

Committee of Practitioners

June 15, 2018 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Utah State Board of Education

Conference Room 156

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQWMM32tJJ4>

Mediated by Dr. Rebecca Donaldson, ESEA Federal Programs Coordinator

Committee Members present: Dr. Rebecca Donaldson, Noelle Converse, Kim Dohrer, Sheryl Ellsworth, Dr. Christelle Estrada, Dr. Harold (Chuck) Foster, Sandi Grant, Heidi Greene, Sondra Jolovich-Motes, Nancy Kennedy, Dr. Max Lang, Charlene Lui, Murray Meszaros, Val Murdock, Robert Palmer, Becky Peters, Karen Peterson, Kamille Sheikh, Barbara Smith, Deirdre Straight, Dr. Deborah Swensen, Erika Thomas, Nancy Ward, and LeAnn Wood

Item	Discussion	Follow-up/Motions
1. Welcome and Introductions a. Review of Agenda	Rebecca Donaldson	Dr. Donaldson welcomed the group. The name of our section has been changed from Federal Programs to ESEA Programs and Related State Initiatives. This designation better reflects what the team does, and has been approved by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Leah Voorhies.
2. Title III Accountability	Dr. Christelle Estrada	Dr. Estrada described the changes under ESEA that impact the accountability for English Learners. Dr. Estrada indicated she is working with State Senators and student focus groups to develop solutions to close the achievement gap as well as have access to early college courses. Dr. Estrada is also working with UEN, and in September they will launch the "Utah's Promising Practices" website that will provide a resource to Utah educators regarding successful practices happening in Utah schools.
3. School Improvement	Dr. Max Lang Rebecca Donaldson <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding/allowable uses of funds• New State System of Support for School Improvement	Dr. Lang provided an update on school improvement. He indicated there are currently two initiatives that are being implemented in Utah. The first is the Utah School Turnaround and Leadership Development Act (S.B. 234), which works with schools that have been identified as the lowest performing 3 percent of all Utah schools for two consecutive years. The federal

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		<p>school improvement provisions under ESSA Title I, Part A Sec. 1003, School Improvement will be implemented upon the approval of Utah’s Consolidated State ESSA Plan.</p> <p>Dr. Donaldson presented a draft of the Utah Systems of Support for School Improvement Handbook that will be used for Turnaround schools and schools in improvement under ESSA. It needs to have further editing and review. Dr. Donaldson stated an invitation will go out later this summer for additional input from this group, Title I Directors, Principals, LEAs, and other stakeholders for in-depth feedback before this system becomes operationalized.</p> <p>Dr. Donaldson stated that under the proposed ESSA plan that is being reviewed by the U.S. Department of Education, schools will no longer be double identified under both State School Turnaround and ESSA School Improvement. When schools are identified, Turnaround will be identified first based on rankings in the lowest 3% of schools statewide for two consecutive years. State level funding will support these schools. Title I schools that are in the lowest 5% of Title I schools, and that are not Turnaround Schools, will be eligible for Federal funds. Schools will not be on both lists because there are not enough funds to do both, and because it is too challenging for schools.</p> <p>Dr. Donaldson discussed several options that the USBE is allowed to use for disbursing federal school improvement (Title I 1003) funds.</p> <p>The first option is based on a strict formula basis, similar to what is used for Title I. Under this provision,</p>

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		<p>some schools will get a lot of money while others will get very little.</p> <p>The second option is a competitive grant. LEAs will be competing for funding, and not all schools would be served.</p> <p>The third option is a combination formula and competitive grant. Under this provision, a small formula (to be determined) would be used to provide all schools with a base. Provisions that would go into the formula would be number of students, size of the district, whether the school is rural, and so on. Schools will need to do a needs assessment and root cause analysis, and then build a plan based on the results of that assessment. Any 1003(a) funds that are issued must be used to implement strategies and interventions that meet Levels 1-3 of the U.S. Department of Education’s evidenced-based guidelines. One thing USBE staff will be looking at in plans is sustainability – how schools will use Title I and other funds to keep the continuous improvement process going after school improvement funding ends. It will be about leveraging funding and braiding funds together for the biggest/best impact. USBE will provide technical assistance to develop plans, but schools will develop plans under the auspices of the direction of the LEA. The onus is under the district to determine what supports they provide to their schools. There are several national organizations that can help with evidence-based strategies/programs, and so forth, but there is no one-stop site that contains everything a school/district might need. USBE staff will be working on this as they move forward.</p>

