

OFP Highlights

...is an update on the Office of Federal Programs' federal grants & RFPs, workshops, trainings, and opportunities relevant to MS school districts, parents, community and other stakeholders.

April 4, 2014

FY 2015 Migrant Education Request for Proposals

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) is soliciting proposals for the purpose of creating a Mississippi Migrant Education Service Center. This center must provide academic enrichment opportunities for Migrant Children, to prepare them to meet core academic achievement standards in schools across the state.

Potential offerors may access the Request for Proposal at www.mde.k12.ms.us under the Public Notice/Request for Proposals/Federal Programs Office. The deadline for receipt of proposals is on or before 3:30 p.m., Central Standard Time (CST) Tuesday, May 20, 2014.

Please direct questions to Patrice J. Boone at pboone@mde.k12.ms.us by April 17, 2014.

FY 2015 McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Request for Proposals

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) is soliciting proposals for the purpose of McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth grant. The Request for Proposals may be accessed by potential offerors at www.mde.k12.ms.us under the Public Notice section. The deadline for receipt of proposals is on or before 3:30 p.m., Central Time (CT) Monday, June 2, 2014.

Please direct questions to Barbara Greene at bgreene@mde.k12.ms.us by April 18, 2014.

RFP Webinar - McKinney-Vento Homeless Education

Join us on April 11, 2014, for "McKinney-Vento Homeless Education RFP Webinar". The webinar will be held from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Please reserve your Webinar seat at: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/910033786>

For more information, please contact Barbara Greene at (601) 359-3499.

Email: bgreene@mde.k12.ms.us.

New Authority for Uses of Title I, Part A for Homeless Students

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) has been asked whether Title I funds may be used to meet two requirements of McKinney-Vento: (1) to provide a local homeless liaison; and (2) to pay the cost to transport homeless children and youth to and from their school of origin. New authority in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 expands the allowable use of Title I funds to support these activities.

The appropriations language applies to FY2015 (SY2014-2015) Title I funds and, under the authority in section 425(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), to FYs 2013 and 2014 Title I carryover funds as well. Accordingly, an LEA may spend funds from its FY 2015 Title I allocation and unobligated Title I carryover funds to pay for the homeless liaison or to transport homeless children and youth to their school of origin. For your reference, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 guidance is available at: <http://center.serve.org/nche/legis/2014-omnibus.php>

For more information, please contact Barbara Greene at (601) 359-3499.
Email: bgreene@mde.k12.ms.us

Differentiated Support for Focus and Approaching Target Schools

Tuesday, April 22, 2014, at 10:00 a.m., the Office of Federal Programs will host the next installment in a series of webinars on Action Plans for Focus and Approaching Target Schools. Please register for the webinar using the following link: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/877221226> and share the login information with your staff as appropriate.

WIDA Notifications for ELLs

Test Materials Ordering

In February 2014, the MDE provided MetriTech with the Pre-ID data file and test material orders for each District. The Pre-ID data file will be generated from the EL data entered by the school districts into EL-specific Federal Program screens in the MSIS. MetriTech will produce Pre-ID labels and packing lists for each district based on the EL information in the MDE-provided data file. The ELLs testing window is **April 1st thru April 30th, 2014**. Additional materials may be ordered April 1st thru April 16th, 2014 by contacting MetriTech directly at Customer Service 800-747-4868 or via web at: www.metritech.com. Please consult your District Test Coordinator (DTC) for additional information.

Testing Schedule for the 2013-2014 Academic Year

Task	Start Date	End Date
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Districts Receive Test Materials & Paperwork	March 25, 2014	
Test Window	April 1, 2014	April 30, 2014
Additional Materials Ordering Window	April 1, 2014	April 16, 2014
Districts Pack & Ship Completed Materials	April 30, 2014	May 2, 2014
All Materials Received at MetriTech	- - -	No Later Than May 6, 2014
Reports Shipped to Districts (Attention: DTC)	July 3, 2014	July 8, 2014

For more information, please contact: Tarro Funches at (601) 359-3499.
Email: tfunches@mde.k12.ms.us

FY13 CFPA Reallocations

FY 2013, Title I, Part A reallocation notifications were released on March 17, 2014. One hundred ten (110) LEAs received a portion of the Title I, Part A reallocated funds and are required to submit an amendment to their FY13 (SY2012-2013) CFPA. **The deadline for submitting the amendments is Friday, April 11, 2014.** The funding period of availability for these funds ends September 30, 2014.

