been released yet
- Community surveys are an important driver of data used to determine allocations
 - The committee discussed the need for training to help districts assess their own eligibility for each of the four Title IA grants
 - Practitioners in the field, including organizations like CASE and CASB need to understand how allocations are struck, as well as the supplemental nature of ESEA funds and how they should be considered and used differently from general fund dollars
 - Communities need to understand how responding to surveys and providing data affect allocations

Reauthorization – Trish Boland

- Dr. Boland provided an update about efforts to reauthorize ESEA
 - Alexander/Murray bill in Senate (Every Child Achieves Act) seems promising
 - Issue is competing with several more high-profile legislative priorities
 - More information hopefully coming soon

Educator Equity Plan

- Using feedback from field to inform plan
 - What makes sense for Colorado
- CDE using internal data for root cause analysis
- Committee noted:
 - New teacher mobility seems to be more commonly mentioned than attrition

- Leadership turnover or ineffectiveness can become a cause
- Rural districts have specific needs
 - Rural track in prep programs
- Some districts have found success with multi-year mentor programs
- Other states have had success with statewide initiatives (Kansas)
- Focus should be on “equitable outcomes”
- Motion was made and approved to submit a letter in support of the Educator Equity Plan to be submitted to USDE in June

Fall Conference Planning – Jeff Klein and Barb Goldsby

- CDE Federal Programs and Exceptional Student Services units will partner on a conference in the fall that features ESEA and IDEA programs
- CDE is looking for feedback from CoP as they plan
- Committee suggested addressing the following issues:
 - Many district personnel are split up by program – collaboration is not facilitated
 - Even personnel in the same area have different budgeting and administration practices
 - IEP guidelines are more restrictive
 - One student can fall into multiple categories
 - Both programs are supplemental
 - Perception is one program trumps the other
 - Practitioners need to know both programs
 - CDE collaborating on monitoring and site visits would bring programs together more
 - Many myths persist about how programs can work together
 - Assessment, Data, and Parent Involvement are key themes
 - Performance vs. compliance
 - Access vs. outcomes
 - One handbook for all Federal Programs
 - Connect with MTSS as a link between programs

High Flyers Network – Nazie Mohajeri-Nelson and Lynn Bamberry

- Study was a partnership between Federal Programs and Exceptional Student Services
- Phase one is complete – site visits, research and reports
- Phase two –grant program – is still in development
- Committee recommended:
 - Target schools on year two of accountability clock
 - Facilitate low-performing schools partnering with High Flyers Network schools
 - Create videos to supplement written information
 - Disseminate at ESEA/IDEA Academy, EL conference, Migrant Conference
 - Focus on universal strategies
 - Address how strategies can work in various settings
 - Focus on school leadership

- Include appropriate personnel for district (Superintendent, Principals, Academic Chiefs, etc.)
- Multi-year plan

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45. The next committee meeting will be in the fall of 2015