

OFFICE OF SCHOOL SUPPORT

MARCH/APRIL • 2016



MOVING FORWARD

Principals and Superintendents,

Spring has blown in like a lion. Unfortunately it is not the weather causing the roar, but the financial cuts for our schools. The financial crisis is evident in every school and district throughout Oklahoma. As a reimbursement state, please know the Office of School Support will work diligently to ensure claims filed for 515 and SIG funds will be processed as quickly as possible. We know budgets are tight, and we do not want you waiting on your reimbursement from the Office of School Support. Included in this newsletter email is a document for "Frequently Asked Questions" related to School Improvement Funds. We are hoping that providing this information will help reduce frustration, the likelihood of errors and increase the efficiency in which plans are submitted and claims are paid. Federal fund payments are paid out to districts each Tuesday.

With the budget concerns, the OSDE recently released information regarding the new format for the EngageOK Summer Conference. During the month of July, 2016 EngageOK will be on the road and coming to a location near you. Specific dates and venues have not yet been released, but it is our hope this new format will reduce the burden on already stressed budgets. Be assured the regional events will include information and assistance from the Office of School Support as well as training regarding the new state standards.

Please contact us for any questions and concerns. We are here to help!

Desarae Witmer
Executive Director

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STATUS REPORT AND JUNE 30TH

The School Improvement Status Report (SISR) is available through the Single Sign On account. All designated schools (with the exception of sites designated "Focus" for Graduation Rate) will be required to submit data on this application. The report tabs that are due on June 30, 2016, include the **Consultation, End-of-Year** and **Final Report**.

**This is a revision from the original information in the fall due to the late release of SY15 Designations.

GRADUATION RATE AND FOCUS DESIGNATION:

As identified in the 2015 USDE ESEA Flexibility Wavier, beginning in 2015-2016, a Focus Designation will be assigned to schools with a cohort graduation rate below the overall state average. This year's state graduation rate average is 83%. However, these sites will **NOT** be asked to complete a Schoolwide/School Improvement Plan or submit any information on The School Improvement Status Report.

Sites with a Focus Designation for graduation rate **will be asked** to submit a SMART Goal Plan. This plan is designed to identify strategies being implemented at the site level to increase the graduation rate to the state average.

This SMART Goal template will be released during the EngageOK Regional Conferences in July 2016 with a due date of October 1, 2016.

For questions related to the Focus Designation for Graduation Rate, please contact Desarae Witmer at 405-522-3263 or desarae.witmer@sde.ok.gov.

TRANSITIONING TO THE SCHOOLWIDE/ SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Additional webinars have been scheduled for the transition to the Schoolwide/School Improvement Plan:

There will be two presentations in May as well as one in June and one in July. As soon as those dates are confirmed we will send that information out.

You can register here: <https://oksdeevents.webex.com>

SCHOOLWIDE/SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SW/SI)

Schools with a SY15 Priority and Focus Designation (minus Focus for Graduation Rate) are required to submit a SW/SI Plan by October 1, 2016. This plan is located under the "Consolidated Plan" link in the Grants Management System (GMS) and can be submitted any time before October 1st. If you do not have access to this plan in the Grants Management System, please email your name and the name of your site to Zada.Farris@sde.ok.gov or call 405-521-4269. If you need additional assistance with the development of this plan, please contact your Regional Specialist or the Office of School Support at 405-522-3263. We are happy to provide help and support.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET

SY2015 School Improvement allocations are scheduled to be uploaded into the GMS system by the end of April. Once new allocations are loaded, sites have the option to amend their budgets and spend the funds this grant cycle (ending June 30, 2016) or let the new allocation carryover to the FY17 Project 515 Budget.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR 3RD AND 4TH YEAR DESIGNATED SITES

- ▶ SY14 Designations: Designation for the 3rd year: 15 hours of Professional Development attended from June 2015-July 2016. These opportunities are at the discretion of the site and the district instructional leader. Documentation should be submitted by October 1, 2016, to the Regional School Support Specialists or the Focus Designation School Support Specialist.
- ▶ SY15 Designation: Designation for the 3rd/4th year: 15 hours of Professional Development attended from June 2016-July 2017. These opportunities are at the discretion of the site and district instructional leader. Documentation should be submitted by October 1, 2017, to the Regional School Support Specialists or the Focus Designation School Support Specialist

