

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.

Marcus E. Cheeks, Executive Director

Editor, Kelsey Blumenberg, Ed.D.



From the Director's Desk

December 7, 2015

New Releases & Web Postings

ESEA Reauthorization Update

I am pleased to report that the U.S. House of Representatives voted on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 to approve the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) by a wide bipartisan margin. The Act provides a long-term, stable federal policy that gives states additional flexibility and encourages states and schools to innovate, while at the same time holding us accountable for results. This bill reflects key priorities for reauthorizing ESEA (Elementary Secondary Education Act). Examples include:

- The bill maintains annual assessments in grades 3-8 and high school.
- The bill reaffirms that states are in control of their standards and assessments.
- The bill sets parameters for a state's accountability systems but gives each state the flexibility to design a school accountability system that best meet the needs of students in their state.
- The bill gives states the flexibility to work with local stakeholders to determine how educators should be evaluated and supported each year.
- The bill provides for pilots at the state level so states can research new and improved methods of measuring student progress from year to year.

There is a strong possibility the bill will move to the U.S. Senate early this week. If this bill is approved, we recognize there will be a period of adjustment before it is fully implemented. Please note the Office of Federal Programs will offer more specific guidance on the impact of ESSA once it is signed into law. Additional information may be found by reviewing a [detailed summary of the conference report](#) published within the Congressional Quarterly's (CQ's) House Action Report.

Welcoming New Staff



Please join the OFP staff in welcoming **Sonja J. Robertson, Ph.D.** to the Office of Federal Programs (OFP). Dr. Robertson has most recently served as Director of Federal Programs with the Moss Point Municipal School District where she administered Title I, Part A; Title II, Part A; 21st Century Community Learning Services, and the McKinney Vento Homeless Education Program. In this capacity, Dr. Robertson led the development and approval of each school's schoolwide plan and coordinated professional development. Dr. Robertson has experience in supporting teachers on instructional practices designed to improve student achievement. In her new role she will serve as the Bureau Director for Title Programs where she will lead the instructional aspect of the OFP's work. We look forward to her skillset adding to the unique work of the OFP. She has approximately 24 years of experience in the field of education serving as a teacher, principal, and district administrator.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education

The following two minute infomercial was produced for your local use. It may be shared and used to educate school leaders, students, parents, and community partners about the rights given by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act to students and families in homeless situations. This video along with other important tools, such as the Professional Development Request Form and the Homeless Dispute Form can also be found on the Office of Federal Programs webpage at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/OFP/title-x>. Please adjust your speaker volume and press the play button below to view.



[Press Play](#)

Homeless Education Webinars

The National Center for Homeless Education invites you to participate in one of our upcoming webinars. NCHE webinar registration is open for December and January sessions, including:

- **Paving the Way to College for Students Experiencing Homelessness**
Wednesday, December 9, 2015 | 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM EST (please adjust for your time zone)
- **Supporting the Education of Unaccompanied Homeless Students**
Friday, December 11, 2015 | 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM ET (please adjust for your time zone)
- **Trauma in the Classroom: Minimizing Disruptions to Learning**
Monday, January 11, 2016 | 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM EST (please adjust for your time zone)
- **Paving the Way to College for Students Experiencing Homelessness**
Tuesday, January 19, 2016 | 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM EST (please adjust for your time zone)
- **McKinney-Vento 101: School Access and Stability under the McKinney-Vento Act**
Friday, January 22, 2016 | 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET (please adjust for your time zone)

Visit <http://center.serve.org/nche/web/group.php> to view webinar descriptions or to register for any of the above sessions.

For more information, please contact:

Office of Federal Programs

Dr. Kelsey Blumenberg, State McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Coordinator

Email: keblumenberg@mdek12.org

Phone: 601-359-3499

Annual Reporting on Neglected & Delinquent Students

Transmittal of Ed forms needed to collect information for the Annual Report on Neglected and Delinquent children is posted on the Office of Federal Programs (OFP) website under [Neglected and Delinquent](#). Guidance for Identifying Eligible Institutions and Counting ([Attachment 1](#)) and a Survey for Locating Local Institutions for Neglected or Delinquent Children in each Local Education Agency (Attachment 2). These forms are for ***Local Education Agencies*** only.

Please complete the survey ([Attachment 2](#)) using **October 2015** caseload. Clicking “Done” will submit the survey to the OFP. This survey is due **December 31, 2015**. The survey **must be completed** and submitted whether an institution is located in your district or not.

