

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.

Editor, Kelsey Blumenberg, M.S. Ed.

April 1, 2015

New Releases & Web Postings



Champions of Change

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Offices of Federal Programs and Special Education honored 51 schools for academic achievement or progress during a ceremony at the MDE Central High School Building on **March 25, 2015**. MDE staff recognized schools that have earned the title of High Progress, High Performing, Exemplary Inclusion and/or Distinguished under Federal Title I guidelines as "**Champions of Change**." Two schools were recognized nationally as Title I Distinguished Schools.

To view each featured documentary film [CLICK HERE](#).

For more information, please contact:

Office of Federal Programs

Mr. Kelsey Blumenberg, State Title I & Distinguished Schools Coordinator

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MCAPS Trainings

The Office of Federal Programs is pleased to announce and introduce our new online application system for federal programs, MCAPS (Mississippi Comprehensive Automated Performance-

based System). OFP is hosting trainings designed to provide federal programs directors and business managers with an overview and a more in depth and intense learning opportunity of MCAPS.

The first training session, An Introduction to MCAPS, will be held on **April 8-9, 2015** at the JSU E- Center on Raymond Road in Jackson, MS. This training session is designed to provide all districts with a basic introduction and overview of MCAPS and its components. Each district is asked to bring only two participants and attend only one of the four **half-day training sessions**. The morning session will be held from 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. with registration at 7:30 a.m. The afternoon session will be held from 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. with registration at 1:00 p.m.

April 8, 2015

- Morning Session 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Registration at 7:30 a.m.
- Afternoon Session 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration at 1:00 p.m.

April 9, 2015

- Morning Session 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Registration at 7:30 a.m.
- Afternoon Session 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration at 1:00 p.m.

MCAPS Regional Trainings

The Office of Federal Programs is hosting a series of regional trainings that will provide all districts with a more in depth, hands-on interactive and engaging learning opportunity. The trainings will be held on the following dates and locations:

- April 15-16, 2015 in Brandon, MS - Rankin County School District Board Room
- April 20-21, 2015 in Oxford, MS - Insight Park, University of Mississippi
- April 23-24, 2015 in Greenville, MS - Higher Education Center
- April 28-29, 2015 in Hattiesburg, MS - Cochran Center
- April 30 - May 1, 2015 in Meridian, MS - Riley Center

Please continue all current planning practices and procedures until official notice to change. (e.g., needs assessments, private school services, and school-wide planning)

For more information, please contact:

Office of Federal Programs

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Literacy Based Promotion Act of 2013

The Literacy Based Promotion Act of 2013 provides specific guidance to school districts for grade 3 students not promoted to grade 4. Districts are required to provide intensive instructional services, including a minimum of 90 minutes of reading supports during the regular school day. Strategies such as small group instruction, reduced teacher-student ratios, tutoring in scientifically researched-based reading services in addition to the regular school day, the option of transition classes, extended school day, week, or year; and summer reading camps are also required.

Based on the language of the law, school districts are allowed to use Title I dollars to supplement the district's efforts through summer reading camps and extended school year to address the reading deficits of the third grade students. [CLICK HERE](#) for details

For more information, please contact:
Office of Federal Programs
Farrah Nicholson, School Support Services Director
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Phone: 601-359-3499

ESEA AND IDEA COLLABORATIVE FISCAL CONFERENCE

State and local educational leaders are often confronted with difficult decisions regarding the best use of their limited resources to meet the educational needs of all students. There is also a growing demand to ensure fiscal resources are utilized in the most efficient and effective manner. With the release of the new regulations governing grant awards under 2 C.F.R. 200 (Uniform Guidance), we are elated to announce a collaboration between the Offices of Federal Programs and Special Education at the Mississippi Department of Education.

The MDE hosted an ESEA and IDEA Collaborative Fiscal Conference designed to address the new Uniform Guidance and state level fiscal controls. Sessions were held February 17th and 18th, 2015 at the Vicksburg Convention Center in Vicksburg, MS. Presenters included leaders from the MDE Offices of Federal Programs, Special Education, School Financial Services, and School Recovery as well as representatives from the law firm of Brustein & Manasevit, PLLC. The professional development opportunity was geared toward federal programs directors, special education directors, and business managers.

