



# ACET QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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## MUSINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT: BEING NEW

Hello, ACET friends! Let's talk about something we've all experienced at some point in our lives: being the newbie. Whether it's starting a new job, joining a club, or stepping into a completely different world, the feeling of being new can be both thrilling and a tad bit intimidating. This is where I find myself today - president of a statewide organization. But let me tell you, there's magic in the newness, and I am excited to share with you the vision for 2024.



### Communication

I have always found my experiences at ACET conferences to be enlightening and truly beneficial in preparing me to perform my job duties. My hope is for ACET to be a source of support for you, not only during our two conferences per year, but also in between. One way to be of support is through communication. This newsletter is one start toward this goal. Additionally, ACET has implemented new systems to expedite communication among leaders and members. These systems include a communication platform, as well as region-specific webpages. Keep your eyes peeled for the launch of these systems!

### Mentorship Opportunities

When I am brand new at something, I naturally seek out the guidance of others who have some experience. We would like to provide a means for matching mentors and mentees. Are you one who has been around the compensatory block a time or two or are you just now dipping your toe in the water? Be considering how you might take part in this avenue of support!

### Virtual Academies

In between our biannual conferences, our virtual academy will serve as a dynamic hub, offering continuous support to ensure you're never on this journey alone. This, coupled with the unwavering support from TEA and ESCs, forms a robust network that's always there to guide, inspire, and celebrate your growth. We can't wait to launch our first academy! Stay tuned!

### Regional Mini-Grants

Does your region have an idea that helps foster the mission of ACET? Perhaps your region would like to collaborate over snacks during a conference, or you know of a member who needs assistance with travel costs to attend an ACET event. Maybe your region would like to build camaraderie by wearing regional t-shirts to the next conference. Share your ideas with your Regional Director who can apply for the grant! (\$500 max.)

I am genuinely excited about this vision for 2024 and eager to serve ACET, fostering a collaborative and thriving community together.

*~Tami Knight, President*





## EXPERT INTERVIEW: JAIME HUERTA

Have you ever wondered what makes our expert friends at TEA tick? Click the link to the video and learn more about Jaime Huerta, Division Director at TEA.

## GUEST COLUMN: TITLE I-A PARENT & FAMILY STATEWIDE INITIATIVE THE INTERCONNECTED IMPACT OF SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

In the complex tapestry of education, the collaborative involvement of parents, families, and the community proves to be a transformative force, not only benefiting students but also creating a ripple effect that resonates with businesses and the broader community.

At the heart of this collaboration is the direct empowerment of students. The active engagement of parents and the community provides students with a solid foundation for academic success and personal development. A supportive environment at home, coupled with community involvement, equips students with the resilience needed to excel academically and face challenges with confidence.

Community engagement becomes a catalyst for enriching educational resources within schools. Volunteering, fundraising, and partnerships with local businesses contribute to a more dynamic learning environment for students. These additional resources ensure that students have access to diverse opportunities and experiences, enhancing their overall educational journey.

Beyond the classroom, businesses stand to gain significantly from robust school-parent-community partnerships. As students receive a comprehensive education, businesses play a crucial role in shaping the skills and competencies of future employees. This collaboration not only ensures a skilled workforce but also contributes to the overall economic growth of the community.

The positive impact of school engagement extends beyond education and the workforce, reaching into the very fabric of the community. Actively involving parents, families, and local businesses nurtures a shared commitment to community well-being. This collaborative spirit fosters a vibrant community where everyone plays a role in promoting the growth and success of its members. It also strengthens social bonds within the community creating a supportive network that extends beyond the school environment, fostering a sense of unity and shared values within the community. Strong social bonds contribute to a safer and more cohesive community where individuals are genuinely invested in each other's success.

Recognizing and actively promoting the partnerships between schools, families, and the community not only enriches the educational experience but also creates a positive and sustainable foundation for the holistic development of students, the success of businesses, and the well-being of the entire community

***Krystal McCune is an education specialist at Region 16's Title I, Part A PFE Statewide Initiative***



***Follow the PFE Initiative at these links!***

## TOP 10 WAYS TO SUPPORT AT-RISK STUDENTS

Supporting the academic achievement of at-risk students requires a comprehensive and multifaceted approach. Here are ten effective strategies:

### **Early Intervention Programs:**

Implement early intervention programs to identify at-risk students as soon as possible. This could include assessments, teacher observations, and collaboration with parents to address challenges early on.

### **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Programs:**

Implement social-emotional learning programs to help at-risk students develop essential skills such as self-regulation, empathy, and interpersonal communication. A positive emotional state can enhance learning outcomes.

### **Parental Involvement:**

Encourage and facilitate parental involvement in their child's education. This can include regular communication between teachers and parents, workshops, and resources to help parents support their child's academic success at home.