FY16 Neglected & Delinquent Application

Title I, Part D Subpart 2 – Delinquent **recipients** can retrieve a copy of the application plan and budget files in MCAPS in the LEA Documents Library. School districts with a detention center in their attendance area are eligible recipients. Applications are due **January 15, 2015**.

For more information, please contact:
Office of Federal Programs
Jerry McClendon, State Neglected & Delinquent Coordinator
Email: jmccleendon@mdek12.org
Phone: 601-359-3499

Title VI, Part B - Rural and Low Income Application

Rural and Low Income **recipients** can retrieve a copy of the application plan and budget files in MCAPS in the LEA Documents Library. The school districts eligible to receive Title VI funds will have an allocation listed under Title VI on the revised allocations table. Applications are due **January 15, 2015**.

For more information, please contact:
Office of Federal Programs
Mariea B. Jackson, State Rural and Low Income Program Coordinator
Email: mbanks@mdek12.org
Phone: 601-359-3499

21st Century Community Learning Centers- New Data Collection System

USDE has launched the new online system for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC). A name for the system has not been established at this time. USDE is requesting that all sub-grantees with programs that operated during the summer of 2014 begin entering data in their grantee profile for that time (Summer 2014) only as soon as possible for a swift turnaround.

You may access the 21st CCLC data collection system by clicking [HERE](#). More information about the new data collection system will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

For more information, please contact:
Office of Federal Programs
Karen Austin, Competitive Grants Director
Email: kaustin@mdek12.org
Phone: 601-359-3499

21st Century Community Learning Centers- Student Profile Form

The Office of Federal Programs is requesting that all 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) sub grantees complete a [Student Profile Form](#). This form allows the OFP to collect general information about each sub grantee. The OFP is also requesting that each sub grantee complete a student progress chart. The student progress chart will allow sub grantees to provide baseline data on the areas of Mathematics, Reading/Language Arts, Attendance, and Behavior, to evaluate the impact of 21st CCLC Programs across the state. The form will be sent electronically via OFP's Listserv, it may be accessed via the [OFP website](#) or by clicking the link above.

The form is to be returned to Kimberly Williams at kwilliams@mdek12.org on or before **January 15, 2016**.

For more information, please contact:

Office of Federal Programs

Kimberly Williams, 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coordinator

Email: kwilliams@mdek12.org

Phone: 601-359-3499

News You Can Use & Friendly Reminders

Schools Not Meeting AMOs

According to the 2015 ESEA Flexibility Waiver, Title I schools not meeting Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) will be required to develop and implement interventions designed to address the deficiencies that caused the school to miss AMOs. The interventions must focus on subgroup performance and be specific in action and offer measurable results. The intervention must address deficiencies in mathematics, language arts, or other academic indicators using **one or all** of the following: **Indistar (MS SOARS), Title I application (MCAPS), or district-selected action steps**. Those schools implementing MS SOARS are required to submit an Action Plan and Quality of Work Review checklist on **December 7, 2015**. Schools that opted to use MCAPS or district-selected action steps for intervention implementation must complete and submit plans by **January 18, 2016**.

MCAPS Year-two implementation Focus Groups

The Office of Federal Programs (OFP) has begun to transition the Mississippi Comprehensive Automated Performance-based System (MCAPS) into year-two of implementation. Your feedback as a user is important to the OFP as we begin the modification for the 2016-2017 school year. Therefore, we are soliciting public comments regarding the use of MCAPS. If you have not had an opportunity to participate in one of the focus sessions, please note additional dates and times listed below. These sessions are being conducted independent of the OFP to ensure open constructive feedback. All users to include federal program directors, business managers, administrative assistants, and bookkeepers are welcome to attend.

MCAPS Regional Focus Group Meetings

Date & Time	Location	Contact	Contact Number
December 2, 2015 9:00a.m. — 11:00a.m.	Manning Curriculum Center 430 Highway 1 North Greenville, MS	Sherri Jackson	662-334-7000
December 3, 2015	Lookout Steakhouse 1301 36 th Avenue Gulfport, MS	Dr. Janice Johnson	228-297-9297
December 10, 2015	Hattiesburg School District Board Room 301 Mamie Street Hattiesburg, MS	Margaret Tynes	601-582-5078

Leadership for Excellence for English Language Learners' Instructional Staff

This professional development is for instructional staff to deeply examine, share insights, and plan to implement best practices for improving instruction for ELLs within their own school and district contexts. Instructional staff will explore six (6) principles for ELL instruction for language, literacy, and learning in content areas:

- Principle 1: Instruction leverages ELLs' Native language(s) and culture(s).
- Principle 2: Instruction develops discipline-specific language along with discipline-specific knowledge and competencies.
- Principle 3: Instruction is standards-aligned and grade-level appropriate.
- Principle 4: Instruction addresses the needs of students with various levels of English proficiency and with a variety of prior school experiences.
- Principle 5: Instruction provides the necessary support to ensure that ELLs comprehend disciplinary texts and tasks. This will enable students to acquire the language and knowledge they need to become more independent learners.
- Principle 6: Diagnostic and formative assessments are used to identify students' knowledge and academic language competencies to guide instructional practice.

