

Adult Education PMF Task Force Meeting Notes

February 26, 2016 | DC PCSB | 10:00-12:00

Attendees:

DC PCSB: Sareeta Schmitt, Naomi DeVeaux, Erin Kupferberg, and Adam Bethke

Academy of Hope: Patricia DeFerrari

Briya: Karen Hertzler (phone), Christie McKay, Cara Sklar, Lorie Prelam, and Shamika Hapu

Carlos Rosario: Patricia Sanchez and Sarah Berlin

Community College Prep: Shannon Webster

LAYC Career Academy: Angela Stepancic

Maya Angelou PCS – YALC: Sarah Navarro and Nora Shetty

The Next Step PCS: Julie Meyer and Melvin Freeman

YouthBuild PCS: Alexandra Pardo and Janalee Jordan-Meldrum

FOCUS: Anne Herr

Meeting Notes:

- Sareeta reviewed the agenda and highlighted three key parts to the meeting:
 - Recap from January meeting
 - One item for 2015-16
 - Most items for 2016-17

Feedback on Out of the Labor Force Proposal:

- Sareeta shared that all of the school's suggested additions have been added
- Question: Will PCSB ask about the out of the labor force reasons?
 - Answer: While PCSB does not require the reasons students are out of the labor force to calculate the PMF measures, we may follow up if we find anomalies
- PCSB will follow up on what level (student vs. aggregate), schools need to collect and store student reasons for out of labor force

Proposed 2015-16 Definition of Eligible Students for Student Progress and Retention:

- PCSB made clear that there will be no change to how we calculate the progress metric; this eligible student definition is the criteria for students without any NRS assessment who will be weighted as a zero in Student Progress and Retention.
- Sareeta: If students have an NRS assessment, there is no difference in how they will be reported in the PMF from previous years
- Question: Do the 12 hours have to happen during a single consecutive enrollment?
 - Sareeta clarified that for 2015-16 that the 15-day and 12 hour rule is 15 consecutive calendar days, with at least 12 hours of service during those 15 days.
- A member noted that the voting sheet did not include as much detail in the proposal description as the slides
 - Sareeta emailed the group an updated voting sheet after the meeting
- Students who score an ABE 6 on their pre-test still need to post-test to show retention in 2015-16;
 - PCSB is proposing a change in 2016-17, but we are not changing the business rules for Retention for the 2015-16 PMF

- A member asked about whether the highest NRS assessment score counts for making progress
 - PCSB: Yes, this is how it has always been done in the PMF and how it is done in the NRS as well
 - Suggestion: in future technical guides, make sure to clarify that students post-testing can happen multiple times, and that the highest score can count
- The group had a short discussion about the pre-approved mission specific assessments schools use
 - Next Step and Carlos Rosario to share experiences with Spanish TABE and explained the hierarchy of testers as it is captured for the AE PMF
- Carlos Rosario: Is there a way to provide a 5% (or 10%) allowance for students who drop out before the first administration, but who meet the criteria?
 - Maya YALC: We all use the tests differently, and I cannot change what happened. Can we start implementing this on March 1?
 - Erin: We do not want to allow for exclusions. In self-reported data it is very uncomfortable not to include students
- Naomi: How many students that came in, stayed for 15 consecutive days and 12 hours, and still do not have a pretest? Please share the data that shows you have a large number of students who have the issue.
 - Maya YALC: We can definitely run the numbers, but we will need more time.
- Maya YALC: Why is PCSB doing this?
 - Naomi: We do not want to measure a subset of students in the ABE / ESL programs. We want to measure the students who are in the program. We do not want to have schools where the score is a subset of the population; we want to be fair across all of the schools. It needs to reflect the way that things need to be.
 - LAYC: It seems like you are trying to create a testing window. It would be good if we could present the data about how it would affect the schools. I would be interested to see how many students who were enrolled for 15 days, but attended for only 3 days.
 - YouthBuild: Weren't you previously accountable for the students after 12 hours? Isn't this more lenient?
- Next Step: Where would the non-tested students fall?
 - Sareeta explained about they would be weighted as a separate level.
- Naomi: Our Board made a decision on record and said, we want it to be clarified for this school year.
- Next Step: How much does our vote actually matter?
 - Sareeta: What we are doing is voting to make a recommendation. I hope you already see a lot of your feedback and comments in the proposal that you are voting on. Please include in the comments those small pieces that need tweaking. Ultimately, we are making a recommendation to the Board.
 - Naomi: We have had very split votes on previous votes at other frameworks. We have had 55/45 splits before, and we will document the differences in the proposal to the Board. We cannot leave open the loophole that the Board is asking to have closed.
 - Next Step: I do think you have come up with a proposal that still allow some flexibility with pre-testing. As a school that pre-tests before students who come in the door, I do see the fairness issue as a serious one.
- The group had some discussion about the timeframe for returning the voting sheet given that some schools will want to pull data to look at the number of students who do not have any NRS test and meet the proposed criteria

- PCSB extended the deadline for voting and feedback until the end of the day on Wednesday, March 2
 - Naomi: If you are going to vote no, please also propose a new way of doing it. We cannot stay at the status quo.

Proposed 15 Calendar Day Rule

- The group shifted gears to focusing on the proposed updates for the 2016-17 AE PMF
- The group was generally in agreement with the business rule
- There was some discussion about how applying the 15 calendar day rule to attendance will be a difference from how OSSE captures schools' ISA rate
 - Adam: You should continue to follow OSSE's rules for reporting attendance and enrollment. What we will do is calculate the ISA rate just for students who are included in the AE PMF.

Retention

- Briya ask a question about ESL 6 students who move into ABE levels and how they show progress
 - Sareeta will follow up with Karen
- LAYC: For ABE progress for Level 6, it should be take a GED test, not pass the GED for the Retention measure
 - PCSB agrees; it is a typo and will be clarified
- The group shared positive feedback around the GED alternative to NRS retention
- There was a short discussion about the language around using pre-tests from the previous year
 - PCSB will update the language on slide 35 to say, "They have an NRS-approved assessment pre-test from of the prior program year that is no more than three months before the start of the new program year and a post-test in the current program year that meets the publisher guidelines of instructional hours between pre- and post-tests"
- LAYC: If we have a student has an NRS 6 from a prior year, do we have to test them again if they stay enrolled at the school in future years?
 - PCSB: Not if it meets the criteria noted here around testing within the last three months of the prior program year
 - PCSB will look more into this question
- Briya: For students who take CASAS only to ensure they have vocational capacity, are we using CASAS or the CTE method for retention?
 - Students in vocational programs can show retention using the 120 hours or attempting the certification exam
- YouthBuild: We might want to take a look at creating the three separate retention rates, and then weighting the overall retention rate. If there are not a lot of differences, we can leave it the same.

CTE

- YouthBuild: WIOA just released new targets/goals, so it might be worthwhile to use those targets to guide our floors and targets.
- Group suggested calling the new measure "high demand" or "level 4" CTEs.
 - PCSB will look at the Nurses Aid wage data to confirm that this should be a "high demand/living wage" job.
- Sareeta clarified that the measure would be based on the number of students who are in the program, who are also retained.

- There was some discussion of whether to use months or hours of instruction instead of past program year
- Naomi brought up using the CTE model looking at participators, completers, and certifications
- YouthBuild: The two-plus year model concerns me, especially if you are in a high-stakes situation because if you are doing well, but you are not able to show it yet and that would be difficult
- Naomi: Please send us what you have about what you are doing with CTE programs, including documentation from publishers if you have it. That would be really helpful as we determine next steps with this measure