

Special Education Advisory Panel

Minutes

December 4, 2015

Members in Attendance

Pat Kopetz
Brenda Niemeyer
Lori Masek
Amanda Kaiser
Belinda Worley
Jodi Orton
Byron Koster

Reta Richmond
Maryellen Koch
Tom Bamvakais
Rachel Morgan
Diana Taylor-Soole
Elisha Ferguson
Lisa Robbins

Mary Jo Jensen
Kim Gee
Chris Booker
Stephen Barr
Amy Wilson
Stacey Anderson

Members Not in Attendance

Julie Boos
Donna Cash
Lynnette Creed
Gwen Deimeke

Lauree Head
Cory McMahon
Matthew McTeer
Jamey McVicker

Kent Medlin
Shawn Nix
Laurie Truesdell
Lauren Zeliff

Copies of handouts and presentations for this meeting are available at:

<http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/meetings>.

Call to Order/Introductions – Patricia Kopetz called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes – Thomas Bamvakais made a motion to approve the panel minutes as written. Brenda Niemeyer seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

2014-15 Due Process Hearing Decisions/Disclosure – The link to the 2014-15 due process hearing decisions and summary of the data in connection to these decisions was emailed to panel members prior to the meeting (see link above to review this information). A hard copy of each decision was available for panel members to review at the meeting. Cynthia Quetsch, Legal Counsel for the Office of Special Education, reviewed the information with the panel.

Part B State Plan Changes – Cynthia reviewed a document outlining the proposed changes to the Part B State Plan (see link above to review this information).

Tiered Monitoring - Karen Allan and Betty McKinzie presented on Tiered Monitoring. The purpose of federal tiered monitoring is to provide a comprehensive tiered monitoring profile for each district. All federal monitoring becoming consolidated into a process that allows for a comprehensive LEA tiered monitoring profile to be created which will be used to track trend data and determine where technical assistance is needed. Monitoring is conducted on a three year cycle with all department federal programs included. To review the presentation, LEA Cohort list, and Federal Monitoring Profile handout, go to the above website.

2014-15 SPP/APR – Mary Corey discussed the 2014-15 statewide progress data which was sent to panel members prior to the meeting (see link above to review this information). A panel member wanted to know if there was data on students with disabilities who graduated with a diploma versus graduating by meeting their IEP goals. Mary indicated that data is not collected in that detail. It was also suggested that some school districts do not realize students with disabilities can continue to go to school until age 21. Some students are graduating based on meeting their IEP goals, when they could continue to go to school under an IEP until age 21. Subcommittees were asked to review the data targets and suggest changes.

Working Lunch – Subcommittees met during the working lunch from 12:00-12:50 p.m.

2014-15 SPP/APR (Continuation of SPP/APR Discussion) - Mary finished her discussion of each of the SPP indicators.

ACT Update – Mary Corey and Stephen Barr reviewed a handout (see link above) on ACT scores. The 2014-15 school year was the first time the state paid for all eleventh graders to take the ACT.

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Phase II – This is a three phase process. The initiative to focus the state’s SSIP on improving student academic outcomes was named the Collaborative Work (CW). There are currently 350 schools involved in this multi-year pilot project. To review the Missouri Collaborative Work report, go to: <http://www.joomag.com/mag/0979725001454010240>. To review Missouri’s SSIP report, as well as reports from other states, go to Grads360 at <https://osep.grads360.org>.

DESE Update

- The state’s budget is moving forward. The funding for special education is consistent with previous years.
- The U. S. Department of Education, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan resigned. Dr. John King will serve as interim Secretary of Education.
- In the pilot phase of the Facilitated IEP (FIEP) process. Additional information on how the pilot is going will be provided at a future panel meeting.
- ESEA reauthorization passed through the House and will go to the Senate. Generally, it would provide more flexibility to states and remove many of the consequences for public schools. It will require states to have an accountability system in place.

Subcommittee Reports

Evaluation - No report.

Rules and Regulations

- The subcommittee felt it is important for districts to communicate better with parents regarding the graduation issue for students with IEPs. It needs to be consistent across all school districts in the state. They suggested training/webinar for students with

disabilities to access at about the 9th grade to provide information on their rights at graduation. Also suggested MPACT include information in their transition trainings.

- The subcommittee had no additional recommendations regarding the targets for Math.
- The subcommittee continues to be concerned with the teacher certification issue. With more and more requirements put on special education teachers, it seems even fewer people are going into the field. What incentives could be put in place to entice individuals to become special education teachers?
- The subcommittee reviewed the special education model compliance forms. They feel the IEP amendment form is vague; that it does not provide enough information on what specifically was amended. Their suggestion is to add a narrative section.

Monitoring

- The subcommittee had no additional recommendations regarding the targets for Math. They felt the recommended change was appropriate.
- The subcommittee suggested better educating school district on graduation requirements for students with disabilities. Also suggested starting the transition process earlier; possibly the seventh grade.

Programs

- The subcommittee suggested better educating case managers and special education directors regarding graduation requirements as well as a need to discuss transition with parents earlier. They also suggested adding information regarding graduation requirements in the Procedural Safeguards as well as possibly simplifying them. Stephen indicated that since it is a legal document it is difficult to simplify the language and still include all necessary information. Stephen suggested further discussion may be needed.

Nominations - No report.

Public Comment

- The subcommittee had no suggestions regarding the targets for Math.
- The subcommittee felt parents need to be informed about transition earlier.

Member Issues/Reports

Jodi Orton indicated she feels the accommodations listed on the IEP are hard to follow across the page and are creating the potential for errors. She felt parents are also finding it difficult to read. She suggested the IEP should be more user friendly. Stephen indicated he will have staff review the form.

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.