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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.

Title I Innovation, Implementation, and Sustainability Conference 2016

We were pleased to welcome over 170 school and district staff to our fourth conference, held in Green Bay. Courtney Bauder of UW-Oshkosh and Peter Miller of UW-Madison were our keynote speakers. We also had 10 sectionals throughout the two-day period and all were well attended as were our elementary and secondary “Celebrations” event. All slide shows and handouts for the event can be found on our DPI webpage: <http://dpi.wi.gov/focus-schools/title-i-innovation-implementation-and-sustainability-conference-2016>

Focus School Grants

Focus School grants are now posted to the ESEA application within WISEgrants. Your Focus School grant can be used to cover any professional development related expenses including substitutes. Once your school has met the first Indistar compliance check, please submit your Focus School budget so that we can approve it and your school can start submitting claims. Please note that all Focus Schools in a district must have approved Indistar compliance checks before the district’s Focus School grant can be approved.

Wisconsin State Reading Association Convention

Registration is open for the WSRA convention scheduled for February 9-11, 2017. Keynote presenters are Mem Fox, Michael Fullan and Regie Routman. You can find the link for the website in the Professional Development Opportunities section of this newsletter with complete registration and schedule information.

Focus Schools Networking Opportunity

As in years past, we hope you will join us for our Focus School networking session on Thursday, February 9, 2017, at the Double Tree Hotel across the street from the WSRA convention.

ESSA Transition

We want to provide more information regarding the transition from No Child Left Behind (NCLB) flexibility waivers to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), particularly as it impacts currently identified Focus Schools. Under ESSA, there is no Focus School identification, although there is a similar requirement to identify schools with significant achievement gaps, which will be known as Targeted Support Schools. We have received some questions regarding this new identification, and whether it will be tied to current Focus School identification or Focus School exit criteria. The U.S. Department of Education (USDE) is still in the process of finalizing regulations regarding the identification criteria, but based on the law we are fairly certain there will be no connection between Focus School status and Targeted Support School identification. We anticipate that all schools will start with a blank slate as we identify Targeted Support Schools.

In addition to the new category of Targeted Support Schools, Wisconsin will identify a set of Comprehensive Support Schools (similar to currently identified Priority Schools), based on low overall achievement. The criteria and timeline for this identification process is also yet to be determined.

Many other questions remain unanswered at this point. We do not know if any additional funds will be available for currently identified Focus Schools in the 2017-18 school year. We also are uncertain when the new Targeted Support Schools will be identified. As we receive more guidance and answers from USDE, we will share information with you. If you have additional questions, please contact your Focus School consultant.

Professional Development Opportunities to Support your School Improvement Plan

Equity and Social Justice Institute meeting in Turtle Lake on February 3, 2017.

<http://www.thenetworkwi.com./calendar/2017/2/3/equity-and-social-justice-institute>

Wisconsin State Reading Association (WSRA) Convention February 9-11, 2017

<http://www.wsra.org/convention>

Wisconsin Title I Association Conference in Wisconsin Dells on April 6-7, 2017.

https://sites.google.com/site/wisconsin_title1a_society/home/

Wisconsin Math Council's Annual Conference in Green Lake on May 4-5, 2017.

<http://www.wismath.org/Annual-Conference>

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/>

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