



# The Communicator

## Title Programs & Services E-Newsletter

**Issue 17**

**May, 2010**

### Purpose of “The Communicator”

The Communicator is a monthly e-newsletter produced by the Title Programs and Services Team at the Kansas State Department of Education. The purpose of the e-newsletter is to provide information regarding: the implementation of No Child Left Behind in Kansas, Local Consolidated Programs, Service Learning, AmeriCorps and upcoming deadlines and events. Schools and districts will be notified of the e-newsletter around the first of the month and it will be posted on the Title Programs and Services website.



### Small, Rural Schools Achievement Program & Rural and Low-Income Program

Part B of Title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) authorizes two separate formula grant programs that target funds to rural school districts – the Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) Program and the Rural and Low-Income School (RLIS) Program. Under the Small, Rural School Achievement Program, the U.S. Department of Education makes allocations directly to eligible districts. Under the Rural and Low-Income School Program, the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) makes allocations to eligible districts.

#### SRSA Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in REAP-Flex and the SRSA grant program, a district must –

- have a total average daily attendance (ADA) of fewer than 600 students, or serve only-schools that are located in counties that have a population density of fewer than 10 persons per square mile; and
- serve only schools that have a National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) school locale code of 7 or 8 or be located in an area of the state defined as rural by the state.

In the next couple of weeks, the U.S. Department of Education will be posting the list of districts that are eligible for SRSA and REAP-Flex for the 2010-2011 school year. KSDE will notify eligible districts when the list is posted. Grant awards will be mailed from the U.S. Department of Education to eligible districts in late August or early September.

#### RLIS Eligibility

A district is eligible for an allocation under the RLIS program if –

- 20 percent or more of the children age 5 to 17 served by the district are from families with incomes below the poverty line (based on census data)
- all schools served by the district have a National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) school locale code of 6, 7, or 8; and
- the district is not eligible to participate in the SRSA program.

KSDE will notify eligible districts when information is received regarding eligibility and allocations for the 2010-2011 school year. This information is usually received in late August or early September.

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### Homeless

<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=372> is the web link for the KSDE homeless webpage. You can find a liaison contact list, federal guidance, USDA memos, homeless posters, web links, and other helpful information regarding the education of homeless children and youth. Please contact Judi Kutzke at [jkutzke@ksde.org](mailto:jkutzke@ksde.org) if your homeless liaison contact information changes.

## **Title I SES Application Cycle Has Closed**

Title I Supplemental Educational Services (SES) is additional instruction designed to increase the academic achievement of students from low-income families attending Title I schools in their second year of school improvement, in corrective action, or in restructuring. These services may include academic assistance such as tutoring, remediation and other educational interventions. SES must be supplemental to the instruction provided during the regular school day. The after-school tutoring is offered by SES providers whose application has been approved by a team of Kansas educators.

The SES Application cycle closed on April 23, 2010. Kansas received 30 SES Provider applications for the 2010-2011 school year. This year, SES applications were submitted by Kansas school districts, educational service centers, previously approved providers (expiring in May 2010), faith-based organizations, out-of-state providers, online providers, for-profit organizations, and community-based organizations. Applications were received from ten different states: Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Oklahoma, Michigan, Florida, New Jersey, California, Texas, and Maryland. Application reviewers are from Kansas school districts, educational consultants, and staff from other educational organizations. SES applicants will be notified by June 30<sup>th</sup> if they are approved to provide services in Kansas during the 2010-2011 school year. If you have questions concerning SES, contact LaNetra Guess by phone at 785-296-8965 or by email [Lguess@ksde.org](mailto:Lguess@ksde.org).

## **Fine Arts Graduation Requirement**

For a course to qualify for a Fine Arts Credit, it must be taught by a Fine Arts teacher, in other words, a teacher highly qualified/fully certified in Music, Visual Arts, Dance, or Drama/Theatre. The four fine arts are Dance, Music, Drama/Theatre, and Visual Arts. A forensics course also qualifies since forensics was the exception (the only exception) in the definition approved by the Kansas State Board of Education. Courses that do not qualify for the fine arts credit are courses that do not fall under Dance, Music, Drama/Theatre, and Visual Arts, such as CTE, world languages, and language arts courses. These are not subjects listed in the State Board of Education definition. <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2397>

For questions, contact Joyce Huser at: [jhuser@ksde.org](mailto:jhuser@ksde.org) or 785-296-4932

## **National PTA**

### **Parent Involvement Standard #3**

#### **Active Parent Participation in Student Learning**

The National PTA has developed standards to encourage parent involvement in their children's education. The National PTA has highlighted six standards it believes are essential for any school or program involving parents and families. This month the focus is on Standard #3.

