

AE PMF Task Force Meeting
May 25, 2017

2017-18 PMF Student Progress Proposals

1. Schools that do not post-test at least 2/3 of eligible students will receive a 0 in the category.
 - a. Q: What is the rationale? Why is it that if the threshold is not reached, no points are given?
 - i. We want to see an increase in the proportion of students who are post-tested. The Student Progress category is supposed to report on the entire student body.
 - ii. Last year we had schools that were Tier 1 or 2 in Progress, but their retention rates were low. We want to ensure schools are doing everything possible to retain and post-test students so that students are getting the benefit of the program. The score for Student Progress should represent most of the students in your school.
 - b. Q: Why not 50%?
 - i. 50% isn't high enough; more than half of your eligible students should be post-tested.
 - c. Q: Who is eligible for this category?
 - i. The eligibility rules haven't changed: the 15-day business rule, and being part of the audit, pre-testing below ABE 6 or ESL 6+.
 - d. Q: Will the threshold change every year based on the data?
 - i. No, the threshold will be static. We are trying to put permanent standards in place that we feel are a solid bar for an adult education framework.
 - e. Q: Could you implement other penalties other than a zero on the category? You could have a scaled penalty, where less points are possible based on each participation tier, rather than all or nothing. Just as you have tiers for Retention, that could have the same impact for Progress.
 - i. We want Tier 1 to truly mean high-performance. We don't want schools saying they're Tier 1 in Progress if they're not really a "Tier 1 school" and fewer than 50 or 60% of students are included in the category. We are not going to start tier-ing the tiers, but we are trying to discuss whether 66.7% is the right cutoff.
 - f. CC Prep: We got creative and required students to post-test before we would give them their voucher. This increased our post-test rates. Similarly, we don't grant certification until the students has post-tested.
 - g. If we are going to link Progress to Retention, we might as well link the whole PMF (i.e., develop weights per category that yield a total score).
 - h. Q: If using CASAS, there is a protocol to administer a post-test, but a lot of students leave before they can be post-tested. If we post-test them too soon that does not work. Our post-test rate then is our mid-year transfer rate.
 - i. We expect you to follow your assessment's testing guidance. If 66.7% is too high, what rate is more reasonable?
 - i. Q: If you are going to make this an all or nothing rule, then 60% feels better. We would want to grow into a measure, maybe start with 60% at a minimum.

- i. PCSB is fine with 60%, not as accepting for a lower figure than that. This would start for the 17-18 framework.
2. Alternative for demonstrating Growth: We could use passing GED scores as growth on this measure: Positively count students pre-tested at ABE-5 or lower students in Student Progress who 1) pass the GED subject test that corresponds to their lowest performing ABE subject during the program year, and 2) do not post-test.
 - a. Schools see this as a beneficial business rule. Did not identify any drawbacks.

2017-18 PMF Clarifications

1. DC PCSB expects all ABE students to take literacy and numeracy subject tests, lowest subject will still be used for growth.
2. For the GED subject test, specifying counting number of tests rather than students, and removing ABE 6 from denominator as it is duplicative.
3. Q: On ABE definition, what happens with students already coming in with a high school diploma?
 - a. We expect these still to be counted in ABE. For example, if a secondary credential holder pre-tests ABE 4, we expect the student to take part in ABE coursework and be post-tested. If the student progresses to ABE 5, we count the student positively in the Progress category.

2016-17 PMF Collection and Validation

1. Q: In the tech guide it says LEAs can choose which one to count, how can LEAs choose which subject?
 - a. PCSB will follow the Tech Guide. For example, if your student scores ABE 3 for literacy and math but progresses more in one subject, the subject in which the students progresses will be the subject we use in the Student Progress category.