

MCASE Region I Meeting Agenda, 12/2/2020

Invited (Attended are in Bold): Pam Pettigrew, Annette Gorton, John Gorton, Michelle Monson, Patricia Black, Valerie Damron, Jennifer Hickoc, Molly Lloyd,

Guests: Michelle Halberg (MCASE), Dick Trerise (OPI)

Agenda and Notes:

Governor's CRF and ESSERS/ESSERS-Related Service and MOE

- Districts spend the same amount of state and local funds year to year. Relief funds do not count as state and local funds. Supplement, not replace or supplant, the responsibility of districts local expenditure. There is no exception or flexibility by OSEP regarding MOE.
- Dick Trerise: "These additional federal funds should be used to supplement, not supplant current activities paid with state and local funds. The maintenance of effort requirements for expenditures of state and local funds does not decrease due to these additional funds and there is no waiver of the MOE requirement available."

Upcoming Legislative Session:

- John will take the lead again this year. Thanks John
- John has signed up with the SAM Legislative Network
 - Review SAM priorities
 - Status report on Bills
 - Tell your story (Jamie Volmer)
 - Support the Interim Committee's work (e.g. inflationary rate to special ed funding)
 - State support of general fund monies impact on special ed. Requirement at the state level. As special Educators we have to lobby for general education funding.

COVID Impact and Staying in compliance with IDEA and FAPE

- Schools are returning to full time, in-person, given pressure from parents, community. There has been a death for teacher staff spouses, para-professional, student family members, Elders who take care of the children that are having significant impact. There is a need for social emotional support in these areas. Sporting events with pressure to students to not test so that the team can play.
 - Counseling - Poplar (Crisis team); Teams within schools for support (safety academic and emotional); Eastern Montana Mental Health,
 - Shodair - jbrewer@shodair.org John Brewer; Kayleigh Verhelst kverhelst@shodair.org

- Student and performance:
 - Non-performers or stil non-performing
 - Reduced performance is reflecting requests for special education service
- Ability to complete evaluations: School Psychologist availability and
- Is anyone using something to amplify voices with masks (e.g. Red Cat, ZoweeTek voice amplifier)
- Access to remote learning for students with disabilities in the areas of reading, writing, and attention/executive function
 - Implementation of accommodations
 - Due diligence: tiered response to needs (e.g. “soft tier 3” when going full remote students coming to school for a period of time, or appointments)
 - Consideration of students with significant disabilities
 - Pivot Plan (i.e. contingency plan, learning plan): Intent to be transparent with parents regarding services, focus on goal areas, service time, tool and curriculum during remote etc. When is the pivot plan implemented? Is it an absence?
 - IEP PWN in the “Other Relevant Factors”; some documentation about what the current learning plan is and how remote learning could be addressed (e.g. priorities)
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- Monitoring Progress for students when remote learning
 - Strengthen data collection systems in general
 - P-K SeeSaw portfolio provides data
 - In-person assessments/data collection for remote learners one day/wk.
 - “Dept Meetings”- Problem Solving with Special Ed meetings.

Social Emotional Curriculum Kits: Thanks to Jennifer Cline, OPI.

- Kits coming to Region I: Pam Pettigrew, Annette Gorton, Valerie Damron, Michelle Monsen, John Gorton, Patti Black.....one more?
- Pam and crew recommended Jennifer Hickock as the 7th kit!

Next meeting: **Wednesday, January 6th at 8:30 a.m.**