**Mississippi Accountability Task Force Meeting**

**August 26, 2020**

**Meeting Summary**

Meeting Participants

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **Position** | **Last Name** | **First Name** |
| Aberdeen School District | Principal | Fondren | Kristen |
| Bay Waveland School District | Director of Federal Programs | Menotti | Nicole |
| Center for Assessment | External Facilitator | Domaleski  | Chris |
| Clinton Public Schools | Superintendent | Martin | Tim |
| Corinth School District | Math Specialist | Jones | Marion |
| DeSoto County | Director of Accountability & Research | Kuykendall | Ryan |
| Foundation for Excellence in Education | External Expert | Hovanetz  | Christy |
| Lowndes County School District | Deputy Superintendent  | Ballard | Robin |
| Madison County Schools | Superintendent | Seals | Charlotte |
| MDE | Data Analytics and Reporting | Donovan | Deborah |
| MDE | Chief Accountability Officer | Vanderford | Paula |
| MDE | Director of District and School Performance | Burrow  | Alan |
| MDE | Chief Academic Officer | Oakley  | Nathan  |
| New Albany School District  | Superintendent | Evans | Lance |
| Noxubee County | Assistant Superintendent | Baliko | Richard |
| Ocean Springs School District | Principal  | Tiblier | Vickie |
| Petal School District | Director of Student Assessment | Brown | Kelli |
| Rankin County School District  | Principal | Pambianchi | Lee |
| Senatobia School District | Special Education Teacher | Brewer | Elaine |
| Simpson County School District | Teacher | Williams | Aaron |
| Starkville-Oktibbeha School District | Superintendent | Peasant | Eddie |
| Sunflower County School District | Superintendent | Davis | Miskia |
| Tunica County | Superintendent | Pulley | Margie |
| Union County School District | Assistant Superintendent | Faulkner | Windy |
| Vicksburg Warren | Principal | Minor | LaToya |

**Welcome and Introductions**

Following welcome and introductions, Dr. Chris Domaleski briefly reviewed the meeting summary from the August 2020 meeting. No revisions to the notes were suggested; however, Dr. Domaleski indicated that committee members may email edits following the meeting. Thereafter, he reviewed the proposed agenda for the current meeting.

**Representing Career Readiness in Accountability**

The first topic was to continue discussions from the August 2020 meeting about how career readiness can be more fully incorporated in the school accountability model.

A majority of the ATF recommended adding Work Keys as an alternative credential for demonstrating College and Career Readiness (CCR) in the school accountability model. Specifically, CCR points will be determined by the percent of students meeting EITHER the ACT OR the Work Keys qualifying threshold.

With respect to the timing for implementation, the ATF recommends 2020-2021 should be a pilot year. Specifically, use data collected in 2020-2021 to make a future decision about the qualifying score and final business rules for accountability. Moreover, the ATF agrees that full implementation should not proceed until funding is available to allow all districts to administer Work Keys.

The ATF affirmed support for ACT and clarified that nothing about this recommendation is intended to change participation in or the timing of ACT administration.

It should be noted that support for including Work Keys in the CCR component was not unanimously endorsed. One task force member contended that Work Keys is better positioned as an indicator in the acceleration component of the model.

**Low 25 Growth for High Schools**

The ATF explored how prior scores are used to determine the low-25 group for high school growth. In short, the pool of prior scores comprises student performance from Algebra I taken in 9th, 8th,or even 7th grade, which are banked. Currently, decisions for the low-25 cut are made for each cohort. Data analyses were presented showing that the distribution of performance was markedly dissimilar among cohorts, creating a situation in which 1) progress for higher performing students can be more difficult to achieve and 2) it is questionable that the students in the low-25 group represent the students most in need of support.

Following discussion, the ATF endorsed the following resolution:

* For calculation of low-25 growth, put all prior scores in the same ‘bin’ regardless of when the test was taken.
* Scores will standardized to make them comparable.
* Select the low-25 students for high school from the standardized, multi-year bin.

**Prioritized Topics for Future Meetings**

Members of the ATF were encouraged to identify topics for future discussion. Overwhelmingly, the ATF suggested devoting time at future meetings to exploring alternatives for student and school accountability in 2020-2021. Some specific ideas include:

* Consider waivers or some version of a ‘hold-harmless’ approach for school accountability
* Consider suspending grade 3 promotion/ retention
* Explore alternatives for collecting and disseminating data to inform school leaders and stakeholders