

DSSF Discussion Group Meeting #4: Minutes

6/16/17

The meeting opened at 1:30 p.m. and concluded at 4:05 p.m. Attendees, items of discussion, discussion highlights, and public comments are below.

Attendees Included:

- LEA Staff: Carisa Pepper (Indian River); Keisha Brinkley (Appoquinimink); Darren Guido (Caesar Rodney); Joseph Jones (New Castle County Vo-Tech); Chris Havrilla (Woodbridge); *Not present:* Lisa Morris (Delmar); Ken Hutchins (Appoquinimink); Ed Emmett (Positive Outcomes Charter School)
- DDOE Staff: Susan Haberstroh; Lindsay Lewis; Luke Rhine; Terry Richard; Jen Koester; Ted Jarrell; Chantel Janiszewski; Luke Rhine; Shana Payne; Elizabeth Jetter
- Members of the Public: Tammy Croce, Delaware Association of School Administrators; Donna Johnson, Delaware State Board of Education

Items for Discussion:

- Revised Academic Progress business rules based on recommendations received from Meeting 3 were distributed. This includes growth and On Track in 9th Grade metric areas.
- Recommendations for business rules for the Chronic Absenteeism and College and Career Preparedness metric areas were discussed during this meeting. Luke Rhine and Shana Payne provided expertise regarding the College and Career Preparedness metric area. Dr. Susan Haberstroh provided expertise regarding the Chronic Absenteeism metric area.
- Next steps were discussed:
 - Next meeting is June 29, 1:30 to 4:00 p.m., in the Cabinet Room of the Townsend Building. The new Progress toward English Language Proficiency indicator and text-based naming considerations for schools identified for “Comprehensive School Improvement, Targeted School Improvement and Other” will be discussed.

Discussion Highlights:

- Chronic Absenteeism
 - Recommendations included:
 - Recognize that this is a school-level measure.
 - Use the term “absences” instead of “days”.
 - Given that there is a great degree of variance in what is considered an absence (minutes versus periods versus hours) between and among all districts and charter schools, it was recommended that the definition be kept as a local board policy decision. However, it was suggested that conversations continue regarding establishing a statewide definition.
 - It was recommended that chronic absenteeism be calculated using a threshold of a certain number of days, specifically 15 days which matches the federal reporting requirement and aligns with existing school-level reporting.
 - Consider applying the Full Academic Year business rule for this metric area.

- Consider an appeals process with parameters and stringent documentation to allow for exceptional extenuating circumstances such as, but not limited to, students placed in foster care, students out of school due to concussions or other critical medical issues, and students placed in residential treatment facilities for the school year.
 - It was recommended that trend data be included (how chronic absenteeism is increasing or decreasing from one year to the next).
 - Concerns included:
 - Accuracy of data collection at the school level (i.e. substitute teachers taking attendance)
 - How suspensions contribute to the calculation
 - Language and business rules must be very clear – please provide guidance and technical assistance to schools and districts.
- College and Career Preparedness
 - Philosophy: Students who demonstrate success in early college and/or career preparation have an increased likelihood of success in education and career training after high school
 - Delaware labor market data and dual enrollment data trends were shared and discussed
 - Recommendations and considerations:
 - It was recommended that the State consider using a letter grade of C instead of B as the threshold for earning dual enrollment credit in this metric area as Delaware colleges provide college credit for earning a C; however, it was also requested that student data be run to demonstrate the difference between using a B as a threshold versus a C.
 - The Certificate of Multi-literacy was shared in detail as this is a new metric area option.
 - The ASVAB was shared in detail as this is a new metric area option. It was recommended that the State consider a minimum AFQT score, but further discussion is needed around whether to cap the percentage of students included in this metric area option.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.