

The Council of Chief State School Officers

**THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT
SMALL AND RURAL SCHOOLS BRAINTRUST MEETING
May 29-30, 2003**

**CCSSO Large Conference Room
One Massachusetts Avenue, Suite 700
Washington, D.C.**

Meeting Objectives

- To identify key NCLB implementation issues affecting states with small and rural schools;
- To identify and evaluate strategies and options to address the issues; and
- To establish a foundation for providing written guidance to states, districts and schools regarding implementation issues.

**AGENDA
May 29, 2003**

Time	Topic and Objectives
8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:00 - 9:15 a.m.	Welcome <i>Tom Houlihan, Executive Director CCSSO</i>
9:15 - 10:45 a.m.	Introduction and Foundations for Meeting <i>Joe Simpson, CCSSO, and Scott Palmer, Nixon Peabody LLP</i> This session will provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• an overview of the meeting agenda, and frame objectives and expected outcomes; and• a “big picture” overview of the key federal requirements imposed on states by NCLB, with a focus on the major issues related to small and rural schools. Participants will be asked to comment upon the agenda and guiding materials to ensure that all significant issues are addressed.
10:45 – 11:00 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Working Session I: AYP Accountability for Small Schools <i>Facilitator: Scott Palmer</i> The discussion in this session will focus on the core accountability provisions of NCLB, and their applicability to schools where the number of students assessed for AYP purposes is below a state’s minimum number. This session will cover, among other issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to make valid AYP decisions for schools where the relevant student population (total or by sub-group) falls below the minimum number; and• How to report AYP results for small schools while ensuring student privacy and confidentiality.

CCSSO Small and Rural Schools Braintrust Meeting Agenda

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Time	Topic and Objectives
8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.	Luncheon
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	<p>Working Session II: NCLB Consequences in Rural Areas <i>Facilitator: Scott Palmer</i></p> <p>The discussion in this session will focus on the implementation of NCLB consequences in rural areas. This session will cover, among other issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The challenge of providing meaningful choice options for remote schools; and • The challenge of providing supplemental services in rural and outlying areas. <p>In the context of each, feasibility and cost issues will be examined, along with ways in which technology may provide some educationally sound strategies toward NCLB compliance.</p>
3:00 - 3:15 p.m.	Break
3:15 - 4:30 p.m.	<p>Working Session III: Teacher Quality in Small and Rural Schools <i>Facilitator: Art Coleman, Nixon Peabody LLP</i></p> <p>The discussion in this session will focus on the impact of the NCLB’s teacher quality requirements on small and rural schools. This session will cover, among other issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The challenge of attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers in rural areas; and • The challenge of meeting teacher quality requirements when teachers must teach multiple grades or subjects.
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.	<p>Working Session IV: Other Issues for Small and Rural Schools <i>Facilitator: Art Coleman</i></p> <p>The discussion in this session will focus on NCLB implementation issues related to small and rural schools, based upon additional feedback provided by meeting participants. Potential session topics include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other capacity and technical assistance issues affecting small and rural schools; • Policy and communications challenges related to the identification of small schools as successful (or not) under the NCLB; and • The challenges of qualifying for grants with a minimum grant size.
5:30 p.m.	Dinner on your own

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AGENDA
May 30, 2003

Time	Topic and Objectives
8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:30 - 10:45 a.m.	Framing of Outstanding Issues, Strategies, and Options <i>Facilitators: Patty Sullivan, CCSSO, Scott Palmer and Art Coleman</i> This session will synthesize the discussion from the previous day and identify priority policy issues, promising strategies and options, and open legal/policy questions. It will serve as the foundation for the discussion with USED officials.
10:45 - 11:00 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Report and Discussion with USED Officials <i>Facilitator: Joe Simpson</i> This session allow the Braintrust to report on the working sessions and share their thoughts and questions with officials from USED.
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Luncheon/Congressional/Media Discussion <i>Facilitator: Patty Sullivan</i> During this time, staff from Congress and members of the media will have the opportunity to learn about the activities and outcomes of the meeting.