During each of the regional, collaborative ELL Instructional Staff Institutes, ninety (90) instructional staff members will rotate through three cooperative learning group sessions, (30 per group) to incorporate

- Equity and Guiding Legal Regulations
- Instructional Strategies for Language Acquisition and Academic Success
- School Culture and Climate Parent, Family Engagement

The sessions will model acceleration structures for teaching and learning to meet the principles of ELL instruction towards college and career readiness; and thereby narrow the research-to-practice gap and improved student achievement for ELLs. (.6 CEUs, 5 SEMIs)

To register for any of the below trainings, please:

- Go to NMEC.net
- Click on "Workshop" located at the top of the page
- Click on the grey "MDE Federal Programs" tab

~~December 7, 2015- Jackson, R& D Center~~

December 8, 2015- Meridian, MSU- Kahlmus Auditorium

December 9, 2015- Hattiesburg, Trent Lott Center

December 11, 2015- Biloxi, MS Gulf Coast Community College-Jeff Davis Hospitality and Resort Building

Migrant & ELL Newsletter

The Migrant Service Center and the Title III English Language Acquisition Coordinator has collaborated to provide districts with the best possible resource on Migrant, English Learners, and Immigrant Children and Youth. It is the goal of both offices to provide districts with a quarterly newsletter to assist with the education of the aforementioned students. Please follow the link below to the first published newsletter which highlights the identification and placement of Migrant, English Learners, and Immigrant Children and Youth

<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/federal-programs/ell-migrant-newsletter-new.pdf?sfvrsn=2>.

ELL Data

ELL screens in MSIS are due December 10, 2015. All students that have been identified as ELL for SY15-16 must have completed information in MSIS for testing on the new ELP test. Please complete all ELL screens in MSIS. Directions: enter MSIS, Modules, Federal Programs, ELL, and complete all the tabs for SY15-16. A student roster tab is there to complete and will be populated with students that have been identified for testing in your district. Please select a Native Language, Served or Monitored with the years. Please **Do Not** complete sections labeled Tiers. If a student is Kindergarten or a first time test taker (definition: first time enrolled in the state/district and a school in MS), a section titled "Include for English and Math" select "No". If a student name appears on the screen that has been misidentified as ELL or no longer in your district/school, do not complete any selections next to their name. If you need assistance with MSIS, please visit the Federal Programs website and print the MSIS User Manual located on the right section of the webpage. Refer to the **LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT/ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER beginning on page 26.**

For more information, please contact:
Office of Federal Programs
Tarro Funches, State English Language Learners Coordinator
Email: tfunchess@mdek12.org
Phone: 601-359-3499

MDE E-mail Address Domain Change

The Office of Infrastructure and Support Services would like to remind everyone of the MDE email address change. On November 1, 2015 all MDE employees started using the @mdek12.org email address on business cards, websites and other documents. Beginning November 1, 2015 all email responses will come from the new email address (username@mdek12.org). During the 1 year transition period MDE staff will still be able to receive messages from the old address (username@mde.k12.ms.us) and the new address (username@mdek12.org).

Free Books For Read Across America Day

The [Literacy Empowerment Foundation](#), a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization, invites your school or other literacy project to apply for **FREE** books for Read Across America Day. During the past year, LEF has distributed over 3,000,000 books to schools all across the country for Read Across America Day and other literacy projects.

These books are **free**. Educators only pay shipping and handling. Resources are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Orders must be received by **February 14th, 2016**. [Please share this information with your fellow educators!](#) **Free** Books for Read Across America Day: Order Form at <http://www.lefbooks.org>

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.

Text to E-mail

Regional Contacts work extremely hard to respond to your calls and e-mails efficiently and timely because they know it is critical to the success of your program. If your contacts are out of the office, we welcome you to send questions, comments, or ideas to enhance our services by texting or emailing them to federalprograms2@mdek12.org.