

**Special Education State Advisory Committee (SESAC)**

**General Meeting January 11, 2016**

**MINUTES**

**Present**

Kelly Meissner-Chair  
 Dorie Flynn-on phone  
 Maura Taylor-on phone  
 April Edwards  
 Marjorie Guldán  
 Martha Goodman  
 Yvonne Hu-Cotto-on phone  
 Kathy Kaufman  
 Ty Blackwell  
 Leanne Carmona  
 Kathleen Barazotto  
 Rachel London  
 Jamie Stoner  
 Neal Lichter-on phone

**Absent**

Rhonda Creecy  
 Brian Fausel  
 Dawn Koplos  
 Valerie Ashton-Thomas  
 Carol Strootman  
 Sarah Wayland  
 Michelle Stewart

**Staff Present**

Carmen Brown

**Guests**

Pamela Talley – PG Co SECAC  
 Paul Dunford-DSE/EIS  
 Sally Slade-DSE/EIS  
 Christy Stewart  
 Alma McPherson  
 Marsye Kaplan  
 Brian Morrison  
 Dori Wilson  
 Karla Marty

Meeting began at 10:07am with introductions of all members and guests on the Webex and phone.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Introductions and topic review</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	Overview of SPP/APR indicator discussion for this meeting and review of purpose.
<b>Recommendations</b>	none
<b>Action</b>	none
<b>Follow-Up</b>	none
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Review of Minutes from November and December</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	Minutes reviewed by members of the Committee.
<b>Recommendations</b>	Minutes reviewed and approved with the one change for December. Motioned, seconded and all in favor.
<b>Action</b>	Add Martha Goodman to the list of attendees for December.
<b>Follow-Up</b>	none
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Indicator #15 – Hearing requests that went to Resolution</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	Dori Wilson reviewed the data and led a discussion regarding the increase in compliance, but also spoke to the continued non-conformity to the State Target.
<b>Recommendations</b>	none
<b>Action</b>	none
<b>Follow-Up</b>	none
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Indicator #16 – Mediations – Percent of mediations resulting in mediation</b>

	agreements.
<b>Discussion</b>	Discussion about the significant (over 10%) increase in mediation agreements. Discussion regarding the strength of Family Support in MD. Dori responded to questions pertaining to the # of mediations, about resolution and mediation requirements, and about the # of due process filings along with an increase in the # of complaints.
<b>Recommendations</b>	none
<b>Action</b>	none
<b>Follow-Up</b>	none
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Indicator #3</b> – Assessment – participation and performance of children with disabilities on statewide assessments.
<b>Discussion</b>	Karla Marty led a discussion about the transition from the former accountability system to the new; the requirement that the State Board of Ed vote on to set the new targets; the study on how standards with interact with the re-auth of the ESEA, and a discussion regarding the lack of trend lines bc of a change in assessments. Karla led conversation related to scoring of the HASA and Biology exams related to the length of time it takes for parents to receive grades, the Bridge Project options, and ELL implications.
<b>Recommendations</b>	The SESAC would like further information on this Indicator as it is available.
<b>Action</b>	Update SESAC as appropriate.
<b>Follow-Up</b>	A WebEx will be scheduled to provide further data on the State submission of the SPP/APR related to this indicator.
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Indicator #1</b> – Graduation – Percent of youth with IEP’s graduation from high school with a regular diploma.
<b>Discussion</b>	Christy Stewart led a discussion about the 4 year adjusted cohort data and the steady climb in results for MD.
<b>Recommendations</b>	none
<b>Action</b>	none
<b>Follow-Up</b>	none
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Indicator #2</b> – Dropout – Percent of youth with IEP’s dropping out of high school.
<b>Discussion</b>	Christy Stewart led a discussion as to the dip in data, change in law, should there be a change in target, and why the 4 yr adjusted cohort is not used to determine this indicator.
<b>Recommendations</b>	none
<b>Action</b>	none
<b>Follow-Up</b>	none
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Indicator #13</b> – Secondary Transition – Percent of youth with IEPs aged 16 and above with an IEP that includes appropriate measureable postsecondary goals that are annually updated and based upon age appropriate transition assessment, transition services, including courses of study, that will reasonably enable the student to meet those postsecondary goals, and annual IEP goals related to the student’s transition services needs.
<b>Discussion</b>	Christy Stewart led a discussion about the slight decrease, the push for quality – more than just compliance, and discussed the implications of the data from non-public schools
<b>Recommendations</b>	none