#### PTA Parent Involvement Standard #3:

#### Active Parent Participation in Student Learning

Research strongly supports that parent involvement impacts student learning. The following are activities that schools can encourage parents to participate in.

Parents should read to their child.

Let the child read to the parents.

Parents should ask their child about the school day.

Parents should establish a routine for homework that is comfortable and pleasant for the child.

Please devote time to ensuring each district school is supporting positive parent involvement. For more great ideas on parent involvement, visit the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC) at [www.kpirc.org](http://www.kpirc.org).

#### **\* \* \* Parent Involvement Reminders \* \* \***

The following are Title I parent involvement requirements. This is a good time of year for districts and schools to make sure that they have completed these activities.

The school needs to complete a Title I program evaluation (which includes parent input).

The progress and achievement of each Title I student should be monitored and shared with parents.

State assessment score need to be shared with parents.

The parent involvement policy should be updated regularly and should include input from parents.

### **Non public schools**

The Title Programs and Services Team developed a webpage for "Title Services for Non-Public Schools". It is located at <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3761>. Also included are the links for the private school consultations forms on this webpage. Please feel free to contact your KSDE LCP contact with any questions regarding services that public schools need to be providing to the non public students.



## **Charter and Virtual Schools Update** **SEA Grant Application**

KSDE is in the process of writing a grant application for Charter Schools. The grant will focus around new initiatives and concepts. The SEA grant application is due on May 7, 2010. We expect to hear results of the application review after June 30, 2010.

## **iConnect iLearn 2010 Conference**

This year's conference will be held in Colby, KS on June 2 and 3 and/or Salina, KS on June 10 and 11. This 'un'conference will cover many topics including, Better Learning for Less \$\$\$, Fearless Thinkers, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning, and powerful learning tools. For more information on the conference or to register visit <http://iconnectilearn.ning.com>. Registration is due by May 19, 2010.

## **Virtual Schools**

The Virtual study was shared at the April State Board meeting. It was a success and will result in providing an avenue for regular reporting and a way to address any needed changes. The Virtual study may be found at the following link. <http://www.ksde.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=1odHiCvLo7Q%3d&tabid=427&mid=9223> The study is on pages 195-551. Thanks to all who helped collect and provide information. Questions should be directed to Cherie Nicholson (785) 368-7356 or [cnicholson@ksde.org](mailto:cnicholson@ksde.org).

## **ARRA Funds**

Many districts have not spent much of their Title I or Title IID American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds this school year. If your district does not draw down and spend all these ARRA funds by June 30, 2010, the district must submit an ARRA Local Consolidated Plan (LCP) Revision and Carryover Application in order to have the funds available next school year. The application will be web-based and accessible through the KSDE Authentication System; it should open in June. Notice will be sent via the LCP listserv when the application opens.

Remember that there is a 15% limitation on carry-over if the Title I allocation is more than \$50,000. A district may request a waiver to exceed the 15% limitation. The waiver request to exceed the 15% limitation will be built into the ARRA LCP Revision and Carryover Application. There is no limitation on the carry-over amount if the Title I allocation is less than \$50,000.

### **DUE DATES**

- \* Ed Flex Waiver for Schoolwide due June 1st
- \* Schoolwide Application due June 1st
- \* Continuing Schoolwide Forms due August 17th
- \* LCP Annual Report due June 10th
- \* LCP Revision and Carryover due July 1st
- \* ARRA LCP Revision and Carryover due July 1st

## **Saying Good-Bye**

After 22 years of service to the Kansas State Department of Education, Ron Johnson announced his retirement effective June 14, 2010. During his time at the department he has served as the director of the Migrant Program and has served as the LCP contact for southwest Kansas. Ron's leadership regarding the Migrant program will especially be missed; he cares very deeply for those students and has always worked to ensure they receive the best services available.

The Migrant Directors Association recently honored him with a dinner and a roast in Garden City. Directors of Migrant programs, Migrant staff and KSDE staff enjoyed the stories that people had to share about Ron's adventures over the last 22 years.

We wish him the best in his retirement and hope that he enjoys it to the fullest.

# Updates on KSDE Title I School Improvement Activities for 2010

## Title I School Improvement Grant 1003(a) Information

Kansas has a total of \$6,992,107.00 in federal funds for Title I school improvement activities for 2010 under 1003 (a). Under Section 1003(a), Kansas is required to reserve 4% of its regular Title I Part A allocation for school improvement activities for Title I schools on improvement.