### **Professional Development for Teachers:**

Offer ongoing professional development for teachers to stay updated on best practices, new teaching methodologies, and strategies specifically designed for at-risk student populations.

### **Data-Driven Decision Making:**

Use data to track the progress of at-risk students and adjust interventions accordingly. Regular assessment and analysis help educators identify effective strategies and make informed decisions about how to best support each student.

### **Individualized Education Plans (IEPs):**

Develop and implement individualized education plans for at-risk students. Tailor teaching strategies, resources, and assessments to meet the unique needs of each student.

Remember, a combination of these strategies, tailored to the specific needs of the at-risk student population in your school or community, is likely to yield the best results.



### **Quality Teaching and Differentiated Instruction:**

Ensure that teachers receive training in effective instructional strategies and can differentiate their teaching to accommodate diverse learning styles and abilities within the classroom.

### **Small Group Instruction:**

Provide opportunities for small group instruction to address specific academic needs. This allows for more personalized attention and support, addressing gaps in understanding.

### **Mentoring and Tutoring Programs:**

Establish mentoring or tutoring programs where at-risk students can receive one-on-one support. This can be provided by teachers, peers, or community volunteers.

### **Community Partnerships:**

Collaborate with community organizations and businesses to provide additional resources and support for at-risk students. This could include after-school programs, access to technology, and extracurricular activities.

## FALL 2023 CONFERENCE RECAP



In case you missed it....a recap

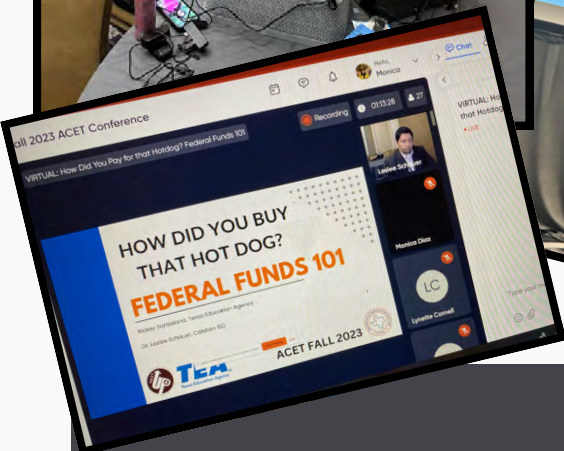
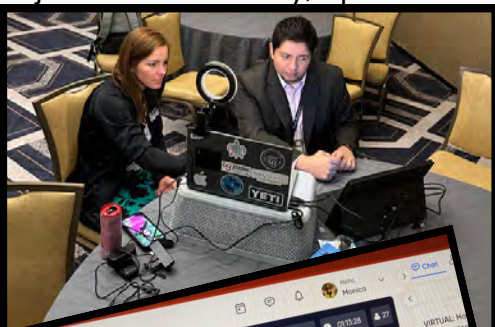
ACET blazed a trail in October as we conducted our very first hybrid conference! The theme was **“ACET: Where Champions Are Made”**. It was an epic gathering 592 strong, where 223 attendees joined virtually. General sessions were live-streamed to our virtual audience through the assistance of professional videographers. All virtual breakout sessions (whose presenters granted permission) were recorded and made available to all participants via the Acelevents app for 30 days following the conference. Though we did not have the capacity to make all breakout sessions available to our virtual audience, all in-person and virtual session handouts were accessible to everyone in attendance.

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24: PRE-CONFERENCE

The pre-conference was the perfect kick-off for our Fall 2023 ACET conference! We tried something new this time and hosted the pre-conference in a mini-conference format. Of the 211 pre-conference attendees, 132 joined us on site in Las Colinas, while 79 cyber-scholars logged on virtually.

Attendees were able to design their own day of learning as there were options for each of the four breakout session time slots. Eight of the sessions were conducted virtually and recorded, which benefited all pre-conference ticket holders as they were able to enjoy presentations they might have missed during the day, or re-watch sessions to maximize learning.

Plans are already underway for the Spring 2024 edition! Plan to join us on Tuesday, April 2 for a fun day of learning!



## FALL 2023 CONFERENCE RECAP | CONTINUED

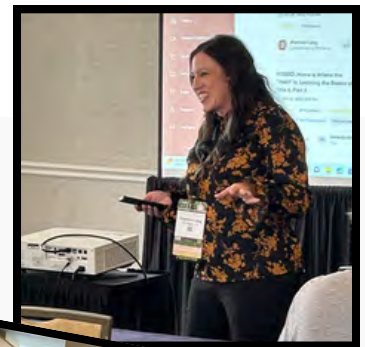
### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25: DAY 1

Students from Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD launched our conference with the presentation of colors and singing of the National Anthem. Day 1 keynote speaker, KC Mack, had the crowd chanting, dancing and laughing as he brought us a message about avoiding burnout. The subsequent concurrent sessions (31 options for in-person attendees; 14 options for virtual attendees) provided a dive into various programmatic and practical approaches to serving at-risk students. During down time, regional members began work on their Spirit Stick for submission in the contest.



### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26: DAY 2

Haley Turner, Esq. took the stage for General Session Day 2. Haley was a crowd favorite as she explained the implications of the 88th legislative session in a way that was understandable AND fun! The day continued with more concurrent breakout sessions (26 in-person options; 12 virtual options) ensuring attendees gained practical insights applicable to their organizations. The afternoon concluded with Regional Meetings, providing a platform for networking and regional collaboration, along with opportunities to complete a team-building activity: a Regional Spirit Stick contest. Congratulations to ESC Region 10 for winning the contest! Their prize was a basket of s'more kits to enjoy by the fire pit! We certainly had a lot of creative options to consider when we voted! Thursday concluded with a lively Tailgate Reception. With heavy hors d'oeuvres, complimentary drinks, door prizes, trivia games, and an abundance of fun, it was a fantastic opportunity to unwind and build connections.



## FALL 2023 CONFERENCE RECAP | CONTINUED

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27: DAY 3

Our final general session, conducted by Cory Green and company, completed our conference. Always a popular conclusion to the conference, during this half-day session, TEA shared updates from the Department of Grant Compliance and Administration. The conference concluded on a high note with a Closing Session and the distribution of door prizes, adding an element of excitement and anticipation.

Though we missed those who couldn't attend, we hope this recap provides a glimpse into the knowledge, inspiration, and camaraderie shared at the conference. Thank you for your dedication to education, and we look forward to welcoming you this spring!



## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Executive Council is the governing body for the ACET organization and meets a few times per year. [Click here to see the names of those serving on the Council.](#) Here are some highlights from recent meetings:

### Policy & Procedure Manual

A healthy organization routinely reviews its policies and procedures. The Council approved a revised policy and procedures manual and recommended that it be presented at the Spring conference for membership to officially adopt. The document will be published at least 10 days before the conference and attendees will vote during the conference.

### Financial Discussions

The Council made the following financial actions:

- received, discussed & approved financial reports,
- voted to update banking authorizations due to new finance leaders,
- voted on the registration price for the Spring conference, and
- weighed options for marketing.

### Conference Platform

The Technology Advisory Team spent a great deal of time reviewing options for a conference platform. This team brought seven options to the Council and made a recommendation. The Council approved the team's recommendation. Our conference app platform for 2024 will be vFairs. Thank you to the Tech Advisory Team for your many hours or work!

## WHAT'S NEXT?

### SPRING 2024 CONFERENCE

Plans are already underway for the Spring 2024 Conference! The Program Planning Committee has met a few times to:

- review attendee feedback from Fall 2023
- develop a theme
- select keynote speakers
- discuss speaker proposals
- develop the daily schedules
- discuss hotel options, such as room set-up, food

A few PPC members visited the hotel site in December to meet with hotel executives, gather information and take a tour.

**Registration opens January 31st!**



# WHAT'S NEXT? OPTIONS FROM OUR PARTNERS

## TITLE I-A COMPLIANCE ACADEMIES

*Same event... two opportunities!*

*...for intensive learning on both  
Parent & Family Engagement and  
Title I, Part A Compliance!*



FMI: [Click here](#)

### South Academy

Feb. 22-23, 2024  
@ Houston  
Registration closes Feb. 6

**South Academy**  
Hyatt Regency Baytown Houston  
100 Convention Center Way  
Baytown, Texas. 77520  
281-987-1234

**Sleeping Rooms**  
Rate-\$122  
Incidental Charge-\$50/day  
Room Cut Off Date-1/31/24.  
Cancellation Policy-72 Hours.  
Customer will be charged for 1  
night's room rate.  
**Parking Complimentary**

[Register for South Academy](#)



### North Academy

April 8-9, 2024  
@ Dallas  
Registration closes Apr. 4

**North Academy**  
Renaissance Dallas North Hotel  
1590 Lyndon B Johnson Freeway  
Dallas, Texas 75234  
972-869-4300

**Sleeping Rooms**  
Rate\$164  
Incidental Charge-\$50/day  
Room Cut Off Date-3/18/24.  
Cancellation Policy-72 Hours  
cancellation policy. Guest will be  
charged 1 nights room rate.  
**Parking Complimentary**

[Register for North Academy](#)

## TITLE I-A NEWBIE VIRTUAL SERIES

*If you are new to federal programs in general—and to  
Title I, Part A in particular—this series of virtual trainings  
will help you absorb the basics and set yourself up for  
success in dealing with the world of federal grants.*

**There is no cost for the training.**

**Session 1 - Jan. 30 @ 10-11**

**Title I, Part A:**

**Who's Who and What's What**

New to the Title I, Part A program? Feeling overwhelmed by all the jargon, acronyms, key players and resources? Join us as we navigate through who and what you need to know and which resources are a must to get you through the year!

