

February Alternative Education Advisory Committee Notes

February 13th 2018

Attendance: Ryan Abernathy, Jimmy Acevedo, Cindy Allen, Jennifer Allen-Barron, Debbie Blanke, Garland Delk, Justin Fite, Travis Graham, Jessica Hawkins, Linda Mace, Chris McAdoo, William Stubbs, Sheryl Tatum, Paul Tryggestad, Debra Watson, Melissa White, Jody Pendleton, Jack Reed, Elizabeth Ressel, Kent Roof, Barbara Smith, Kristin Atchley, Lori Bell, Brad Clark, Missy Corn, Matt Holder, Robyn Miller, Jason Pittenger, Jennifer Wilkinson

On the Phone: Christy Province, Daniel Archer

STATE AID TASK FORCE UPDATE

Matt Holder provided an update.

- He feels that alternative education funding will be a topic of discussion at some point. Outside research groups have presented about the equability of our State Aid formula.
- Schools are spending over \$40 million on alternative education programs, which is about \$28 million more than OSDE is allocated. We need to give schools more financial support for their alternative education programs. They are not adequately funded.

Question - Since the revenue bill failed are we looking at any funding cuts? Matt stated we do not know at this time but we are hopeful that there will be no cuts.

Question - Do we see alternative education remaining a line item or will it be rolled into the funding formula. Matt stated that he has not researched enough to have an opinion at this point. No discussion has occurred in the Task Force at this time.

- Currently districts are shifting funds to support alternative education programs. Funding is based on students from over 20 years ago. We need to base the funding on current students. Matt would like to meet with the funding working group to discuss possible updates to funding.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Jennifer Wilkinson shared the new alternative education webpage.

<http://sde.ok.gov/sde/alternative-education>

- New webpages are more user friendly and resourceful for parents and districts
- How to find our pages- sde.ok.gov (alternative education programs)
- A What's New section has been added.
 - New alternative education association is currently free to join. Info is posted on webpage.
 - Also join NAEA as it is free as well.
- Suggestions for webinars
 - Food bank would like to do a webinar about food and security.
 - New prevention director may have some webinars as well.
- Jennifer discussed upcoming professional development opportunities

PRESENTATION OF WORKING GROUPS

1. Sheryl Tatum gave an overview of the data-working group – notes and recording can be found on advisory committee webpage (<http://sde.ok.gov/sde/alternative-education-advisory-committee>).

Recommendations:

- 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. What specific data to collect depends on if we are able to connect to the WAVE or SSO.
- Group would like professional development geared to alternative education programs and the data that is collected.

2. Justin Fite gave an overview of the evaluation-working group – notes and recording can be found on advisory committee webpage (<http://sde.ok.gov/sde/alternative-education-advisory-committee>).

Recommendations and Discussion:

- 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.
 - a. Maybe a rotation like Federal Programs with desktop monitoring and extending beyond every 2 years.
 - b. Site Visits would occur every year if a program is new, has a new director, or is struggling with compliance (low graduation rate, high dropout rate, non-compliant on rubric, poor data outcomes).
 - c. New rubric for middle school/junior high will be developed.
 - d. Updated the high school rubric with 3 columns.
- Group would like professional development geared to the alt ed programs and the data collection. Would love to have their conference back.
 - a. Local PD is not related to alternative education, so ask if district would allow other opportunities for alternative education personnel like visiting other programs, regional meetings or conferences, Ed Camp, state conference, etc.
- 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.
 - a. There are very few K-6 districts that receive funds.
 - b. It would take time and effort for such a small amount of funds and schools.

- 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.
 - a. This would include all dependent districts.

- Establish a rule or process to approve alternative education teaching outside of their certification. Should it be included in the alternative education implementation plan or a separate process?
 - a. ESSA does not require highly qualified teachers so we revert back to state law. OSDE strongly encourages if possible highly qualified teachers for alternative education.
 - b. A form will be developed to request approval for alternative education teachers who will be teaching outside of their certification area.
 - c. Exemptions will not be granted for special education as mandated by federal law, AP classes, and Career Tech courses.

DISCUSSION ABOUT DEFINITIONS FOR CREDIT RECOVERY AND ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Discussion on the definitions did not occur. Please look at the two definitions and provide feedback to Jennifer Wilkinson by email.

- 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.

- 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.

“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.

PRESENTATION ABOUT THE OKLAHOMA SUPPLEMENTAL ONLINE COURSE PROGRAM BY DR. LISA DANIELS FROM THE OKLAHOMA VIRTUAL CHARTER BOARD

Next meeting: May 15th, 2018 at 10:00 AM — 12:00 PM at OSDE.