

Special Education State Advisory Committee (SESAC)

General Meeting June 14, 2016

MINUTES

Present

Kelly Meissner-Chair
 Rhonda Creecy-Co-Chair
 Diane McGowan-by phone
 Christy Harris
 Dorie Flynn - by phone
 Marjorie Guldan
 Brian Fausel
 Neal Lichter-by phone
 Kathy Kaufman
 Ty Blackwell – by phone
 Jamie Stoner
 Pamela Talley
 Martha Goodman
 Valerie Ashton-Thomas
 Angela Smith

Absent

Dawn Koplos
 Carol Strootman
 Leanne Carmona
 Yvonne Hu Cotto
 Dawn Koplos
 Kathy Barazotto
 Rachel London
 Michelle Stewart
 Maura Taylor

Staff Present

Carmen Brown

Guests

Amber Clark – ARC
 Vittoria Aiello
 Karleen Spitulnick - by phone
 Miguel Mercado

Meeting began at 10:07am with Introductions of all members present and on the phone

Topic	Minutes from April 11, April 19, and May 16th.
Discussion	
Recommendations	Motion, seconded, and accepted.
Action	
Follow-Up	
Topic	ESSA Discussion
Discussion	Kelly was invited to participate in the MSDE ESSA workgroup to represent parents as well as special education. Federal regulations are posted and up for public comment now. In depth discussion evolved regarding assessments. Important to be able to compare and have like tests throughout the State. The State must meet a 95% participation rate and within each subgroup with consequences determined by the State. Alternative assessments were discussed, and requirements of alternative assessments were reviewed (ie designation in IEP). Discussion of curriculum for diploma bound students vs. that for certificate track students. 1% CAP by LSS, but the State can receive penalty if as a State, the 1% is exceeded. Discussion of standards to move a student to the Alt at early ages and the critical importance of this decision, requirements for UDL and the strength of MD in this area. Discussion of the importance modifications of the curriculum vs an alteration of the curriculum. Discussion of differences by county. The discussion moved to accountability and goals by State and using a “climate survey” as the non-academic indicator measuring school quality and student success. Had a discussion regarding low-performing schools. Review of ELL requirements.
Recommendations	Recommend a consistent testing measure across the State, expectation of high

	standards, and criteria for participation for alt assessment, consider a recommendation that the alt testing be determined by IEP teams, not the 1%, concern about how the 1% is applied, recommendation of erring on the side of a diploma rather than moving to the alt at early ages. Recommendation on professional development and clarification on modifications to curriculum. Is the climate survey an appropriate measure of school quality and student success? How will cross-tabulation data be displayed, and what will the requirements be? Requirements by subgroups – is it realistic to have the same goals for all students or do we use a percentage increase (increase scores by 5%) – what do we do to specifically narrow the gap for students with disabilities. Look at baseline by county and raise the bar by an agreed upon percentage. Must look specifically at communication competency, establishing that competency early on to help them narrow that gap in education. A lack of testing for ELL students for the ALT.
Action	Carmen to send out articles recommended by Mary Gable.
Follow-Up	Further research on what the per pupil expenditure reporting will look like. What are the Federal expectations for setting the goals (AMOs). Seven Turnaround Strategies. Further information on the strategies and interventions.
Topic	SECAC Trainings – Summer workgroup
Discussion	Webinar development for SECACs. Kathy Kaufman, Vittoria, Rhonda Creecy, volunteered to participate in the development of curriculum.
Recommendations	
Action	Carmen will send out a doodle poll to the group to determine the dates for summer work.
Follow-Up	
Topic	Membership - letters will be coming out to all members whose terms are expiring. Vice-Chair – Rhonds Creecy is stepping down.
Discussion	Solicited nominations for chair and vice-chair, Kelly Meissner – agreed to remain as Chair, Kathy Kaufman was nominated as vice-chair
Recommendations	
Action	Dori moved to accept, Rhonda seconded , all voting members agreed
Follow-Up	
Topic	Open discussion
Discussion	If someone meets the criteria for ID are they automatically considered to meet criteria for certificate track and the alt assessment? Monthly email updates – quarterly or bi-monthly in-person mtgs. September, October and then every other month. MLL – send out info on log in .
Recommendations	
Action	
Follow-Up	

SESAC meeting adjourned at 12:40pm.