



Bureau of Federal Educational Programs

Title I Committee of Practitioners Annual Report 2021

Prepared for the Governor and Florida Legislature, to fulfill Section 1603(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, and Section 1008.332, Florida Statutes.

Mr. Ernesto D. Lontoc, Chair
Committee of Practitioners

January 2021

Committee of Practitioners 2021 Annual Report

Background

Section 1603(b) of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), requires each State Educational Agency (SEA) to establish a state Committee of Practitioners (CoP) that will advise the Department of Education in carrying out its responsibilities under Title I. Pursuant to federal requirement, Section 1008.332, Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) to establish a CoP. In carrying out its mandate, the CoP provides advice and supports the Bureau of Federal Educational Programs (BFEP) on the implementation of Title I programs, including review of potential rules and policies to be considered by the State Board of Education (SBE). The CoP members are appointed by the Commissioner of Education and are required to submit an annual report to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2021.

The duties of the CoP include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Reviewing and advising on state rules, regulations and policies regarding the implementation of the Title I program
- Reviewing and providing feedback to FDOE on guidance and technical assistance documents, templates and other tools that support the quality implementation of the Title I program

Committee of Practitioners under ESSA

All applicants for membership were nominated statewide, through solicitations for applications issued by FDOE. Applications were reviewed by the FDOE liaison, Ms. Shonda Edmunds-Goldsmith, for relevant experience and expertise, and final membership selections were made with the intent of creating a diverse membership of educational stakeholders that complements the diversity of the state. Members were appointed by the Commissioner of Education to serve a three-year term.

The chair, Mr. Ernesto D. Lontoc (Region 5-Palm Beach County School District) and vice chair, Dr. Felita Grant (Region 4-Pinellas County School District) were appointed officers by the Commissioner of Education on July 1, 2020, for a three-year term. Secretary, Ms. Julie Stewart (Region 5-Everglades Preparatory Academy), was appointed by the Commissioner of Education on November 1, 2020, for a three-year term. The CoP has a current membership count of seventeen (17). A complete membership list, current as of November 1, 2020, is found in

Appendix A.

Guidelines for the Committee of Practitioners

The CoP follows the approved Guidelines for the Committee of Practitioners (see **Appendix B**) dated November 2020.

Committee of Practitioners' Accomplishments

The CoP held three virtual meetings that took place during 2020. Agendas and minutes of each meeting were created, approved and made publicly available (see **Appendices C-E**). The CoP reviewed and provided feedback on the following Bureau of Federal Educational Programs (BFEP) initiatives:

- BFEP 2020 Monitoring Tool (see **Appendix F**)

Additionally, the CoP participated in the following activities:

- Recruitment to fill nine (9) vacancies for the CoP. The 2020 New Members Application was released on October 26, 2020, and closed on November 16, 2020. (see **Appendix G**)
- New members selected by the Commissioner of Education will be announced at the February 2021 CoP meeting.
- Shared best practices on engaging families in a new level of interactivity and timely completion of Title I Annual Requirements during the Bureau of Federal Education Programs' Title I, Part A - October Conference Call. (see **Appendix H**)

Upcoming Committee of Practitioners Tasks

The CoP identified the following tasks as priority for the 2021 year:

- Review CoP mandate under ESSA
- Finalize CoP meeting and conference call schedule
- Identify priority areas for technical assistance
- Review and provide feedback on technical assistance papers and other areas needed by Title I

References

- Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, §1603(b).
- §1008.332, Florida Statutes (2006)