

Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee (ASEAC) Meeting

Tuesday, January 17th, 2017: 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Please note location: Syphax Center, 2110 Washington Blvd, Room 101

Topic: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Attendees: Paul Patterson (Chair), Heather Alderman, Margaret Dunn, Michelle Best, Matthew Deferranti, Donna Owens (Vice Chair), Jennifer Johnson, Janet Sater, Kay Luzscius, Paul Jamelski (Director of Special Education), Michael Shank (Career & Tech committee – wants to work with ASEAC more and Budget committee), Brenda Wilkes (Asst. Superintendent for Student Services), Kathleen Donovan (PRC), Wendy Carria (Office of Special Education).

(Many people are ill today)

Agenda:

7:00 - 7:15 pm - Introductions and Public Comment – No public comments

7:15 - 7:30 pm - Follow up on outstanding items

Update on Subcommittee reviewing policies: Cannot meet deadlines for ELT meetings, so we will use previous method of reviewing policies and voting electronically.

Tauna and Nick met with Dr. Wilks and Dr. Natrass on the 5th. We presented them with our ideas to combine/move/eliminate policies to reduce the amount of policies and make them easier to read/navigate. They said they had to discuss with Dr. Murphy and their staff and would get back to us. **(Dr. Wilkes learned that this is going to be acceptable)**

Therefore, we are Holding on progress for those policies we identified and moving forward with a few others.

Currently,

25-1.2 Cooperation with the Juvenile Court has been approved by the school board and now is in the PIP review phase.

25 Goals was briefed to the school Board. There were no questions so we expect it to be approved at the School Board meeting this week.

25-3.5 Return to Learn was briefed to the school Board. There were no questions so we expect it to be approved at the School Board meeting this week.

25-4.1 - Foreign Exchange Students and 25-5 Student Badges have passed ASEAC review and will be briefed to the School Board Thursday night.

As requested by ASEAC last meeting, Nick is preparing a Google calendar that will be shared with ASEAC members when complete.

Slides will be made available on ASEAC website and via email and request

7:30 - 8:30 pm – ESSA (Matt Deferranti – now works with Native American group; his expertise is federal law, has not “lived through” ESSA) Watching nomination of Betsy DeVos for Education Secretary and also on reauthorization of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) – replaces No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

Title I provisions that impact SWD

Seclusion and Restraint and ESSA

Signed 12/10/15 – NCLB was 13 years old

Greatly decreases role of federal government; broad bipartisan support

Teachers unions not always in agreement with civil rights communities (concept of “accountability”)

Waivers expired 10/1/16 (VA had one); SOLs are on level of common core standards (which is controversial)

Will not be in effect until 2018-19 school year

SWD are one “subgroup” of five for which proficiency and growth will be tracked

Between the implementation of this policy and NCLB, data is hard to track/disaggregate

ESSA: set challenging academic standards, goals, interim measures of progress; provide annual assessments; make annual accountability determinations; provide interventions for lowest-performing 5% of all schools and high schools; and *continued* disaggregation of data by poverty, minority, disability, ELLs.

Q: About how race is defined, collected, etc.

Statewide, annual assessments

Assess 95% of all students and 95% of all of a subgroup

NEW: SEA cap on alternate assessments at 1% of all students, by subject. No cap on LEA.

NEW: Identify and develop assessments in languages for ELs.

NEW: Report on gender and for homeless child, child in foster care and having “active” parent in armed forces (but these are not subgroups).

NEW: Universal design.

NEW: Exempt advanced 8th graders from math test to take state-determined high school assessment.

NEW: Develop computer adaptive tests

NEW: Allow LEAs to use a nationally-recognized high school assessment in lieu of state assessment.

NEW: Allow LEAs to develop Innovative Assessments under the Innovative Assessment Pilot.

Q: Does not count for AP tests; is meant for SAT/ACT. Are SAT/ACT going away? Not likely yet.

Parents must be informed and understand how this affects child applying for diploma

Promote involvement of students and progress in general curriculum
Does not preclude a student from attempting to complete a regular high school diploma
Requires assessments to be developed using principles of UDL and assure access to accommodations.

PJ: Virtually all students placed on VAAP in 3rd grade were still on the VAAP five years later. That is most certainly the outcome; not a standard diploma.

Concern for two systems: 1) Bottom 5% and 2) The rest.
Accountability measures: 1) improved academic achievement on state assessments
2) graduate rates 3) progress in English language proficiency
Statewide indicators must include: 1) annual assessments 2) graduation rates for high schools 3) measure of student growth or toehr academic indicator 4) EL proficiency 5) At least one additional measure of school quality/student success.
(NEW – should it be access to AP classes?)
Note: indicators 1-4 must have greater weight than 5.

Q: How about using employment, going on to post-secondary education as an indicator?
Truancy could also be an indicator, but is complicated with incentives/disincentives
“Profile of a Graduate” being worked on and has some good elements and some not so good ones.
Federal government has helped students, but not state governments.
Teachers unions/Republicans – less accountability, but keep assessment regulations
Title I money – use federal money to “supplement not supplant”

Restraint and seclusion – 67% of SWDs subject to restraint and seclusion
New guidance may not be followed with new administration
APS: Expand crisis intervention training; take restraint training every 3 years (definitely for Sped teachers – expand to Gen Ed, SROs, transportation). Have only 2 behavior specialists to do training. Counselors, psychologists, administrators, etc.
Will be ASEAC meeting topic in next couple of months. Requirement to report when seclusion/restraint used. No audit of schools to see what is going on. No paperwork yet changes hands. BOE of VA is asking school districts to revise their policies to match federal/state law – this has not happened yet.
CPI training (crisis prevention intervention) – emphasis on Prevention.

See slide deck for basic standards to reduce seclusion/restraint: 1) bullying and harassment 2) overuse of discipline action, etc.

“If you are not at the table, you are on the menu.” Meaning – advocacy groups must be present when decisions are being made in order to have voices heard.

Q: Many advocacy groups lobby on Capitol Hill and are really trying to inform legislators of various issues.

Discussion of Supreme Court IDEA case from Colorado – its impact on SWDs/families/lawsuits

ADJOURNED 8:45PM (DONE EARLY, FIRST TIME EVER!!)

Next month: Topic TBD (restraint and seclusion coming up); computer adaptive testing (trying to find an expert on this)

8:30 - 9:00 pm - Discussion