RESOURCES

- I. Three copies of the NEW Uniform Guidance were provided to each district. The Uniform Guidance can be viewed online at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-12-26/pdf/2013-30465.pdf>. If you have not received your copy, contact Shanika Grant at sgrant@mde.k12.ms.us or (601) 359-3499.
- II. Each session offered can be viewed via the OFP Home page under Training Videos (<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/OFP/tv>) or via SharePoint (<https://districtaccess.mde.k12.ms.us/fedprograms/default.aspx>).
- III. Session presentations and general handouts can be downloaded from the SharePoint site at [Federal Programs Public Folders/Conference Presentations/2015 ESEA and IDEA Fiscal Conference](#).

For more information, please contact:
Office of Federal Programs
Melanie Diggs, Fiscal Director
Email: mdiggs@mde.k12.ms.us
Phone: 601-359-3499

School Effectiveness Review Process (SERP) Follow-up Component

The Office of Federal Programs (OFP) continues to implement the School Effectiveness Review Process (SERP). The process is designed to offer greater support to low-performing schools and districts in the usage of *No Child Left Behind* funding. The ultimate goal of SERP is to assist districts in ensuring all federal resources are used efficiently and effectively to positively impact student achievement.

As we move toward attaining this goal the MDE is currently reviewing, processing, and approving FY15 Final CFPAs (Consolidated Federal Program Applications). OFP will provide follow-up support to schools and districts participating in SERP. Follow-up support will focus on strengthening connection between instruction activities and the usage of federal funds in relation to improving student achievement. The general intent is to offer support for existing practices while preparing for an even stronger FY16 planning. Affected school districts will receive official notification under a separate cover.

For more information, please contact:
Office of Federal Programs
Farrah Nicholson, School Support Services
Email: fnicholson@mde.k12.ms.us
Phone: 601-359-3499

MASA- Spring Leadership Conference

There will be something for everyone! ***Celebrate Public Education with MASA during our Spring Leadership Conference, April 12-14, 2015 at the Jackson Hilton, County Line Road.*** Register now to hear from outstanding local, state and national presenters on topics ranging from children's mental health to avoiding legal pitfalls in employment.

Don't miss the first Legislative Update, from Dr. Carey Wright and Mr. Pete Smith following the 2015 Legislative Session and renew your spirit through lively discourse with fellow colleagues as you grow professionally.

Log onto our website at msasa.org for session descriptions and registration information. ***MASA members enjoy discounts for conference fees!*** For more information you may contact Dr. Lisa Karmacharya, Executive Director at <mailto:masadirector@aol.com> or Mrs. Ginger Lowhorn, Business Manager at <mailto:msasa1317@gmail.com>

For more information, please contact:
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Federal Programs' Organization Affiliates

The Office of Federal Programs has added a new link [Organization Affiliates](#) on its webpage. The Organization Affiliates page is intended to provide educators and all stakeholders' access to

professional organizations specifically dedicated to improving and implementing the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The OFP encourages membership and participation in these professional organizations that provide professional development, resources, and training support for those interested in supporting the academic success of children and youth.

Guidance Notifications

Highly Qualified Paraprofessionals

Policy letters have been added for the Title I, Basic concerning Highly Qualified Paraprofessionals requirements. For more information, please visit the OFP website at: [OFP Guidance Letters](#).

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. [Click here](#) to access specific guidance and support material. [March 2015 Guidance](#)

For more information, please contact:
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Title I On Demand

[Title I On Demand](#) offers professional development opportunities for Title I practitioners at all levels, without ever having to step outside. Each premium subscription gives you access - on your own schedule - to an entire series of high quality professional videos to motivate and inform your staff about the latest Title I issues.

The majority of content for [Title I On Demand](#) comes from sessions recorded at annual National Title I Conferences. All videos are available in high quality HD format and many include downloadable handouts (when provided by the speaker). Sessions recorded at national conferences will be available for approximately one year. Other media is added periodically, including a limited amount of free content, available to anyone with a user account on this website.

On Demand videos may be viewed by the subscriber at any time, from any computer with a high speed internet connection. While you are encouraged to share videos with your colleagues by connecting your computer to a projector, none of the [Title I On Demand](#) content may be used in any commercial or paid-entry situation.

<p>Basic \$39 for 3 Months BUY NOW</p>	<p>Professional \$69 for 6 Months BUY NOW</p>	<p>Platinum \$99 for 12 Months BUY NOW</p>
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News You Can Use & Friendly Reminders

Office of Migrant Education



[Sign up](#) to receive *THE TEACHERS EDITION*!

