

Title I and School Support eBrief for Focus Schools

A Newsletter from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Tony Evers, PhD, State Superintendent

March 2017

Indistar Monitoring

If you have not already received coaching comments from your DPI Focus School Consultant you should be receiving them soon. The final monitoring date of the 2016-17 school year will be June 1st.

Focus School Grants

Your Focus School grant can be used to cover any professional development related expenses including conferences, professional literature, and substitutes. Please verify that your Focus School budget has been submitted and approved so that your school can start submitting claims. Remember, there is no carryover allowed for the \$14,000 grant and all expenses must be encumbered by June 30, 2017.

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing all Title I Focus Schools with consistent and timely information, the Title I and School Support Team will be providing regular e-newsletters to principals, Indistar Process Managers, and Title I coordinators. We welcome suggestions about topics you would like addressed in future editions.

Focus School Networking Updates

2017-18 Information

Since many of you were unable to attend our Networking session in Milwaukee, we wanted to take this opportunity to share the items that were covered:

- As you may already be aware, once again the US Department of Education has given states two options for the next school year; states must either continue to support currently identified Focus and Priority Schools in 2017-18 or identify a new cohort. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) will be maintaining support of the current cohort of Focus and Priority Schools in the 2017-18 school year. Districts may continue to reserve up to 20 percent of their Title I allocation to support Focus and Priority Schools. Detailed information on reduced requirements, continued professional development opportunities, as well as additional flexibility in use of grant funds will be forthcoming.
- Alison O'Hara, education consultant from DPI's Office of Educational Accountability, shared how school report cards are calculated. She explained the four priority areas including student achievement, student growth, closing gaps, and on-track and postsecondary readiness. Below, please find links to two documents that Alison created for her presentation.

[Report Card At-a-Glance](#)

[Report Card Interpretive Guide](#)

ESSA Transition Information

DPI has created a web page to address ESSA transition: <http://dpi.wi.gov/esea/transition>

DPI's ESSA Summary:

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/esea/pdf/TitleA-need-to-know.pdf>

Indistar News

The Center on Innovations in Learning continues to create great content for Indistar states, districts, and schools. There is an abundance of material available but do not let that scare you away. Each section is short so you can view them as you have time.

For those of you who may be new to Indistar or may need more background, its purpose and features are explained through PowerPoints:

<http://indistar.org/howto/>

Indistar Training Modules are great for district and school leadership teams. Modules are available as narrated PowerPoint and video. The modules cover the underlying philosophy of collaborative teams and focus on professional practice. Each module includes follow-up activities:

<http://indistar.org/trainingmodules/>

It is also worthwhile to check out Indicators in Action. These modules were created using video of actual principals and teachers demonstrating more than 140 indicators of effective practice, with narration and PD materials. There are 3 courses available: Instruction, Leadership, and Community.

<http://www.indistar.org/action/>

Professional Development Opportunities to Support your School Improvement Plan

[Wisconsin Title I Association Conference](#)

Wisconsin Dells, April 6-7, 2017.

[Having Hard Conversations](#)

April 27, 2017 in Appleton

April 28, 2017 in Wisconsin Dells

[Wisconsin Math Council's Annual Conference](#)

Green Lake, May 4-5, 2017.

An administrator attends free with one paid staff member.

[PBIS Leadership Conference](#)

Wisconsin Dells, August 15-16, 2017.

[Mathematics Teaching and Learning Conference](#)

Hortonville, August 21-23, 2017.

Wisconsin RtI Center has many wonderful PD events. If there are instructional coaches in your school, we especially encourage the principal and coaches attend the Leadership and Coaching series together.

<http://www.wisconsinrticenter.org/event/all.html>

Wisconsin Statewide Mathematics Initiative

<http://www.wsmi.net/>