

EISA Subcommittee Agenda 8/08/18, 4:30 - 5:45 pm

SAU Conference Room

Draft of 6/27/18 minutes

In attendance: Chair Tammy Mahoney, Dr. Pam Brown, Larry Heath, Superintendent Ambrose, Curriculum Director Turmelle. Called to order by Mahoney at 4:30 pm. Meeting was held in the SAU conference room. Minutes of the 5/16/18 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Public attendance was discussed. An objective is having meetings which are open and transparent to the public. It was acknowledged that the SAU conference room is not ideal for this purpose so Mr. Ambrose will investigate meeting in a classroom. The meeting room will also be added to the agenda. Policy BEDH was unanimously adopted to be followed for EISA meetings, and there will be 2 opportunities for public comment.

There was lengthy discussion of assessments and indicators for measuring student achievement, and establishing the benchmarks which should be used. Student growth was the main topic. An objective is to define an end-of-year benchmark, which will help to define growth in that year. Measuring growth against a benchmark will also help to identify areas for intervention. Dr. Brown expressed the desire to avoid burdening teachers with excessive record-keeping. Mr. Turmelle noted that if teachers set a goal for every student at the beginning of the year and monitor progress, the likelihood of reaching the goal is increased. Mr. Ambrose outlined a system of color-coded levels he has used, where blue=gifted, green=at level, yellow=below by 1 level, and red=below by 2 or more levels. It was noted that a student might achieve a full year's growth but remain "red" and that our assessment procedures should account for that as positive progress (as opposed to simply providing raw numbers of students at each level, which obscures student growth).

There was also a discussion of the grading system, particularly at the high school, which consists of both formative and summative assessments. Rigor is built into the system by requiring a demonstration of competency; simply passing all summatives is not sufficient. A deeper understanding of the grading system was requested by the committee, which will be referred to Mr. Stack for a forthcoming meeting.

1. Call to order
2. Approve 6/27/18 minutes
3. Public Comment
4. Discussion of grade-level learning indicators, trends, and targets for inclusion in 5-year Strategic Plan, continued
5. Subcommittee Goals for 2018-2019
6. Public Comment
7. Future agenda items
8. Adjourn