

Minutes
Vision for Excellence in Education and Arkansas Accountability System (ESSA)
Steering Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 25, 2017

The Vision for Excellence in Education and Arkansas Accountability System (ESSA) Steering Committee met Wednesday, January 25, 2017, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Johnny Key called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Johnny Key, Chair; Ms. Ouida Newton; Representative Bruce Cozart; Ima Etim; Michelle Hayward; Kelli Gill; Dr. Harold Jeffcoat; Joyce Flowers; Gloria Phillips; Melissa Bratton; and Anthony Bennett.

Members Absent: Senator Jane English.

Audience: ADE staff, general public, and press.

The meeting was live streamed and the recording was posted on the ADE website at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/public-school-accountability/every-student-succeeds-act-essa/stay-informed-archive>.

Representative Cozart invited the members to attend the House Education Committee meetings scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday each week.

Consideration of Approval for Minutes – November 30, 2016

Ms. Phillips moved, seconded by Ms. Flowers, to approve the November 30, 2016, minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Advisory Teams

Director of Policy and Special Projects Ms. Tina Smith said the following advisory teams would work to formulate the accountability plan: Accountability, Comprehensive School Support and Improvement, Educator Equity and Effectiveness, Assessment, and English Learners. She continued by saying, additional advisory teams would be added as needed.

English Language Learners advisory team member Ms. Melissa Bratton said there is approximately 40,000 English Learners in Arkansas. She said the ELL advisory group is facilitated by ADE English Language Learner Director Ms. Trisha Kerr. She said CCSSO is providing technical assistance. She said the team is gathering feedback from ESOL members across the state. She said the team would provide a report in

February with the goal of having recommendations to present to the Steering Committee in March.

Minimum N

Office of Innovation in Education Director Dr. Denise Airola provided a reviewed and clarified previously presented minimum N information. She said the minimum N will impact how the state and local efforts provide equitable and accessible support to districts and schools. She said subgroups of African American, English Language Learners, and Hispanic students are most impacted by the minimum N.

Dr. Airola said some states are considering a different minimum N for the English Language Learner progress indicator and for the ELL subgroup. She said SPED and African American subgroups have historically presented the largest performance gap.

Public School Accountability Coordinator Mr. Elbert Harvey said the state support would be provided to the district. The district would then be responsible for supporting the identified schools. He said the state support would be inclusive of all units of the agency and partners but specific to the needs of the districts.

Graduation Rate with Extended Cohort

Office of Innovation in Education Director Dr. Denise Airola explained the impact of extending cohort years to the graduation rate. She said several schools would see a positive impact of using a 5-year graduation cohort. She said the 5-year cohort model could incentivize schools to better meet the needs of students by allowing the student the variable of time to complete the required credits.

Assessment Options

Student Assessment Director Ms. Hope Allen provided stakeholders with two (2) assessment options. She said the assessment advisory group would consider how to incorporate career readiness measures. The Steering Committee recommended more discussion on Option 2.

Feedback and Questions

Ms. Bratton said she was using a Google Doc to gather feedback from the ELL advisory group.

Ms. Tina Smith said notes from advisory meetings would be posted to the ADE website.

Next Steps

The next Steering Committee meeting date is February 22, 2017.

Adjournment

Dr. Jeffcoat moved, seconded by Ms. Flowers, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman



Johnny Key, Chair