

ACTL MATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
9-20-23

Attendance:

Amy Beaumont Smith
Kevin Wierzbicki
Amy Graham
Umar Khan
Greg Eastman
Michele Shepherd
Todd Truitt

Faculty Advisers:

Shannan Ellis
Carl Seward

Minutes:

1. MAC's Recommendation to the School Board is Due in December 2023

- a. This is a much tighter timeframe than usual, but we will have recommendation(s) almost identical to last year (but updated for new data)
- b. The change is to allow budgetary requests to go to APS and the School Board prior to the budget being released at the end of February 2024
- c. Because of the timeframe, our meetings this first half of the school year will be much more focused on our recommendation while we envision the second half of the school year's meetings to be focused on other math topics

2. New Screener – NWEA MAP replacing Math Inventory

- a. We briefly discussed this issue, with more to come in future meetings after the first tests' results
- b. Even though the test is done to various grades over a certain time period, all results will be released to parents at one time via ParentVue
- c. Carl Seward and Shannan Ellis (faculty advisers) said new screener has more of a focus on Algebra readiness
- d. It is the screener that Fairfax and Montgomery County use
- e. Carl was previously at Montgomery County and thinks NWEA MAP provides much more detailed and useable reports of results vs. Math Inventory (Math Inventory just gave a score and ranges for proficiency)
- f. Carl and Shannan think that the new screener aligns to the VA standards better than Math Inventory (alignment will be an issue with any screener since VA does not follow Common Core)

3. SOL Results

- a. Carl and Shannan will present to School Board on October 12th

- b. Englisher Learner and SPED offices will be there too to help present on the SOL math results for their respective categories
- c. We were given a preview of some of those results, but the detailed math results from the SOL will be fully released there
- d. APS made more growth in recovery in math scores than the statewide average
- e. Huge correlation too between attendance and poor math performance at APS and state-wide
- f. We also had a discussion of how SOL results are used for curriculum at the school, vs. screeners (screeners are used much more for addressing a child's needs, but SOL results are also used)

4. School-Based Interventionists are Showing Results Not Just with Learning Loss, but Long-Standing Equity Gaps

- a. Shannan and Carl found a correlation between schools with centrally-based interventionists and learning loss recovery and closing of historical equity gaps
- b. Shannan and Carl found growth equivalent to 36 days of additional instruction for schools with centrally-based interventionists vs. 12 days for non-centrally based interventionists
- c. Much more information to come at Carl and Shannan's School Board presentation on October 12th, which we will discuss at the October MAC meeting

5. New Math SOLs Approved in August 2023

- a. The VDOE's current plan is to implement the SOLs in the 2024-25 SY, which will be 1 year ahead of schedule
- b. Carl recommended reading the introduction to the new [SOLs](#) in pages 2 through 6
- c. "Mastery" definition concerns in the SOL implementation
 - i. Carl and Shannan flagged concerns around the possible interpretation of the word "mastery" in the introduction subsection titled "Master Critical Content". That section states that "[n]o student should move on to a new concept nor a new course without **mastery** of the prerequisite materials and skills." (emphasis added).
 - ii. The SOLs state that the VDOE State Board of Education would now be defining "mastery" in place of local education associations.
 - iii. The SOLs also state that the State Board of Education, in setting the proficiency cut scores on assessments for defining "mastery," will be setting such cut scores "benchmarked to NAEP and the most rigorous state definitions of proficiency."
 - iv. Carl and Shannan had concerns that the VDOE Board's definition could create issues with the SOL pass rate in general as well as some kids who are now in accelerated classes.
 - v. That will be an issue to watch as the VDOE works on implementation of the new SOLs and we will let people know when the issue is coming up on the VDOE Board's agenda.