**Presenter:**

Jamie Goodwin

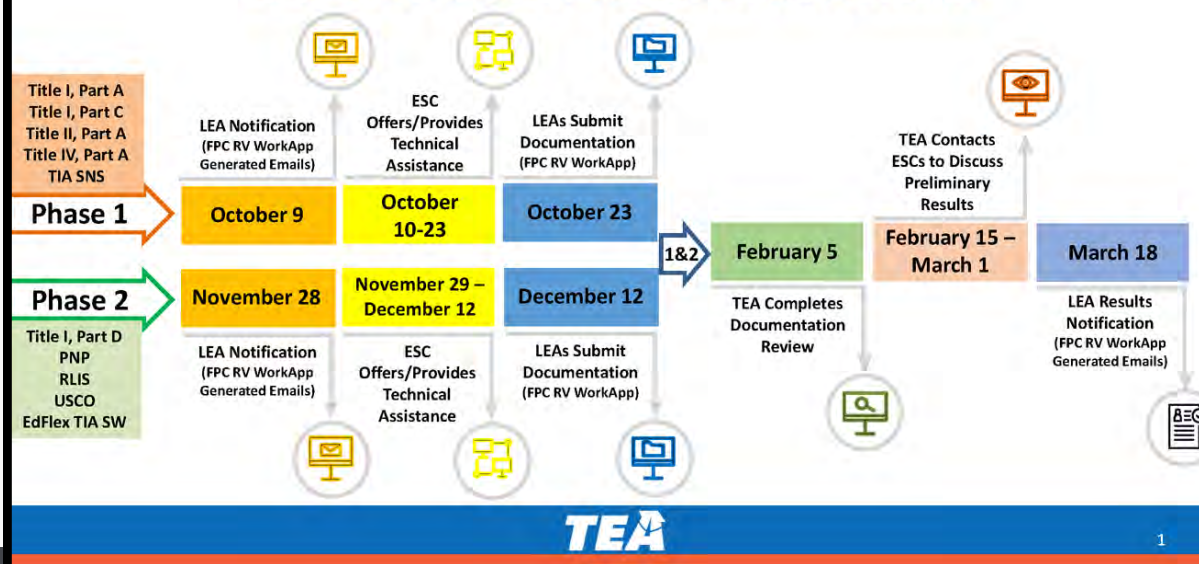
Statewide Title I-A Capacity Building Initiative

We expect to offer a new session every month during the year. Additional information about the topics and dates for future sessions in this series will be provided at the January meeting.

[Register for Session 1](#)



## Federal Program Compliance Division 2023-2024 Random Validation LEA Timeline





**ACET - The Big 5-0:**  
**Celebrating our Legacy, Shaping our Future**

*Present a Breakout Session*

**APRIL 3-5, 2024**

**THE WESTIN  
SAN ANTONIO  
NORTH**

To submit a proposal,  
click [HERE](#)

Are you interested in sharing your expertise with your peers? It's not too late to submit a presenter proposal!

We are particularly seeking proposals from those in the trenches of compensatory programs. It's one thing to learn the rules that govern such programs, but it's quite another to establish successful practical implementation.

Do you have a best practice that you've found effective? Are your organization's internal controls solid? Does your organization have amazing relationships with parents & community members? Attendees want to hear about your successes!

[Click here to submit a proposal](#)

**Proposals are due by Fri., Feb. 9**

## ACET's MISSION

ACET provides members with high-quality learning experiences and networking opportunities to ensure that all students achieve success.

## ACET's VISION

ACET proudly provides a platform to strongly advocate for improving the educational opportunities for all students and empowers educators to effectively meet students' future needs.

## IN MEMORIAM

ACET would like to acknowledge and honor the following Past Presidents who have passed away in recent months.

### Lee Laws, 7th ACET President

Lee Laws, formerly of Austin ISD, served as president 1983-1984.  
Oct. 21, 1932 - Aug. 9, 2022



### Kay Jacoby Davis, 22nd ACET President

Kay Jacoby Davis, formerly of ESC Region 11, served as president 1998-1999.  
Sept. 13, 1947 - Dec. 15, 2023





# SPRING 2024 ACET REGISTRATION DEADLINES

January

31

## Registration Opens

Please provide payment within 10 days of registration if paying by check or EFT.

February

20

## Full Refund Available

Written request must be received in ACET office on/before February 20th.

March

11

## Partial Refund Available

Written request must be received in ACET office on/before March 11th.

March

12

## No Refunds for Cancellations

ACET Check-in starts 5p on April 2nd