MAXIMUM TAKE-AWAYS: MAX TEACHING WITH READING AND WRITING: USING LITERACY SKILLS TO HELP STUDENTS LEARN SUBJECT MATTER

Over two hundred fifty professional educators from across the state attended the MAX Teaching workshop at the south Oklahoma City Technology Center. Teachers were engaged in reflection, discussion, and sharing while learning instructional strategies that are adaptable to all classrooms.

Some of the highlights include:

- ▶ When incorporating cooperative learning groups, allow students to work independently so they have something written down to bring to the small group.
- ▶ Before reading, have students read the questions, then read, and last identify the vocabulary.
- ▶ Incorporate focused free writes to check what the students know.

Not only can the instructional strategies be used across all grade levels but across the curriculum as well. Other strategies that were taught include:

- ▶ Utilizing anticipation guides
- ▶ Previewing
- ▶ Directed Reading/Thinking Activity-Non-Fiction -INSERT -Think-Pair-Share -Hunt for Main Ideas -Pre & Post-Learning Concept Checks

Educators had an engaged day and left with additional resources in their toolbox to take back to their classroom and share with their colleagues. For more information about MAX Teaching, visit

www.maxteaching.com

SPOTLIGHT / MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Profile Information:

Small Rural Community in Southeast Oklahoma
PreK-8th Grades
Enrollment fluctuates from 115-130 students

School Climate:

Overall climate of the school is amazing. The faculty and staff have created a very accommodating environment; a place where students from all backgrounds thrive and feel accepted. We have such a positive supportive staff with a shared mission of our vision and goals. Our school members feel safe, valued, cared for, respected, and engaged.

Creating New Traditions:

We have implemented several new strategies to further promote school-wide success and to ensure that students are motivated and engaged in the learning process.

- ▶ Individual Student Portfolios
- ▶ Stora (An online subscription to a database of interactive eBooks that students can access from home and school.)
- ▶ Accelerated Reader Program

Assessments Utilized:

- ▶ Renaissance STAR test
- ▶ Renaissance Early Literacy test
- ▶ Renaissance Math Facts
- ▶ DIBELS testing

Shifting the Focus to Reading:

Parents/students are given a packet at the beginning of the school year that outlines the different reading incentives and requirements for the students. The teachers, staff, and administration meet, prior to the beginning of the school year, to devise a plan for the reading program. Each year, over the past three years, we have gradually added to and molded our program into what it is today.

Incentives Implemented:

- ▶ Reading Incentive trips: We set two yearly goals for each grade level for the Accelerated Reading Points requirements. One goal is the number of points students are required to earn for each 9-week period, for report card purposes, the second goal is the point requirement for attending the incentive field trips. We go on three field trips per year and students must meet their point goals to attend. We have been to Chuckee Cheese, Bounce House, Roller Skating, Go Karting, & Ice Skating.
- ▶ Luncheon with the Librarian: The top two Accelerated Reader point earners, from each grade level, receive a special invitation and get to attend a Luncheon with the librarian each 9 week period.
- ▶ VIP Priority Seating during Library Media Class. Students who reach their word count goal of ½ million words read for 3rd & 4th graders, and 1 million words read for 5th -8th graders are allowed to sit in cozy seats.

SPOTLIGHT / MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Relevant Goals:

Using ongoing assessments and teacher/ staff collaboration, we are setting relevant goals for our students. The teachers receive weekly reports, from the library media specialist, on student progress toward their goals. Parents receive reports on student progress toward their Accelerated Reading Goals on a monthly basis. This establishment of relevant goals and collaboration between school faculty and parents is allowing our school to narrow the achievement gaps while increasing the students' achievement levels.

Community Success:

Our faculty, as a whole, recognized our responsibility to teach our students to be socially accountable, concerned, compassionate, leaders equipped to serve others and contribute to society. Our school's success is a success for the community.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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