

**Elementary and Middle School PMF Task force Meeting Notes
Meeting 3: March 11, 2014**

Task force meeting attendees: Lauren Marar (Inspired Teaching), Julia Senarchia (EW Stokes), Hilary Dauffenbach-Tabb (DC Prep), Josh Boots (Center City), Zac Morford (Friendship PCS), Rohini Ramnath (DC Bilingual, Shlon Smith (CAPCS), Collin Welch (CAPCS), Irene Holtzman (KIPP), Gloria Dobbins (Ideal PCS), Nikki Stewart (Excel), Kenli Okada (E.L. Haynes), Rashida Tyler (PCSB), Ashok Oli (PCSB), Sareeta Schmitt (PCSB)

Agenda:

1. Background and Follow Up
2. Discussion about gateway metrics
3. February Task Force Meeting - Follow up
4. Share all options that are on table for 2015 ESMS PMF
5. Vote

Action Items:

Notes and Discussions:

Naomi DeVeaux led the task force meeting. She pulled out all historical conversation around the changes to ESMS gateway metrics. She said that, while she was at FOCUS, there were no arguments against considering 3rd and the 8th grades as gateway grades. She also reminded the group that the entire conversation around the changes to ESMS started in early 2013, when 33% of the LEAs who completed the PMF survey told that they would like to make changes to the ESMS gateway metrics. She also emphasized that there haven't been any philosophical changes in considering 3rd and the 8th grade as gateway grades, and further invited task force members to share research that objects to this fact. She further presented the following sequence of events that occurred in relation to the ESMS PMF gateway discussion:

| Date | Topic | Consensus |
|-------------|--|--|
| Jan-13 | ESMS and PMF TF survey was conducted | 67% of the respondents either did not want to change or had no opinion about the 3rd gateway metric |
| May-13 | Task Force Meeting: Cohort metric | Task force reviewed 2 and 3 year cohort data and was not interested in including this metric. Alternative approach was suggested to remove the 3rd grade literacy as a metric. |
| Summer 2013 | Board Proposal: Changes to 2013-14 PMF | PCSB Board reiterated its commitment to 3rd grade Literacy as an important component of the PMF. |

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| Jan-14 | Task force meeting: Cohort data | Task force reviewed 2 and 3 year cohort data based on the exit grade. Task force voted not to include this metric with the current 3rd grade literacy metric. |
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Out of 7 proposals that the task force proposed in Feb 2014, Naomi said that only following options will be considered by PCSB for 2015 PMF: (1) No change, (2) Reduce floor and target of gateway metrics, (3) Reduce gateway weight to 7.5 if one gateway grade is present, and (4) Use a 2/3 year cohort rate for each of the gateway metrics (cohort rate of 3rd grade reading and cohort rate of 8th grade math).

Irene Holtzman from KIPP raised following concerns: (1) It is not that the 3rd grade is not important, but it is the fact that the current PMF structure that disproportionately effect the PMF score, (2) Unlike High School, where there is a different assessment to assess each HS grades, ESMS PMF relies only on DC CAS and double counts the same assessment under multiple sections, (3) In terms of allocating resources, PMF incentivizes schools to filter more resources into the proficiency of 3rd graders' reading progress put the philosophy of "Equity" into question. Josh from Center City supported the argument of equity. He further said that there are fundamental differences between 3rd grade DC CAS reading and the 8th grade math, so lowering the target will reduce the anxiety of keeping gateway metrics.

Naomi shared her concern that nobody is talking about 8th grade DC CAS math performance, and that we would not have to go through this conversation had our schools done great with the 3rd grade assessment. She briefly explained how MGP can still be computed and the floors and targets will be reevaluated when the PARCC is implemented in 2015.

Julia from Elsie Whitlow Stokes showed her concern that PMF is providing more incentives to allocate more resources to the gateway grades as compared to other grades, in response to which Naomi said that if you put focus more on your students at PK, K, 1st and 2nd grades, then you may not have to invest a lot on 3rd graders.

There also was a brief discussion around lowering the weight to 7.5 points when one gateway grade is present. Zac from Friendship told that by applying this business rule, PMF may disproportionately spread PMF scores across schools with different grade spans, so he presented an idea to leave weight proportionally to the number of grades served. Colin said that he doesn't like the idea of putting so much weight only on one grade, and therefore showed interested in reducing the weight to 7.5 points. Josh expressed that by reducing weights to 7.5, schools can get into a situation where 1/3 of the testing population will count for a 15% of the overall score in some schools (3-8) and only 7.5% in other schools (6-8).

Colin shared that the conversation has been helpful; and that he is happy to know that the leadership are aware of the implications of some of the PMF metrics.

A couple of TF members expressed interest in using the 2/3 year cohort calculation, thus it was added back to the vote.

Conclusions and Next Steps

The meeting concluded with a consensus that the following options will be on table for 2015 ESMS PMF: (a) No change to gateway metric, (b) Reduce gateway weight to 7.5 points from 15 points if a school has one gateway grade, (c) **Use** a 2/3 year cohort rate for each of the gateway metrics (cohort rate of 3rd grade reading and cohort rate of 8th grade math)

Voting sheet will be sent to all attendees by March 12. Responses collected from the vote will be used in making decision.