**Mississippi Accountability Task Force Meeting**

**March 24, 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 |
| 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 February 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.

**MDE Updates**

The primary issue addressed by MDE was school closures and suspension of testing due to COVID-19. The Mississippi State Board of Education voted on March 19 to suspend all federal and state assessments for the 2019-2020 school year and to submit a waiver request to USED for exemption of those federal requirements.  (The federal waiver requests were subsequently approved.) Districts and schools will maintain the same accountability designation in the 2020 - 2021 school year as assigned in the 2019 - 2020 school year with no cumulative impact for cases where multiple years with the same designation could lead to more severe consequences. It is anticipated that schools and districts will retain their designations for CSI, TSI, and ATSI from the 2018 - 2019 school year. The three-year average performance used in identification would exclude the 2019 - 2020 school year.

Regarding ACT testing, some uncertainty for 2020 remains. The MDE is exploring if an assessment opportunity will be available later this spring or summer.

There is a called meeting of the State Board on Thursday, March 26, 2020. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss any waivers/suspensions of statutes and/or rules and regulations as a result of the impact of COVID-19. (Note: at this meeting the Board suspended the assessment requirement for 3rd grade promotion and state assessment requirements for high school graduation.)

Multiple task force members acknowledged that the work of the ATF is especially critical given the current circumstances. It may be necessary to meet more often – remotely until the threat subsides.

**Representing Career Readiness in Accountability**

Next, the task force discussed some strategies for bolstering career readiness in the accountability model. The discussion started with a review of the acceleration and readiness component. Then, the ATF reviewed some guidance from national resources, including some approaches implemented by other states.

In particular, the committee focused on some issues and ideas related to inclusion of Work Keys. This included a review of research on the relationship between the ACT and Work Keys to help identify a potential, comparable performance expectation.

Multiple ideas were discussed for how Work Keys might be incorporated in the model. One approach is to establish a separate College and Career Readiness (CCR) category (i.e. one for ACT and one for Work Keys). The categories could be combined using compensatory, conjunctive, or disjunctive rules.

Another approach discussed was to incorporate diploma endorsements in the model, which includes Work Keys. This could be a separate element in the model, or could replace CCR. Some members felt this was a promising idea, others expressed concern that some elements required for diploma endorsements are not equitably accessible throughout the state.

In the end, the ATF agreed to continue discussing the issue. In particular, they asked to see some specific models or options to help conceptualize alternatives thought to be more promising.

**Prioritized Topics for Future Meetings**

Each member of the ATF was asked to identify topics that should considered at future meetings. Overwhelmingly, the task force prioritized discussions of the implications of COVID-19 related shutdown on accountability determinations in 2021 and beyond. This includes calculation of academic growth, whether the baseline will need to change, impact of assessment banking and many other issues. Finally, the ATF supports the continued discussion of the role of Career Readiness/ Work Keys in the model.