For more information, please contact: Melanie Diggs at (601) 359-9700.
Email: mdiggs@mde.k12.ms.us

Community Eligibility Provision

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is being phased in over several years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and will be available in all States starting in the 2014-2015 school year. CEP permits eligible schools to provide meal service to all students at no charge, regardless of economic status, while reducing burden at the household and local levels by eliminating the need to obtain eligibility data from families through a separate collection.

In addition to promoting nutrition for at-risk students, these changes to the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) are important to the implementation of Title I, Part A because SEAs and LEAs often use NSLP data to carry out certain Title I requirements. The Office of Child Nutrition and Office of Federal Programs are working collaboratively to support LEAs and schools desiring to exercise this CEP options. Specific guidance and support material may be located at the link below. <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/healthy-schools/nutrition-services/nutrition-services---resources>

For more information, please contact: Stephanie Robinson, Office of Child Nutrition at (601) 359-1737.
Email: snrobinson@mde.k12.ms.us or
Delicia Bennett, Office of Federal Programs at (601) 359-3499
Email: dbennett@mde.k12.ms.us

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Webinar

In an effort to assist the Early Learning Collaboratives with the Implementation of the K Readiness Assessment, the Mississippi Department of Education and Renaissance Learning will host a Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Webinar on Wednesday, April 9, 2014, from 10:00 AM-11:30 AM CDT. Information presented will address assessing Kindergarten readiness with Star Early Literacy, administering the assessment, using the state portal, existing technology requirements, and available support and resources. Please click on the following link to register: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/210986890>

The testing window for the K Readiness Assessment will open on April 23, 2014. Participation for the K Readiness Assessment is mandatory for Collaboratives and Optional for Title I Pre-K programs.

For more information, call: Robin Lemonis, Office of Curriculum & Instruction at (601) 359-2586 or
Email: rlemonis@mde.k12.ms.us

Welcome to MDE, Ms. Brittany Herrington

MDE has engaged a prekindergarten specialist: Brittany Herrington. Ms. Herrington's focus is increasing quality of Title I prekindergarten programs. She will be reaching out to districts and schools to gather data, as well as visiting in districts and schools to provide on-site assistance. If contacted by Ms. Herrington, please know that she is acting on behalf of the MDE and the Office of Federal Programs.

Reminder: FY 2015 CFPA Training

The FY 2015 CFPA (Consolidated Federal Programs Application) training is scheduled for April 29th – 30th at the Vicksburg Convention Center in Vicksburg, MS. Please reserve your seat by clicking here: [North Mississippi Education Consortium](#) (click on **Workshops/MDE Sponsored/Federal Programs**). We are requesting a **two-person team**, which may include the Federal Programs Director, Federal Programs Bookkeeper or district Business Manager. Key sessions will be recorded and posted to OFP website for individuals with scheduling conflicts.

In an effort to better accommodate planning and approval of the **FY2015 CFPA**, the due date is officially **June 30, 2014**. However, we invite the submission of applications, as soon as possible, to ensure a timely response.

Private School Services - Section II-D Private/Non-public School Affirmation Form

Section 1120(b) of the *No Child Left Behind Act* and Section 200.63 of the Title I regulations require that timely and meaningful consultation occur between the local education agency (LEA) and private school

officials prior to any decisions that affect the opportunities of eligible private school children, teachers, and other educational personnel to participate in programs under this Act. In addition, LEAs shall continue consultation throughout the implementation and assessment of activities under this section. This form should be completed by the public school officials and presented to private/non-public school officials for documenting *Affirmation of Consultation*. The private school administrator is required to sign this form. The Needs Assessment/Program Planning and Program Timelines are additional recommended documents for LEAs with participating private/non-public schools. These documents can be located at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/federal-programs/federal-programs---title-i-basic/private-schools>.

Please note: ***All LEAs are required to obtain counts for private/non-public school students from low-income families as of April 30 annually.***

Have a wonderful weekend,

-MEC

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