

Improving Teacher Quality Question and Answer Oct. 9 & 10 Webcast

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: What if they need assessment and how often should district perform that? Who's going to answer that? Sergio, would you like to answer that for us, please?

SERGIO REYES: Yes, thank you. Districts perform surveys and other types of measurements to determine what are the professional development needs of the district are. These needs--these assessments needs to be done annually and should include all stakeholders.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: Sergio, the question is, how many people should the district involve in making the LEA plan or designing the professional development?

SERGIO REYES: Thank you. The district should have a group representing all bargaining units and key stakeholders for input however there is no official number or requirement. The district is required to collaborate with staff members and key stakeholders in the professional development plan.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: What is the title II, part d? What is title II, part d? And that's the question, Sergio. Do you know what they're asking?

SERGIO REYES: Yes.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: Thank you.

SERGIO REYES: Title II, part d was created to provide assistance to state and leas for the implementation and support of a comprehensive system that effectively uses technology in elementary school and secondary schools to improve student achievement. Leas should use some of these funds to integrate technology into the professional development of the teaching staff. If you have any questions about title II, part d, you need to contact the appropriate office here at the CDE.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: Can districts still use title II, part a funds for class size reduction?

SERGIO REYES: Yes, they can, however, the teacher in that classroom must be highly qualified from the first day of instruction. The district should also ensure they're not supplanting using title II funds for class size reduction when formerly the same class was reduced using general fund dollars.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: Sergio, highly qualified, could you define that for us please.

SERGIO REYES: That is a question that will require a lot more explanation and so we will welcome--we will respond to them via the email.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: Can districts use title II, part a funds for participating in recruitment fares?

SERGIO REYES: Yes, title II funds can be use for recruitment fares, attendance at sea beds training and other activities related to recruiting, retaining and developing highly qualified teachers and effective administrators.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: Sergio, could you clarify or help us understand title II part a funds? It has come up a couple of times in your questions and many of us don't know what that is. Could you help us with that a little bit?

SERGIO REYES: That is form the no child left behind title II type 2 section...

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: If the LEA failed to meet the annual measurable objectives for highly qualified teachers for two consecutive years, an improvement plan is required. What is that improvement plan?

SERGIO REYES: Districts must submit was has been a general qualification worksheet for every teacher that is not highly qualified with the timeline and when they will be highly qualified and how will that take place.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: What are the main areas that are title II part a fund should be spent on? Sounds like, Sergio.

SERGIO REYES: Yes, the three main recommend areas for the title II part a funding should be recruitment and retention of highly qualified teachers and principal, ongoing research based on profession development and closes the achievement gap, ensuring that all teachers become highly qualified. These funds can also be used for class size reduction but it's only recommended if the first three items have been meet.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: That's in--let see, improving teacher quality six speaks to a staff to development program that has a substantial, measurable and positive impact on student academic achievement. Can you please clarify what constitute substantial?

SERGIO REYES: Yes, Steve. Meeting your annual measurable objectives or amos and your growth targets qualifies as substantial.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: What is the definition of a highly qualified teacher? It came up again, Sergio...

SERGIO REYES: Yes.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: I try to block you from it.

SERGIO REYES: I know. It was a good block. It was a good try.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: Thank you.

SERGIO REYES: Under the "no child left behind, nclb" an nclb compliant teacher has to three qualifications. One, that they had that they have a bachelor's degree; two, they have subject-matter competency and three, that they have the appropriate credentials.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: It states here, are there any new items for adult education? I'll turn that over--who on our panel takes that? Thank you, Juan.

JUAN J. SANCHEZ: Yes, we do have one and new item and that item is item 5.2 and the item covers innovation and alternative delivery programs so that's the only item that you will see new that's been added for this year.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: Do districts have to offer English as a second language classes? Juan?

JUAN J. SANCHEZ: That's a good question and one that we get often and this is actually written in Education Code so for the provision of Ed. Code 52540, if 20 or more persons applied for ESL classes then the local governing board does need to establish ESL classes for this folks. So again, its--the key is 20 or more folks interested in applying.

DR. STEVE WINLOCK: Do I have--do I have to do a job market study if I wish to establish new client?