

Minutes

Vision for Excellence in Education and Arkansas Accountability System Steering Committee Meeting Wednesday, April 1, 2020

The Vision for Excellence in Education and Arkansas Accountability System Steering Committee (Steering Committee) met Wednesday, April 1, 2020, via Zoom video conferencing. Ms. Ouida Newton called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Ms. Ouida Newton, Chair; Ms. Melinda Kinnison; Ms. Melissa Bratton; Dr. Harold Jeffcoat; Ms. Starlinda Sanders; Ms. Ima Etim; and Ms. Joyce Flowers

Absent: Secretary Johnny Key, Senator Jane English, Mr. Anthony Bennett, Representative Bruce Cozart, Ms. Michelle Hayward, and Ms. Gloria Phillips

The meeting was livestreamed via Zoom video conferencing, 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 – December 11, 2019

Dr. Jeffcoat moved, seconded by Ms. Flowers, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

Perkins V

Division of Career and Technical Education Dr. Angela Kremers provided an update to the Steering Committee for the Perkins V State Plan. She said the state plan was originally due to the U.S. Department of Education on April 15, 2020; however, an extension was granted and the plan is now due by June 15, 2020. The implementation of the approved state plan would be July 1, 2020. Dr. Kremers also discussed the concentrator modeling for academic performance data.

Ms. Newton said she was excited about the concentrator data and that it would give school district a greater desire to become a part of career and technical education. She asked Dr. Kremers if the new deadline would affect the implementation of the state plan. Dr. Kremers said that she felt good about the new deadline and implementation date. Ms. Sanders asked if the changes would affect funding. Dr. Kremers said that she would estimate a low impact to funding.

District Support Plans

DESE Coordinator of District Support Ms. Jayne Green introduced the item and said that DESE Public School Program Manager Dr. Ginny Stroud would provide the presentation. Dr. Stroud said all school district that were required to, have submitted an approved district support plan. She noted that even school districts that were not required to, still submitted plans. She said that school districts are in compliance with the Science of Reading and discussed the comprehensive literacy plans. Dr. Stroud

discussed the ways in which some district still need improvement, as well as the on-going support available to school districts.

Ms. Newton asked when the district support plans are due for the next cycle. Ms. Green said the intent is to have the district support plans turned in earlier than this cycle. The current deadline is September 1, 2020. Ms. Coffman said that the hope is that the districts are constantly reviewing their plans and so the earlier date would be doable for submission.

Feedback from Stakeholders Regarding the School Report Card

DESE Coordinator of School Performance and Evaluation Dr. Alexandra Boyd reviewed the 2017-2018 stakeholder feedback summary of noted strengths and opportunities for improvement. She said that the 2018-2019 School Report Cards were updated in response the previous year's stakeholder feedback. The number of clicks to access information on the website were reduced, the report cards were posted three months earlier, and the module descriptions were reworked. Dr. Boyd said the preliminary 2018-2019 School Report Card feedback is that most of the response to the open response questions are speaking to the improvement processes that happen after reviewing the data in the School Report Card. She also reviewed the summary of feedback gathered by Clinton School interns.

Ms. Etim asked how large the sample size was for the feedback gathered by the Clinton School of Public Service. Dr. Boyd said that a couple hundred people completed the survey and 10-20 participated in interviews. She said the interviews and the focus group work was to start around the same time that Arkansas began to practice social distancing for the COVID-19 pandemic and so the focus has been on the interviews more. Ms. Kinnison discussed the difference between engagement and transformative engagement. Ms. Newton asked what DESE is doing to work to the one-sidedness of the reports. Dr. Boyd said that one of the new things that Division has done is hire a translator, Kazandra Wilson. Ms. Wilson is able to attend meetings and obtain feedback and offer assistance in that way to the Spanish speaking communities.

Chief Information Officer Mr. Arijit Sarkar reviewed the new one-click feature on My School Info to download the whole report card and the how the schools can create a link to their report card on their webpages. A walkthrough was provided during the meeting on how to access the report cards.

Waiver of Assessment, Accountability and Reporting for 2020

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Assistant Commissioner Ms. Deborah Coffman said that a waiver request was submitted to the U.S. Department of the Education on March 23, 2020, for the state assessment for this spring. With these waiver there would be no ESSA School Index 2020 nor some specific information on the school report card. Ms. Coffman said the official waiver approval letter was received on March 27, 2020. She discussed the public comment requirement and said that comments can be emailed to ade.essacomments@arkansas.gov. She said that it is highly possible that there will be other waiver opportunities in the future and that several teams are reviewing potential needs. She said the Technical Advisory Committee will be reviewing data at future meetings to determine the long- and short-term impact on the systems.

Ms. Newton asked what is being done to address state accountability for assessment. Ms. Coffman said they are working on a comprehensive list of items which will need to be addressed.

Plan for Next Meeting

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Assistant Commissioner Ms. Deborah Coffman said there is not planned date yet for the next meeting and the meeting date will be based on the next steps for waivers and other items which may need to be addressed in the near future.

Adjournment

Ms. Sanders moved, seconded by Ms. Flowers, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Tiffany Donovan

Ouida Newton, Chair