

Minutes
Vision for Excellence in Education and Arkansas Accountability System
Steering Committee Meeting
April 28, 2021

The Vision for Excellence in Education and Arkansas Accountability System Steering Committee (ESSA Steering Committee) met Wednesday, April 28, 2021, in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Auditorium. Chair Newton called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Ms. Ouida Newton; Ms. Melissa Bratton; Dr. Harold Jeffcoat; Ms. Starlinda Sanders; Ms. Joyce Flowers; Senator Jane English; Ms. Melinda Kinnison; and Ms. Michelle Hayward

Absent: Representative Bruce Cozart; Mr. Anthony Bennett; and Ms. Ima Etim

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

Consent Agenda

I. Consideration of Approval for Minutes - January 13, 2021

Ms. Flowers moved, seconded by Ms. Sanders, to approve the January 13, 2020, minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Agenda Items

II. 1. ESSA- Deborah Coffman

Ms. Coffman provided information on the current ESSA addendum. The addendum went out for public comment on November 23, 2020. One comment pertaining to assessment, not accountability, was received. Ms. Coffman gave a brief overview of the January 2021 meeting discussion topics about graduation rates, stakeholder meetings, and some other considerations for today's meeting.

The U.S Department of Ed (USED) issued a waiver that all states could apply for regarding the ESSA plans. The addendum was submitted. USED contacted DESE regarding moving forward with the addendum. After a conversation on March 15, 2021, USED responded with written notes.

II. 1. a. Update on the Summative Assessment- Sheree Baird.

Ms. Baird provided an update on the latest assessment data. The state window for the ACT Aspire opened up on April 5th and by the end of day one, we had 129,065 completed tests in our state. Each student takes five tests in the subject area of English, reading, writing, math, and science. By week four we had a total of 1,221,146 tests which is cumulative over time. We have approximately 296,208 active students in grades 3-10 according to TRIAND. We have over 75% completion rate. Testing will end on May 20, 2021. Ms. Baird gave accolades to all district test coordinators and test coordinators.

Senator English commented about being pleased with the state moving forward with testing.

Dr. Jeffcoat and Ms. Newton gave accolades to the state and districts for their hard work and moving forward with testing.

II. 1. b. DRAFT reports- Dr. Denise Ariola and Tammie Reitenger

Dr. Denise Ariola presented the new mock-ups for reporting that include percent tested and percent not tested. The reports will also include the unadjusted and adjusted score.

Dr. Jeffcoat gave accolades to Dr. Ariola and asked if the numerator changes if a school doesn't test 95%?

Dr. Ariola stated that the methodology formula is provided in ESSA. If we don't test all the students, then we are not getting a true representation.

Ms. Newton asked which score will be used at the state level?

Dr. Ariola stated that the adjusted score will be used.

Ms. Kinnison asked why the number of expected to test students would be different for English language arts and math?

Dr. Ariola stated that it could be different for a couple of different reasons, in theory it's equal most of the time but the data has slight differences.

Ms. Newton asked what is the thought process on what we are seeing today and if we don't meet the 95% testing in August and what we may have to ask for?

Ms. Coffman stated that based on the data we heard from Sheree Baird, we are confident in meeting the 95% tested at the state level.

II. 1. c. Revised Addendum- Tammie Reitenger

Ms. Reitenger presented us with revisions made to the ESSA addendum.

Ms. Newton asked if this is the same addendum the committee had seen before but with more explanations?

Ms. Coffman answered this is the exact same addendum form but under advice from USED we had to highlight more boxes and explain more in depth.

Senator English moved, seconded by Ms. Hayward, to approve the addendum being put out for public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Perkins V- Dr. Angela Kremers and Dr. Lydia McDonald

Dr. Kremers presented the updated performance measures for the Perkins V state plan. Due to COVID-19, the state was provided an opportunity to reconsider state performance levels.

Ms. Newton asked if CTE needs anything from the committee?

Dr. Kramers answered with no specific request from the committee. She said that it is important to collaborate with the ESSA steering committee and DCTE considers it an important part of stakeholder feedback.

Senator English commented I think we all realize that we are a small state and we hear so much going on nationally about schools not opening, students far behind and . I'm really proud of the fact that kids are going to school and learning. We may have some adjustments to make but by and large everyone has done everything they could do to make sure our students had an opportunity for a future.

IV. Plan for Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 2021.

V. Adjournment

Senator English moved, seconded by Ms. Starlinda to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Lindsey Stroud.

Ouida Newton, Chair