

Minutes
Vision for Excellence in Education and Arkansas Accountability System (ESSA)
Steering Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 26, 2016

The Vision for Excellence in Education and Arkansas Accountability System (ESSA) Steering Committee met Wednesday, October 26, 2016, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Johnny Key called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

Members Present: Johnny Key, Chair; Ms. Ouida Newton; Ima Etim; Michelle Hayward; Senator Jane English; Representative Bruce Cozart; Kelli Gill; Joyce Flowers; Gloria Phillips; Melissa Bratton; and Anthony Bennett.

Members Absent: Harold Jeffcoat.

Audience: ADE staff, general public, and press.

The meeting was live streamed and the recording was posted on the ADE website at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/public-school-accountability/every-student-succeeds-act-essa/stay-informed-archive>.

Consideration of Approval for Minutes – September 28, 2016

Ms. Flowers moved, seconded by Ms. Hayward, to approve the September 28, 2016, minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Presentation of “A Vision of Excellence for Arkansas Education - A Perspective from Within”

Executive Director of Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators Dr. Richard Abernathy presented the AAEA vision to the Steering Committee. He said the current status of Arkansas public schools indicated progress. He said the vision addressed three focus areas: developing a student centered environment; attracting, developing, supporting, and retaining quality teachers and administrators; and developing a shared accountability system. He said administrators highlighted considerations for all schools and policy recommendations for each focus area. He said the vision should achieve enhancing student achievement, closing the achievement gap, and assisting the business community in developing a skilled workforce. He asked the Steering Committee to consider a safe haven for schools that have high performance but may not meet high growth. He also recommended giving choices to schools to select additional indicators for accountability.

Feedback Data

Director of Policy and Special Projects Ms. Tina Smith shared data from the Community Listening Forums and surveys. Three questions were posed at each forum and the top three responses were:

1. What are the most important characteristics of your school?
 - Parent/community engagement
 - Effective teachers and leaders
 - Student focused learning
2. What are the best measures of success/quality of your school?
 - Graduation rate
 - Attendance
 - Student growth
3. How do we make sure every student in Arkansas has an opportunity for success?
 - Recruiting, retaining, and supporting effective teachers and leaders
 - Student focused system
 - Personalized learning

Ms. Smith shared data from the recent survey.

Follow-up Steering Committee Questions

Director of Policy and Special Projects Ms. Tina Smith said committee members previously posed questions. She said responses were provided for some questions and some answers are not available at this time.

Additional Steering Committee Questions for Consideration

Director of Policy and Special Projects Ms. Tina Smith requested committee members continue to submit questions.

Defined Terminology

Director of Policy and Special Projects Ms. Tina Smith said the Steering Committee requested the definitions of terminology. Ms. Smith provided a link to the terms defined to date <https://v3.boardbook.org/Public/PublicItemDownload.aspx?ik=39540499>.

Ms. Smith also shared with the Committee the Acronym Translator on the ADE website: <https://adedatabeta.arkansas.gov/aat>.

How do we ensure access to Excellent Teachers and Leaders?

Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said effective teachers and leaders have strong ethics and an unyielding commitment to students. She said ESSA required additional definitions such as ineffective teacher, out-of-field teacher, inexperienced teacher, low-income student; and minority student. She said ESSA requires the state to report the disproportionality of low-income and minority children being served by ineffective or inexperienced teachers.

Dean of Education from Southern Arkansas University Dr. Zaidy MohdZain said declining student enrollment in the educator preparation program is causing the university to consider reallocation of resources to other areas. He said universities are suffering from the same issues of shared time and additional reporting requirements. He said universities have a role in a seamless educational system from K-20.

Senior Associate Dean from the University of Arkansas Dr. Janet Williams said a pilot program, MAESTRO, is targeting bilingual/bicultural instructional assistants to become licensed teachers. Upon completion of the program, the educators will commit to the district for three (3) years.

Southside School District Curriculum Coordinator Ms. Novella Humphrey said due to the shortage in teachers, it has been imperative for the district to grow their own future teachers. She said through a partnership with UACCB, future educators can qualify for a thirty (30) hours scholarship and free textbooks in addition to additional grants and opportunities by meeting an ACT score of 21 or higher, attending school 95% of the time, and no grade below a C on transcript. A student meeting these requirements and then attending Lyon College can graduate with a total cost of \$6,000. She said becoming a teacher should be affordable. She said the district must be able to communicate with potential educators in the community about the pathways to licensure. She said the district has collaborated with the local universities and the Department to be intentional with support for new educators.

How do we ensure federal funding is utilized to support a student-focused learning system?

Director of Federal Programs Mr. Bobby Lester said Title II, Part A of ESSA includes two (2) options for the state agency reservations of funds for principal and school leader support and teacher, principal, or other school leader preparation academies.

Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said schools that have disproportionalities may have additional guidance regarding the expenditures of Title II, Part A funds.

Next Steps

Next Steering Committee meeting date is November 30, 2016.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman


Chair, Johnny Key