<b>Action</b>	none
<b>Follow-Up</b>	none
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Indicator #14</b> – Post-School Outcomes – Percent of youth who are no longer in secondary school or both, within one year of leaving high school.
<b>Discussion</b>	Christy Stewart led the discussion about the aggregation of this data from sources outside of MSDE, the use of student identifiers vs the use of SS#'s and the lack of comprehensive data at this time.
<b>Recommendations</b>	The SESAC would like further information on this Indicator as it is available.
<b>Action</b>	Update SESAC as appropriate.
<b>Follow-Up</b>	A WebEx will be scheduled to provide further data on the State submission of the SPP/APR related to this indicator.
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Indicator #17</b> – State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)
<b>Discussion</b>	Paul Dunford led the discussion about the SSIP. He spoke to the use of results-driven accountability as MSDE and the State move from compliance to outcomes. He described the phases of the SSIP Implementation, the focus on data, infrastructure, State Identified Measureable Results (SIMR), the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG), the need to build capacity, family engagement and the alignment with School-Wide Integrated Framework for Transformation (SWIFT).
<b>Recommendations</b>	none
<b>Action</b>	Update SESAC as appropriate.
<b>Follow-Up</b>	Keep SSIP updates as a regular, periodic topic for the SESAC.
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Open Discussion Re: APP/APR</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	Experts from MSDE/DSE/EIS facilitated discussions regarding the resources, accountability, intervention, etc. How the State monitors the LSS to resolve issues, the repercussions to a local of consistently not meeting targets, etc. Also discussion about the portfolio, its use within the pilot, which schools and districts are involved in the pilot, and the eligibility of non-public schools to participate.
<b>Recommendations</b>	Recommendation was made that the State should ensure non-public schools are involved in pilots to insure equal access.
<b>Action</b>	none
<b>Follow-Up</b>	none
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Standards-Based IEPs</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	DSE/EIS staff led a brief presentation on standards-based IEPs. They spoke to the goal of using the standards to help narrow the gap by setting goals aligned with attaining proficiency within each standard. To help set the stage, there was a brief explanation of “present level of academic achievement and functional performance.” Members of the SESAC were interested in the roll-out of Standards-Based IEPs and requested further information as this is rolled out to the locals.
<b>Recommendations</b>	Update the SESAC as appropriate.
<b>Action</b>	Look into releasing the PPT to the SESAC
<b>Follow-Up</b>	The SESAC will receive updates as appropriate. The SESAC was provided with the information in the PPT as an advisory committee, but will not receive the PPT as all locals have not yet been trained.
<b>Topic</b>	<b>National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC)</b>

<b>Discussion</b>	DSE/EIS staff led a brief discussion on the National Center and State Collaborative/Multi-State Alternative Assessment (NCSC/MSAA). There was discussion on the monitoring of IEPs through sampling by the State monitors, the framework provided for the NCSC/MSAA for determination of eligibility, differentiated lesson plan availability on Blackboard for educators, and determination for certificate track vs diploma track for students.
<b>Recommendations</b>	Update the SESAC as appropriate.
<b>Action</b>	Look into releasing the PPT to the SESAC
<b>Follow-Up</b>	The SESAC will receive updates as appropriate. The SESAC was provided with the information in the PPT as an advisory committee.
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Legislative Updates</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	The SESAC was provided with a brief synopsis on legislative initiatives expected during the 2016 Legislative Session. Session begin Wednesday January 13, 2016. Of note: over 1000 bills were pre-filed, no burden of proof this year, but a bill on consent is expected, a bill to remove 14C certificates, a focus on special education is expected.
<b>Recommendations</b>	SESAC should continue to monitor
<b>Action</b>	none
<b>Follow-Up</b>	As necessary

SESAC meeting adjourned at 12:05pm.

February/March mtg suggestions: McKinney Vinto Homeless Education Act discussion