Only districts with Title I schools identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring under Title I are eligible for the funds. The funds must support the school improvement activities as defined in the federal guidance and approved in the school improvement plans and funding applications.

Districts on improvement could also request funding that would target the reason their district is on improvement, such as subgroups or systemic district problems. These had to be tied to the district improvement plan and the Kansas Learning Network (KLN) district appraisal.

Eligible districts had the option to submit grants in February or March. The applications received in February and March were reviewed by the KSDE staff. Recommendations for funding School and District (LEA) 1003(a) grants for 2010 were reviewed and approved by the State Board of Education in March and April.

Following is the list of districts/schools that were approved:

District USD # and Name	School Name
USD 214, Ulysses	Kepley Middle School
USD 214, Ulysses	
USD 352, Goodland	
USD 257, Iola	
USD 259, Wichita	Clark Elementary, Curtis Middle School, Enterprise Elementary School, Hamilton Middle School, Jardine Technology Middle Magnet, Linwood Elementary, Pleasant Valley Elementary, Spraght Multimedia Magnet, and Truesdell Middle School
USD 261, Haysville	
USD 290, Ottawa	
USD 308 Hutchinson	Avenue A Elementary and Lincoln Elementary School
USD 398, Peabody-Burns	
USD 417, Morris County	
USD 424, Mullinville	
USD 430, South Brown County	Everest Middle School
USD 445, Coffeyville	
USD 453, Leavenworth	Earl M Lawson Elementary
USD 457, Garden City	
USD 480, Liberal	Cottonwood Intermediate School and South Middle School
USD 500, Kansas City	Argentine Middle School, Banneker Elementary School, Bertram Caruthers Elementary, Central Middle School, Chelsea Elementary, Emerson Elementary, Grant Elementary, Lindbergh Elementary, Mark Twain Elementary, Northwest Middle School, Quindaro Elementary, and Whittier Elementary
USD 501, Topeka	Chase Middle School, Lundgren Elementary School, Scott Computer Technology Magnet, Shaner Elementary, and
USD 502, Parsons	

School Improvement Grants, authorized under section 1003 (g) of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Title I or ESEA), are grants, through State educational agencies (SEAs), to local educational agencies (LEAs) for the use in Title I schools identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring that demonstrate the greatest need for the funds and the strongest commitment to use the funds to provide adequate resources in order to raise substantially the achievement of their students so as to enable the schools to make adequate yearly progress and exit improvement status. These resources will be targeted to specific proven investments in Title I schools and districts that face severe academic challenges.

School Improvement funds are to be focused on each State’s “Tier I” and “Tier II” schools.

- **Tier I schools** are a State’s persistently lowest-achieving Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring and, if a State so chooses, certain Title I eligible elementary schools that are as low achieving as the State’s other Tier I schools.
- **Tier II schools** are a State’s persistently-lowest achieving secondary schools that are eligible for, but do not receive, Title I, Part A funds and, if a State so chooses, certain additional Title I eligible secondary schools that are as low achieving as the State’s other Tier II schools or that have had a graduation rate below 60 percent over a number of years.
- An LEA may also use school improvement funds in Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring that are not identified as persistently lowest-achieving schools and, if a State so chooses, certain additional Title I eligible schools (**“Tier III schools”**).
- In the Tier I and Tier II schools an LEA chooses to serve, the LEA must implement one of four school intervention models: **turnaround model, restart model, school closure, or transformation model.**

A link has been provided for districts/schools to access The Kansas State Department of Education Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools Definition as defined by Title I School Improvement Grants Section 1003(g). *Kansas 2010 List of Persistently Lowest Achieving Schools and Persistently Lowest Achieving Schools Definition Explanation* <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3498>

**Late Breaking Information:**

The state (SEA) 1003(g) grant application and the district (LEA) 1003(g) application have been approved by the US Department of Education. Tier I and Tier II schools are competing for grants that will be awarded in June. Tier III grants will be available after the funding of Tier I and Tier II schools conclude. Kansas is receiving \$22,488,000.00.

