

Title Programs and Services

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December 1, 2009

Dr. Robert Vinton, Title III Director
USD 443 Dodge City
1000 N. Second Ave
Dodge City, KS 67801

Dear Dr. Vinton:

The goals of Title III English Language Acquisition of No Child Left Behind law are to ensure that all English Language Learners (ELLs) attain English proficiency and meet challenging state academic standards. To measure progress in reaching these goals, states annually determine whether each district participating in Title III meets the three annual measurable achievement objectives (AMAOs). The three AMAOs and the expected progress are the following:

1. Annually increase the percentage of children making progress in learning English by 20%
2. Annually increase the percentage of children attaining English proficiency by 15%
3. Make adequate yearly progress (AYP) in reading and mathematics for the English Language Learners subgroup as defined under Title I (targets change annually).

Each district participating in Title III must meet all three AMAOs. The first two AMAOs are based on the Kansas English Language Proficiency Assessment (KELPA). The first AMAO, making progress, is measured by comparing the total score from the most recent assessment to the total score on the previous assessment. The second AMAO, attaining proficiency, is based on the percent of students scoring fluent on the total score. AYP is based on the Kansas reading and mathematics assessments. AYP refers to the percent of students who are at or above standard these content assessments. The AYP determination is only applicable when the number of ELLs in the district is at least 30 students. In addition, AMAO results are not reported for any district with fewer than 10 ELLs, in order to prevent individual student identification.

According to the 2008-2009 results, USD #443 Dodge City **did not meet all the AMAOs**. Dodge City met the first AMAO, but did not meet the second AMAO, with 14.33 % of the ELLs scoring fluent on the KELPA. The ELL subgroup did not make AYP in reading, with 69.2% scoring at "meets standard" or above. The target for reading was 76.7%. The ELL subgroup did make AYP for mathematics.

Dodge City has not met one or more of the AMAOs for two consecutive years. Title III specifies that if a district does not meet all of the AMAOs for two consecutive years, it will develop an improvement plan that will address the factors that prevented it from meeting the objectives. A Title III improvement plan will be sent soon after January 1, 2010 to the districts that have not met AMAOs. The Kansas State Department of Education is responsible for providing assistance during the development and implementation of the district's improvement plan. USD 443 should take steps to ensure that factors affecting the progress of ELLs are addressed.

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If the district does not meet the AMAOs for four consecutive years, certain sanctions may be applied. The state has to

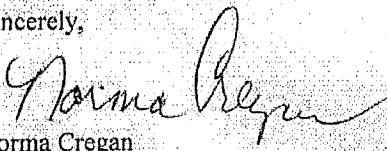
- either require the district to modify its curriculum, program and method of instruction or
- determine whether or not the district should continue to receive Title III funds and
- require the district to replace educational personnel relevant to the failure to meet the objectives.

Each district not meeting one or more of the Title III annual measurable achievement objectives shall notify the parents of each child who is participating in an English language instruction program that the district did not meet the AMAOs. The notification should include an explanation of what each AMAO is.

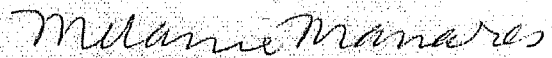
The notification to parents shall occur no later than 30 days following receipt of this letter. The information provided to parents shall be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand. The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) will provide you with a sample letter to assist you with the communication. A copy of the district's parent notification letter should also be sent to KSDE within 45 days of receipt of this letter.

If you have any questions, please contact Melanie Manares or Norma Cregan at the phone numbers or e-mail addresses below.

Sincerely,



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Program Consultant ESOL/Title III
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