

Evaluation Working Groups

January 24, 2018

Presenter is Justin Fite on February 13th at the advisory committee meeting.

Attendance: Debra Watson, Justin Fite, Elizabeth Ressel, Sheryl Tatum, Jody Pendleton, Travis Graham, William Stubbs

GOALS:

1. Create an evaluation tool that can be used to evaluate alternative education programs for middle school/junior high that promotes improvement and innovation with compliance and eligibility.
2. Create an evaluation tool that can be used to evaluate alternative education programs for high school that promotes improvement and innovation with compliance and eligibility.

Evaluation Rubric

- Current evaluation rubric is geared toward high school, not K-6 and K-8.
- Do we need separate rubrics for middle school/junior high programs and high school programs?
 - Working group would like to see different rubrics for middle school/junior high and high school. Feel it would provide more guidance for best practice/strategy and set expectations for the different age groups and goals.
 - Jennifer and Missy will design a middle school/junior high and high school rubric over Spring Break and bring it to the working group for discussion.
- Working group looked at the Massachusetts alternative education rubric, which is subjective with a total student data component. Arkansas rubric and data was provided but no discussion occurred.
- 2017-- Oklahoma had 294 alternative education programs, which is a significant increase from 2010 when the state had 247 alternative education programs.
- Increase in programs - Why? Districts are pulling out of cooperative programs. Accountability? Funds? Needs? Representative Casey had several suggestions for coop incentives at the last whole meeting.
- Some districts would like the option to exempt from alt ed. Dependent districts currently have that option but would need a process and timeline.
- Working Group likes our rubric but would like to see some changes.
 - A separation of the middle school/junior high rubric and the high school rubric.
 - 3 column rating system – not 4 columns and does like the rating system (program doesn't meet law – 0 points, program meets the law – 1 point, program exceeds the law – 2 points)
 - Streamline the sections better. There is duplication and breaks in flow (PD and teachers, effective and individualized instruction)

Credit Recovery vs. Alternative Education

- Working group would like definitions of credit recovery and alternative education.
- We discussed that credit recovery students are not receiving the 17 criteria but districts are using the alt ed funds.
- Diversity of need needs further discussion. Funding online supplemental or credit recovery – different types of students.

Data

- Jennifer stated alternative education perception is an issue.
- SDE is currently asking for a significant increase for alternative education, what types of data are needed to justify this increase?
- Gap between evaluation and data reports—needs to reflect increase in reading improvement, attendance. Working group would like to see focus on growth of students.
- Current data collection –last year about 20 questions from survey monkey; about 31 questions this year will be in google doc format.
- Should we fill out individual student data instead of group data?—
 - Looking at the WAVE or SSO to pull this information for us---attendance, GPA, state scores
 - Requires funds at the state and local level.
- Working Group would like WAVE to add marker for alternative education --- Power School already has an alt ed option. Unsure of other providers.

Site Visits

Working Group would like two-year rotation for site visits.

- See programs with problems every year they score poorly
- New programs –see first year
- New directors-see first year

Do we drop 6th grade?

- Working Group would like to drop 6th grade programs.
 - More aligned with dropout report law.
 - This will add a handful of funds from K-6 districts back into the large funding stream.

Recommendations:

1. Group would like to have data collected by the WAVE or Single Sign On yearly with a site visit every other year. It was frustrating and time consuming when we collected the extensive, individual student data because most of the data was already in the student information system. Specific data collected determines data collection approach.
2. Group would like professional development geared to the alt ed programs and the data collection. Would love to have their conference back.
3. Remove the 6th grade requirement. This would eliminate the need for K-6 dependent districts to comply and would match the dropout report grade requirements.
4. Establish a rule for K-8 dependent districts that wish to exempt provided a due date and process for the exemption in the spring semester before the school year they wish to exempt.
5. Definition of Credit Recovery Students – Student who has failed a semester or less but does not fit or need the criteria for alternative education programming by definition to be successful in the secondary school setting. These students do not fit the definition of alternative education.
6. Definition of Alternative Education Students - At-risk children and youth are individuals whose present or predictable status (economic, emotional/social, academic, and/or health) indicates that they might fail to successfully complete their secondary education and acquire basic life skills necessary for higher education and/or employment.
7. “At-risk student” means a student whose present or expected status indicates they might fail to complete their secondary education for reasons which may include academic deficiency, behavioral difficulties, excessive absences, pregnancy or parenting, family issues, substance abuse, financial issues, physical or mental health issues, overage or underserved students, students in state custody, juvenile justice involvement, or other such factors, not including disability status.