Five Kansas districts that have Tier I and Tier II schools are in the process of writing and finalizing their 1003(g) LEA grant applications. These districts are:

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. USD 247 | Cherokee    |
| 2. USD 259 | Wichita     |
| 3. USD 480 | Liberal     |
| 4. USD 500 | Kansas City |
| 5. USD 501 | Topeka      |

During the month of May the KSDE staff and Cross & Joftus staff (KLN Network) will be visiting the five districts to listen to each district’s 1003(g) grant presentation given by the district leadership team. The purpose of the “district presentation visit” is to give each district the opportunity to respond to Key Questions about the major components of the grant application and share highlights of their grant application. The major components are:

- Background Information and Needs Assessment,
- Selection of the Intervention Model(s),
- Capacity of the District to Serve Tier I and Tier II Schools,
- Annual Goal Setting and Timelines, and
- Budget Explanation and Sustainability

Included in this process will be an explanation of the actions each district has taken to:

- design and implement interventions consistent with the final requirements.
- recruit, screen, and select external providers, if applicable, to ensure their quality.
- align other resources with the interventions
- modify LEA practices or policies, if necessary, to enable it to implement the interventions fully and effectively.
- sustain the reforms after the funding period ends.

Once the oral presentation is finished, the KSDE staff, Cross & Joftus staff, and the district leadership team will have discussions about the Key Question responses and then negotiate changes in the grant application and budget, if needed. Final decisions on the grant application approval will not be made the day of the presentation.

The KSDE staff will review each of the grant applications during the month of May and final recommendations will be made. Tier I and Tier II schools will be awarded in June and Tier III competition will take place in the future if funds are available.

Several links have been provided with additional information pertinent to the Title I School Improvement Grants 1003(g) for 2010.

(continued on page 6)

Several links have been provided with additional information pertinent to the Title I School Improvement Grants 1003 (g) for 2010.

- District (LEA) Grant Application 1003(g) <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3498>
- Latest Guidance from the U.S. Department of Education <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3498>
- U.S. Department of Education <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/faq.html> This site includes multiple School Improvement Grant resources.
- Center on Innovation & Improvement (CII) <http://www.centerii.org/leaders/>
- Selecting the Intervention Model and Partners - DOCUMENT and Selecting the Intervention Model and Partners - FORM <http://www.centerii.org/leamodel/>
- SIG Webinars and PPTs <http://www.centerii.org/webinars/>
- Handbook on Effective Implementation of School Improvement Grants <http://www.centerii.org/handbook/>



## Graduation Rate Goal Changes

The graduation rate goal for making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in 2009-2010 changed as a result of federal Title I regulations and approved by US Department of Education. The goal was 75%, now it is 80%. Previously, any improvement over the prior year was also sufficient. Now any high school or district that is below the 80% goal must meet a specified target. If the school's graduation rate is less 80% but equal to or greater than 50%, the current rate must improve 3% over the prior year's rate. If the current rate is less than 50%, the improvement target is 5%.

The new goal and targets apply to the "All Students" group in high schools and districts that have 30 or more students in the graduation cohort. Schools with less than 30 see the actual data on their AYP Reports but will have a "Yes 10" indicating they made the graduation rate. Refer to the Graduation Fact Sheet for additional information.

## PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE

REMINDER ... REMINDER ... REMINDER ...

All Title I schools on improvement, in corrective action, or restructuring are reminded of the requirement to notify parents of the School Choice option at least 14 calendar days before the start of school. Anticipating the time crunch that many schools experience in late July and early August, it is hoped that this reminder may motivate schools to prepare now for the 2010-2011 notifications and requirements.

Schools that were "On Delay" or "On Watch" for the 2009-2010 school year are encouraged to check your school's preliminary AYP data and be prepared to offer Public School Choice, in particular the 14-day parent notification, if the school does not make AYP for this school year and goes on improvement.

Districts with schools on improvement, in corrective action, or restructuring must also post school choice data on their website and must provide, or pay for the provision of, transportation to and from the school of choice. A website template, and additional information and resources are available on the School Choice website at: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3566>.

Questions about Public School Choice may be directed to Laura Jones at 785-296-3164 or [ljones@ksde.org](mailto:ljones@ksde.org).

## Intent to Become Schoolwide

Schools that have submitted an Intent to Become Schoolwide for school year 2010-2011 are reminded that Schoolwide plans are due to KSDE on or before June 1, 2010. The plan template and resources can be found at <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=404>.

