



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

November 19, 2007

Dear Colleagues:

Subject: NCLB Update 08-02

This is the second NCLB Update for FY08. This document contains important reminders of due dates as we approach the midway point of the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Again, please ensure that your program contact information, including e-mail address, as entered in the LEA Core Data through the Common Logon, is accurate, as it will be used to generate the recipient list for future updates.

Important Due Dates:

1. **11/30/2007- Consolidated State Performance Report - Part I (Ending 2006-07) Public School Choice & SES.**

Only School Districts and Charter Schools with schools in School Improvement are required to complete this report.

The report can be accessed by signing on to Academic Achievement Reports via the Common Logon which can be accessed from the ADE home page.

2. **11/30/2007 - FY 2007-2008 October Count by LEAs of Institutions for Neglected and Delinquent Children.**

All geographic LEAs are responsible for contacting local residential institutions for neglected and delinquent children located within their school attendance areas and reporting the data required by this report.

The report can be accessed by signing on to Academic Achievement Reports via the Common Logon which can be accessed from the ADE home page.

3. **12/01/2007 - FY 2007-2008 Monitoring Cycle Packets Cycles 1,2,3,5,and 6**

All LEAs except those in cycle 4 are required to return their completed monitoring packets to the ADE.

The packets and related instructions can be accessed by clicking on the No Child Left Behind link on the ADE home page. On the next page click on No Child Left Behind Updates. On the subsequent page, click on NCLB Consolidated Application and Monitoring Materials.

4. **11/30/2007 - FY 2008 Assurance of Comparability**

This year only those LEAs whose names begin with the letters M-Z are required to file the assurance of comparability. However, all LEAs must still make a determination as to whether their Title I schools are comparable. Complete instructions for determining comparability can be found at <http://www.ade.az.gov/asd/nclblibrary/FY2008ComparabilityGuidelines.pdf> On the following page information concerning a recent audit by the ED Office of Inspector General is provided to assist you in maintaining compliance with the comparability requirements of NCLB.

The comparability assurance reports can be accessed by signing on to Academic Achievement Reports via the Common Logon which can be accessed from the ADE home page.

On March 26, 2007 the ED-OIG issued a final audit report, *Arizona Department of Education's Oversight of the ESEA, Title I, Part A Comparability of Services Requirement*, Control Number ED-OIG/A09G0020. A copy of the final report was released by the Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education and is available on the ED-OIG internet site at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oig/areports.html>, under the heading Office of Elementary and Secondary Education and Control Number ED-OIG/A09G0020.

One of the corrective actions requested by the ED-OIG and the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education is that the ADE make available to all LEAs in Arizona copies of the audit and its findings. The ADE is continuing to work with the ED Office of Elementary and Secondary Education to resolve outstanding audit findings.

Below is a brief outline of the auditor's findings:

FINDING NO. 1 – ADE Needs to Strengthen Monitoring of LEA Compliance with the Comparability Requirement

1. Procedures Are Needed To Ensure That LEAs Claiming "Exempt" Make Correct Assessments
2. Procedures Are Needed To Ensure That LEAs Submit Biennial Assurances of Comparability
3. Comparability Monitoring Efforts Need to be Enhanced
4. Oversight When LEAs Identify Non-Comparable Schools Needs Improvement

FINDING NO. 2 – ADE Needs to Ensure That the Three Reviewed LEAs Use Appropriate and Correct Data and Properly Implement the Comparability Requirement

1. All Three LEAs Reviewed Made Errors When Performing Comparability Determinations
2. All Three LEAs had Deficiencies in Their Comparability Procedures

The findings above are a summary of the findings disclosed by the ED-OIG. All LEAs are encouraged to review the complete audit report at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oig/areports.html> to ensure that they have not made similar errors. Specifically, the ED-OIG requested that the ADE notify all LEAs operating in Arizona of the findings discussed in this report and instruct the LEAs to review their school year 2006-2007 comparability procedures and methodology to ensure similar errors were not made. If similar errors are identified, LEAs should ensure their schools are comparable after correction of the errors and take appropriate corrective action if non-comparable schools are identified.

If you have any questions or concerns about any part of this correspondence, please contact me at nancy.konitzer@azed.gov or at (602) 542-7847.

Sincerely,

Nancy Konitzer
Deputy Associate Superintendent
Title I and NCLB Consolidated Activities

CC: NCLB Coordinator (email)
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