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		<p>Barbara Smith, Director of the Utah Parent Network, moved that a template for 1003(a) funds be created that includes a base amount that goes to each school and then a competitive element based on a needs assessment and root cause analysis along with high-quality plans that include the implementation of evidence-based strategies, practices, and/or interventions. Sondra Jolovich-Motes, a District Administrator in Ogden District, seconded the motion. The group voted and the motion passed.</p>
<p>4. Fiscal Carryover Policy</p>	<p>Sandra Grant</p>	<p>Sandra Grant presented an update regarding carryover funds. Business Administrators for schools are not consistently requesting their funds in a timely manner. As a result, the U.S. Department of Education sends letters to the USBE indicating that funds are not being drawn down. Starting July 1, 2018, for State Fiscal Year 2019, USBE staff will begin monitoring carryover with more intensity – especially those LEAs who have not requested any reimbursements by June 1, 2018. Staff will not arbitrarily transfer money away from LEAs; instead, they will work with LEAs to ensure LEA personnel are involved and know what is going on. Sandra clarified this is not a change in law, but is a policy to help reduce the risk assessment of LEAs in the USBE Accounting office, as well as reduce the risk of money not being used at all and being returned to the US Treasury when the funds expire at the end of the 27-month period of availability.</p> <p>Kim Dohrer, President of Academica West, proposed that the committee adopt the presentation on Fiscal Policy for expiring ESSA funds effective State Fiscal Year 2019. Sondra Jolovich-Motes seconded</p>

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		<p>the motion. The group voted and passed the motion.</p>
<p>5. Title IV-B 21st Century Community Learning Centers</p>	<p>Kamille Sheikh</p>	<p>Kamille Sheikh, USBE 21st CCLC Specialist, gave a presentation on the 21st CCLC grant. Funds/competitive grants are available for the upcoming school year. Kamille provided updates on the changes that are proposed in the new competitive subgrant application. There are still details that need to be finalized. Kamille will provide that information as it becomes available.</p> <p>Kamille advised that Congress has funded the program for another year.</p> <p>Kamille also advised that the Department of Work Force Services has a link containing IGP data: https://jobs.utah.gov/edo/intergenerational/data/index.html</p>
<p>6. Title I Monitoring Processes</p>	<p>Val Murdock</p>	<p>Dr. Donaldson indicated that the State Auditor's Office just finished a monitoring audit. Their initial feedback is for USBE staff to move away from a 5-year monitoring cycle towards a risk-based monitoring system. LEAs that are deemed low-risk would be monitored every three to five years. Higher-risk LEAs or new Charter schools that are just starting out would need to have more USBE technical assistance and monitoring. Dr. Donaldson stated that more information will be sent out once the findings have been received and reviewed.</p> <p>Val Murdock reviewed the "Year at a Glance" handout that breaks down USBE and LEA responsibilities. She stated that it will be updated each year. She added that monitoring visits will be expanded to not only monitor for risk management, but also monitor for</p>

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		program quality and student outcomes.
7. ESSA Consolidated State Plan	Rebecca Donaldson	Dr. Donaldson stated that a press release went out yesterday about the ESSA Consolidated Plan that was revised and sent back to the U.S. Department of Education. She will forward that press release to the members of the Committee. Dr. Donaldson stated that one of the issues Utah is facing is that parents are opting children out of tests. Federal law allows states up to a 95% participation rate on state assessment – but Utah is coming in just slightly under that at approximately 94%. USBE is requesting a 1-year moratorium on that specific provision under ESSA to see what the the Board, Agency Leadership, and State Government Leaders can come up with as a compromise. If all goes well, we should receive a Federal Grant Award Notification on July 1, 2018, that will allow the initial funding allocations to be released to LEAs for the ESEA programs.

Tentative Future Meetings TBD by the Committee:

Dr. Donaldson will identify potential dates for future meeting dates. A Doodle Poll will be sent to Committee of Practitioners members. Meetings will be held at the USBE office with online access via YouTube.

Meeting materials and the YouTube video of the meeting will be posted online as soon as they have been checked to ensure ADA compatibility.