

Illinois Assessment Review Task Force

Meeting Summary

Tuesday, August 4, 2015

1:00–4:00 p.m.

Illinois Federation of Teachers

500 Oakmont Lane, VTEL Room, Westmont, IL 60559

700 South College St., VTEL Room, Springfield, Illinois 62704

Conference call number: 1-888-494-4032; access code: 7066563739

Attendance

Task Force Members

Bob Pritchard

Gene Olsen

Julie Schaid

Lynne Panega

Lewis Cavallo

Rhonda Jenkins

Cathy Mannen

Jamie Lodge

Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Staff

Dr. Diana Zaleski

Midwest Comprehensive Center (MWCC) Staff

Thi Tran

Guests/Staff

Amy Alsop

Ava Harsten

Meeting Objective

Discuss survey and data collection methods.

Welcome

The advisory committee met on August 4, 2015, at the Illinois Federation of Teachers locations in Westmont and Springfield. Eight task force members and two guests attended the meeting in person and via conference call. Cathy Mannen opened the meeting, thanked everyone for attending, and proceeded with the meeting objective.

Survey and Data Collection Methods Discussion

Representative Pritchard shared the following feedback from his constituents for consideration:

- I believe that question 3 on the student survey also would be appropriate for each of the other survey groups.

- The student and parent assessments are both very short. If we are going to ask them to complete a survey related to a "hot" topic like PARCC and related assessments, there should be more room for input.
- Student survey: There are no questions about receiving information about their results, the value of those results, [or] the use of this data to set goals.
- Also, there should be more information in the header about the purpose of standardized tests, examples, and the purpose of this survey.
- Parent survey: I think that parents would want to signify all of their students, not just their oldest. There also may be valuable information to be gathered when disaggregated by student age.
- Perhaps a question about parents' perception related to missed instructional time.
- Superintendent survey: The superintendent survey is inclusive and covers the topics that have been discussed across the state from all education constituents. As you are aware, the frustration is consistent on many of the topic posed in the survey whereas other items vary with the district and their specific needs/concerns.
- Teacher survey: Much of this information will not be available to teachers, for example, teachers will not know what assessments the school or district administers (question 6).
- Same might be true for questions 10, 11, 12 and 13. In addition, there would be challenges matching the answers to questions 10 and 11.
- Finally, many teachers may not know the difference between the purposes (mandates versus district).

Student Survey Feedback

The ARTF discussed the following recommendations:

- Including a dropdown menu for all surveys that includes which county they are in
- Simplifying words in questions 3, 4, and 5 for all grade level. (ex.: "demonstrates" should change to "knows")
- Defining "standardized assessments" within the survey
- Adding an additional question before question 3 asking "How many tests do you take per school year?"
- Adding an additional question after 3 asking "Do you think you take too many, not enough, or just the right amount of tests during the school year?"
- Add question 4 and 5 from parent survey to student survey

Parent Survey Feedback

The ARTF discussed the following recommendations:

- Include advantages and disadvantages question from the student survey.
- Include an additional question in the advantages section about "helps guide instructional decisions or curriculums changes for my child."
- Include an additional question asking parent perspective, assessment literacy, and "Do you know how assessment data is used at your school?"

- Add questions 4 and 5 (advantages and disadvantages) from the student survey and changing the language to be parent-oriented.
- Add an additional question about “impacting access to resources.”
- Remove question 6 and include the idea into questions 4 and 5.
- Add an additional question asking “Does your child take too many, not enough, or just the right number of tests?” and ask how many tests they take.
- Add an additional question before question 3 asking “How many standardized test does your child take per school year?” (as on student survey)
- Add an additional question after 3 asking “Does your child take too many, not enough, or just the right number of tests during the school year?” (as on student survey)

Superintendent Survey Feedback

The ARTF discussed the following recommendations:

- Bold/underline state and federal assessments in question 4 and everywhere it occurs.
- Add an additional question asking how many tests a “typical” student and an “atypical” (special population, ELL, etc.) student takes.
- Add an additional question asking “most and least tested students” to get extreme data points
- For question 19, include most and least tested students
- Remove grade-level questions, 9 and 16

Teacher Survey Feedback

The ARTF discussed the following recommendations:

- Bold/underline state and federal assessments, required assessments in question 4, and everywhere it occurs.
- Bold/underline key words in question 7 “you help administer.”
- Change question 13 and 19 wording to include most and least tested students to replicate superintendent survey.
- Remove grade-level questions, 9 and 16.
- Remove question 11 and 17 on grade level.

Next Steps

Dr. Zaleski summarized the next steps of updating and distributing the survey.

Adjourn

The ARTF meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.