

Minutes

Vision for Excellence in Education and Arkansas Accountability System Steering Committee Meeting Wednesday, December 11, 2019

The Vision for Excellence in Education and Arkansas Accountability System Steering Committee (Steering Committee) met Wednesday, December 11, 2019, in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (Division) Auditorium. Ms. Ouida Newton called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Present: Ms. Ouida Newton, Chair; Senator Jane English; Ms. Melinda Kinnison; Ms. Melissa Bratton; Ms. Starlinda Sanders; Ms. Ima Etim; and Ms. Joyce Flowers

Absent: Mr. Anthony Bennett; Dr. Harold Jeffcoat; Representative Bruce Cozart; Ms. Michelle Hayward; Ms. Gloria Phillips; and Secretary Johnny Key

The meeting was live streamed, and the recording was posted on the DESE website at <http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/public-school-accountability/every-student-succeeds-act-essa/stay-informed-archive/meeting-agendas-presentations-videos-minutes>.

Consent Agenda

Consideration of Approval for Minutes – August 28, 2019

Ms. Joyce Flowers moved, seconded by Ms. Starlinda Sanders, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

Informational Documents

Ms. Deborah Coffman, assistant commissioner of Public School Accountability, told the committee that December 10, 2019, was the four-year anniversary of the Every Student Succeeds Act. Ms. Coffman stated that she and her team have reached out to multiple congressmen on the federal level to provide an update regarding the effectiveness of Arkansas' ESSA plan.

During her presentation, Ms. Coffman informed the committee of new informational and transparency documents that are available on the ESSA webpage and encouraged committee members to review the documents. She discussed the Schools on the Move social media campaign that highlights schools that showed progress on recent accountability reports. Ms. Coffman stated that school report cards will be released in January instead of April. While not all of the data will be available, the early release will give schools access to data they can use to make data-informed decisions. Ms. Coffman also stated the division plans to release an accountability report to the public.

A. Parents – Webpage

Dr. Alexandra Boyd, with DESE's Public School Accountability division, provided an overview of the parents webpage on the DESE website and the numerous resources available. Dr. Boyd stated that information and resources are shared on the family and community engagement

social media page. She said the team also shares information monthly with district facilitators and coordinators.

ESSA Advisory Group Reports

A. Accountability

Dr. Alexandra Boyd, with DESE's Public School Accountability division, stated that the ESSA Accountability Advisory Team met Nov. 13. She shared information from the meeting and future communication efforts to address misconceptions in the field. For example, a video is planned to better explain how ESSA cut scores were set for letter grades.

B. Assessment

J.J. Walker, with DESE's Assessment unit, provided an update about assessment. She stated that DESE's Research and Technology, Public School Accountability, and Student Assessment divisions/unit are partnering to assist school administrators with data literacy. The team plans to film four videos that will cover time management, student data literacy, classroom walk-throughs, and teacher data literacy.

Ms. Walker also discussed Arkansas' participation in an ACT Aspire field test involving changes to the writing assessment. The field test will be conducted in February, with possible changes to the writing assessment being made in approximately two years.

Ms. Stacy Smith, assistant commissioner for Learning Services, provided an overview of ACT interim assessments. She stated that ACT changed its platform for the assessments, with the new platform not being compatible with interim and periodic assessments. Ms. Smith said she and her team have had multiple conversations with ACT to fix the issue.

C. Educator Equity and Effectiveness

Dr. Suzanne Bailey, assistant commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure, and her team (Mr. Andy Sullivan, Ms. Sharlee Crowson, Ms. Sandra Hurst, Dr. Frank Servedio, and Ms. Joan Luneau) provided educator effectiveness and licensure updates.

Updates included information about LEADS 2.0, equity labs that will be held at five education service cooperatives, poverty simulations, administrator data, and educator grow your own programs. Updates also included information about financial incentives for teacher shortage areas, implementation of scientific reading instruction, the Career Continuum, Opportunity Culture schools, Arkansas Qualified Teacher, and Workforce Stability Index.

Dr. Bailey stated that an advisory team of educators, school board members, education agency representatives, parents, and students has been assembled to provide input and feedback about opportunities that affect educators and students. The advisory team has met twice and provided valuable input and feedback.

D. English Learners

Ms. Tricia Kerr, with DESE's Learning Services division, provided updates about the English Learner/Title III Advisory Group meeting. The group met September 4 and discussed the 2019-2020

application for the Title III English learner subgrant, English learner plans for non-Title III districts, and recent immigrant grants. Ms. Kerr also presented future items for discussion with the advisory group, including competitive grants for state assessment programs.

E. District Support

Ms. Jayne Green, with Public School Accountability, provided an overview of the new District Support Unit, which is currently providing additional assistance to districts. For example, the unit is reviewing district support plans and 1003 applications, providing onsite district support, and providing training for education service cooperatives.

Perkins V

Dr. Angela Kremers, the director of the Division of Career and Technical Education, provided information about the Perkins V required student performance data. She listed the six secondary student indicators and why they are important.

A. Indicators

Dr. Denise Airola, the director of the Office of Innovation for Education, discussed the data elements in more detail.

B. Draft Plan and Feedback

Dr. Angela Kremers stated that public comment periods are open for the State CTE Program Quality Indicator and the State Draft Perkins V Plan.

DRAFT Timeline for Proposed Amendment(s) Arkansas ESSA Plan

Ms. Deborah Coffman provided a draft timeline for proposed amendments to Arkansas' ESSA plan. The timeline includes the timeframe for data modeling, stakeholder engagement, public and stakeholder comment, review by the governor, submission to the U.S. Department of Education, and implementation after approval.

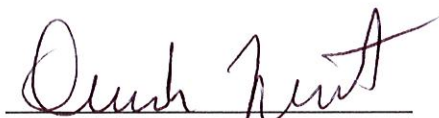
Planning for Next Meeting

Ms. Deborah Coffman talked with the committee about planning for the next meeting. Based on the discussion, the committee's next meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. February 26, 2020.

Adjournment

Ms. Starlinda Sanders moved, seconded by Ms. Ima Etim, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Kimberly Mundell



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek Kerr", is written over a horizontal line.

Ouida Newton, Chair