### Schoolwide Webinar #5 ~ Change of Date

The schoolwide webinar originally scheduled for May 17 at 10:00 has been moved to WEDNESDAY, MAY 26 at 10:00. The following items are on the agenda for this final webinar:

- Submitting the plan and preparing for implementation
- KSDE review of plans – process and timeline
- Schoolwide implementation
  - Is there a need for professional development/technical assistance this summer or next fall?
  - Ramping up the school's Action Plan – Will you be ready to start in August?
  - What does this mean for our LCP Application for SY 2010-2011?
  - Annual review and evaluation process – KSDE expectations
  - Introduce the Continuing Schoolwide form for SY 2011-2012

### Continuing Schoolwide School Year 2010-2011

Schools that are already operating as a schoolwide are reminded that they must complete the Continuing Schoolwide form each year to indicate their continuation of the program. The form is due to KSDE on or before August 17, 2010. The Continuing Schoolwide 2010-2011 form is located on the Schoolwide website at <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=404>.

Questions about Schoolwide programs may be directed to Laura Jones at 785-296-3164 or [ljones@ksde.org](mailto:ljones@ksde.org).



# Graduation Rate

## 2009-2010 Fact Sheet

### Graduation Changes for 2010 AYP

As a result of new federal requirements, Kansas revised its graduation rate goal and targets.

In April, 2010, the US Department of Education conditionally approved these changes for the graduation rate used in calculating **Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for 2010.**

### What is the New Graduation Rate Goal?

New graduation rate goal is 80%. Previously, it was 75%.

### What are the New Graduation Rate Targets?

If Rate is	Target is
80% or above	0% improvement from last year
Less than 50%	5% improvement from last year
At or above 50%	3% improvement from last year

Previously, the target was any improvement over the prior year's graduation rate. The new annual targets must be continuous and substantial improvement from prior year toward meeting goal.

### How does a High School or District Make AYP in Graduation?

The "All Students" group has a graduation rate of 80% or meets the new target

### What is the Current Graduation Rate Formula?

2009 graduates – (retentions)

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2009 Graduates + 2009 grade 12 dropouts + 2008 grade 11 dropouts + 2007 grade 10 dropouts + 2006 grade 9 dropouts

### Who is included in the Graduation Rate Data?

Only students with regular diplomas

Data collected through KIDS system—exit records D28 with "8—Graduated with Regular Diploma"

Data is lagged 1 year—2009 graduate data are used to determine 2010 Graduation Rate for AYP

### When is Graduation Data Reviewed?

Schools review and signoff on the prior year's data through the "Dropout/Graduation Summary Report" which was open Oct.1 -Nov.4, 2009.

### Is Graduation Rate Data Disaggregated?

"All Students" is the only group used in making AYP determinations related to graduation.

Disaggregated data is only used in AYP when considering whether or not Safe Harbor applies. When a particular group does not meet the performance target in reading or math, safe harbor is applied if this group meets the graduation rate (80% or meets new targets).

The Report Card posted on the KSDE website has graduation rate data in 2 places.

On the AYP page, only the "All Students" group is listed. The other groups have an "NA."

On the Graduation page, the data is displayed for all disaggregated groups. The "N-size" of 30 does not apply; however, no groups with fewer than 10 are publicly released. No goals or targets apply to the data on that page.

### How Many Students Are Necessary for Graduation Rate to be Calculated for AYP? (N-Size)

30 students in the "All Students" category

Schools with less than 30 students will not have an AYP determination for graduation.

### Graduation Changes for 2011 AYP

The new federal requirements also require states to calculate graduation rate using a "4-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate."

Kansas will implement new formula with 2010 graduates which impacts 2010-2011 AYP.

Kansas will set new goal and targets when switching to the new formula.

US Department of Education will Peer Review the goal, targets and rules used in calculating graduation rate.

Many decisions are yet to be made by KSDE.

### How does Current Formula Differ from 4-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate?

Currently, start with 12<sup>th</sup> grade graduates and add/subtract transfers and dropouts

New method will start with first time 9<sup>th</sup> graders and follow that group for 4 years and adding or subtracting transfers in/out.

### Who Does One Contact if One Has Questions?

[qpa@ksde.org](mailto:qpa@ksde.org) or 785-296-2261

Judi Miller, 785-296-5081, [judim@ksde.org](mailto:judim@ksde.org).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### May 26

Schoolwide Webinar #5, NEW DATE, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

### May 12-14

McREL “Classroom Instruction that Works with English Language Learners – Developing Professional Developers”, Topeka



### For questions regarding “The Communicator” E-Newsletter, contact:

Dr. Julie Ford, 785-368-7274, [jford@ksde.org](mailto:jford@ksde.org)  
<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=121>



### An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

KSDE General Counsel  
120 SE 10th Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66612  
785-296-3201