ED Data Express

ED Data Express is a Web site designed to improve the public's ability to access and explore high-value state-level education data collected by the U.S. Department of Education. The site currently includes data from *EDFacts*, Consolidated State Performance Reports, State Accountability Workbooks, the National Center for Education Statistics, the National Assessment of Education Progress, the College Board, and the Department's Budget Service office. Visit [ED Data Express](#) to explore your state's data.

Educational Resources for New Arrivals & DACA Students

The U.S. Department of Education's page dedicated to providing information and resources for students who are newly arrived in the United States or who have received, or are planning to request, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Check out resources at: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/focus/immigration-resources.html>

Office for Civil Rights

The mission of the Office for Civil Rights is to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the nation through vigorous enforcement of civil rights. Find out more about the office here: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html>.

Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards

[This page](#) is dedicated to assisting grantees with the implementation of the Uniform Guidance, including through ED-specific training and resources as well as training material produced by Office of Management and Budget. The Uniform Guidance streamlines and consolidates government requirements for receiving and using federal awards so as to reduce administrative burden and improve outcomes. It was published in the Federal Register on December 19, 2014, and became effective for new and continuation awards issued on or after December 26, 2014.

You Are Invited To Join Our Migrant Education Listserv!

The [Migrant Education Listserv](#) is a free service offered by the Office of Migrant Education to keep members of the migrant education community up-to-date on information that is relevant to the Title I Migrant Education Program. Please forward to others that may not be on the listserv.

Office of Accountability Update

This is a reminder that the **cohort2010** data files were updated and reposted on March 6, 2015. These files are located in your district's secure SharePoint site in [districtaccess/sdXXXX/ORS/cohort2010_updated](#). These files may be accessed using the superintendent's username and password only, given that the files have personally identifiable information. Districts should upload the completed coversheet (.pdf), verified file (.xls), and supporting documentation for changes (.pdf) to MDE via SharePoint in the same folder **on or before 5:00 pm on Wednesday, April 1, 2015.**

Updated resources are available to guide you through the verification process and may be downloaded from the Accountability SharePoint site in the [Public Documents/Cohort Verification Process](#) folder:

- [Four-Year Cohort Data Verification Procedures \(2010-2011 Cohort\)](#)
- [Four-Year Cohort Verification Cover Sheet \(2010-2011 Cohort\)](#)
- [Cohort2010 PowerPoint from the February 2015 Webinar](#) (with updated timeline)
- [How to post Cohort 2010 documents to SharePoint guide](#)
- [Calculating Graduation Rates](#) (updated March 2015)

The recording of the [original webinar held February 20, 2015](#), is also available for viewing, and the link is posted to the Links section of the Accountability Public site. Keep in mind the webinar was held before the change in date for the timeline.

If we can provide additional assistance or resources, please let us know.

For more information, please contact:
Office of Accountability
Staci Curry, Accountability Services Director
Email: scurry@mde.k12.ms.us
Phone: 601-359-0771

LETRS Early Childhood Teachers' Training

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to offer training for early childhood education teachers on improving learning outcomes for young children. This two-day training will explain how pre-kindergarten students learn the early literacy and language skills shown in research to be critical for later success.

Eligible attendees for this training include early childhood educators participating in an Early Learning Collaborative state-funded Pre-K program as well as preschool teachers, special education preschool teachers, and related service providers serving preschool children at public schools. Please email Brittany Herrington at bherrington@mde.k12.ms.us for questions concerning training eligibility or other training questions. For questions concerning registration, please contact the RESA at the link below.

For registration at the assigned site, please click on the link below.

June 1-2, 2015

Jackson State University R&D Center
3825 Ridgewood Rd.
Jackson, MS 39211
www.smec-jsu.org

For more information, please contact:

Office of Early Childhood

Brittany Herrington, Professional Development Coordinator

Email: bherrington@mde.k12.ms.us

Phone: 601-359-2586

Text to E-mail Questions

Responding to your questions is critical to the success of your program. In an effort to enhance the efficiency and timely responses you are welcome to send questions, comments, or ideas to enhance our services by texting or emailing questions to federalprograms2@mde.k12.ms.us. This tool was used during the FY 2015 CFPA training to capture questions, which have been posted to the OFP website under [FAQ](#).