

From: Lee, Laurie
Sent time: Monday, October 24, 2011 9:44:35 AM
To: Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org) <Cari@excelined.org>
Subject: RE: Elementary Reading Block Grant

Cari,

I'd be happy to talk with you about the grant. I'm heading to Sarasota County on Wednesday and will be gone on Thursday...we could get together tomorrow after lunch with Evan, or if that's not convenient, sometime on Friday?

To answer your initial questions:

1. It was state funded with 98% going to districts (kind of like our FEFP) and 2% to the Department (there called the Illinois State Board of Education or ISBE) for the creation of professional development. I administered the 98% going to districts and provided guidance to all districts except Chicago Public Schools – they basically did whatever they wanted (imagine that).
2. It was an elementary grant, so while the legislation included study skills, it was very much a reading grant.
3. Here's where things became interesting...districts were able to choose what assessments they wanted to use to demonstrate growth of their students. It had to be valid and reliable. This meant that I spent a great deal of time researching various reading assessments to make sure this was the case. We didn't allow them to use a measure within their reading program...it had to be a more standardized measure. The grant required that their students show growth...if they did not, their funds were jeopardized. Districts submitted a plan detailing what they intended to do in regard to their reading instruction, submitted a budget, and detailed their assessment. I was charged with reviewing all of the plans-much like we do the K-12 plans. Then, they submitted a report after the school year ended with the results of their assessments. I reviewed all of these as well.it was over 1000. Whew!!
4. I didn't work closely with the Reading First folks, and I can't remember what was used for RF.

Let me know when you would like to get together! See you soon....

Have a great day ☺

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From: Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org) [mailto:Cari@excelined.org]
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2011 9:27 AM
To: Lee, Laurie
Subject: Elementary Reading Block Grant

Laurie,

I'd like to bend your ear a bit on the Elementary Reading Block Grant that was implemented in Illinois. Do you have time in the next couple of days to get together to discuss? Off the top, funding, was it federally funded or state funded? The legislation suggests it was focused on reading and study skills-study skills? What assessments were used to monitor progress and identify students with a reading difficulty?

Reading First, what assessment was used to monitor progress and identify students with a reading difficulty?

Sincerely,
Cari Miller
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