

Committee of Practitioners (CoP) teleconference call on 8/26/16

A quorum was not present on the call so no business was conducted. The agenda was reviewed.

Chris Wollard was introduced and he gave an update on the ESSA process to date. He said the webinars are going well with 200+ participants per webinar. They are receiving valuable input through these webinars.

The first topic to be discussed was the "N-size" webinar which focuses on statistical issues. ESSA requires Ohio to choose the N-size to use. We currently are at 30 which is on the "high side" and many states have lower N-sizes. The higher the N-size, the more subgroup students are excluded from being reported. Smaller, suburban districts would be the most impacted by a reduction in Ohio's N-size. For example, an N-size of 15 would have considerably more subgroups reported within districts.

The second topic was using nationally recognized high school assessments in place of state-developed assessments. This was initially viewed with enthusiasm but as people learn about the details and complexities, there appears to be less enthusiasm. CoP members asked many questions about how an SAT or ACT assessment would be feasible. For example, these are nationally normed tests and Ohio wouldn't have any input or impact based on our own content standards. Consistency is important since students taking ACT/SAT in one district and moving to a district with end-of-course tests could encounter problems.

The third area of discussion was on the ESSA requirement for non-academic measures to be reported. This has generated a lot of interest. Whatever is selected must be standardized, reliable and valid. It also must be reported statewide and be consistent among districts. Chronic absenteeism is getting a lot of attention nationwide. Also post-secondary readiness is being considered but unlike the current situation, there would have to be reporting by subgroups. This could meet the requirement at the secondary level, but something else would need to be selected at the elementary level. There is concern about how much additional work time will be generated by this requirement.

There was another topic on the agenda but the scheduled one-hour call did not allow that to be covered. It was agreed that the next call will be 90 minutes in duration.

Report submitted by:

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