

**Minutes of the
Committee of Practitioners Conference Call Meeting
November 24, 2014**

Call to Order

The conference call meeting of the ESEA Committee of Practitioners was called to order at 10:00 a.m. CST.

Attendance

Members present were: Becky Guffin, Becky Eeten, Michelle Glodt, Joan Pribyl, Joan Dunmire, Roxanne Lamphere, Katie Mellor, and Cari Leidholt.

Staff persons in attendance were: Laura Scheibe, Shannon Malone, Jenifer Palmer, Jordan Dueis, and Laura Johnson Frame.

Proposed Changes to the ESEA 2014-2015 Technical Manual

The SD DOE asked the Committee of Practitioners to comment on three proposals to the calculation of attendance for the ESEA 2014-2015 Technical Manual. The committee had voiced concerns that currently a district/school is held accountable for students who had been enrolled in the district/school for short periods of time.

Proposal #1 Multiple Enrollments: Does every school a student is enrolled have accountability for attendance? (e.g.: schools with 51/49 split).

- Proposal: Every school that is responsible for a student is held accountable in SPI. Means a student could show up on multiple attendance rosters even though for achievement and growth, would only be at one school.
- Rationale: Ensures that schools are being held accountable for their students' learning time, even if they are not the primary school.

The Committee members agreed with this proposal. The members did voice strong concern that the SD DOE be responsible for the technology to calculate the attendance. The committee expressed that the districts must not be held responsible for the calculation as this would require additional manpower and technology expense for the district. The Committee members want the SD DOE to ensure that Infinite Campus has the capabilities of collecting and reporting individual student attendance data.

The committee members asked SD DOE to further investigate how on-line schools/classes will impact attendance calculations for the district/schools.

Proposal #2 Home School Students: If students are marked as primary home school, they are excluded from accountability even if they are supposed to be attending x school for two classes. If the current DOE practice remains, public schools would not be held accountable for home school students who may be attending public school classes.

- Proposal: Home school kids would appear on the roster for student attendance if supposed to be attending class in a public school for any period of time.
- Rationale: Same as above.

The Committee members agreed that this proposal should move forward. The members did voice concern that the districts' have little authority over home schooled children. However, under this proposal the home schooled students will be incorporated in the attendance calculations of the district/schools.

Proposal #3 Less than 15 Days Enrollment: Similar to the 15 day dropout rule applied to high schools, should pre-secondary schools be held accountable for students enrolled less than 15 days?

- Proposal: Schools and districts are held accountable for students enrolled 15 days or more. If a student drops or transfers within the first 15 days of enrollment, that student's enrollment is counted at the state level only.
 - Ex: A student enrolls in school x, attends four days. Is absent the next 16 days. Regardless of whether the parents inform the school of a transfer or not, the school ends the student's enrollment back to fourth day. The 100% attendance rate the child achieved would count only at the state level. The drop days are not accounted for at any level.
- Rationale: This would make the policy consistent with enrollments at the high school level.

The Committee members agreed with this proposal. The members asked that the policy be clarified to read "15 consecutive school days".

Next Meeting

A webinar meeting will be scheduled in late February or early March to discuss the ESEA Waiver Renewal document. The application for renewal is due to US ED by March 31, 2015.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 10:33 a.m.