

MCASE Region IV
April 30, 2020
Via GoToMeeting

In attendance: Michelle Halberg, Dan Laughlin, Monica Pugh, Christina Olstad, Kim McCauley, Dede Frothingham, Will Dickerson, Jenny Malloy, Chad Berg, Sara Novak, Anne Penn Cox, Sara Jones, Karen Underwood, Shelley Dempsey, Juliana Robinson, Vaughn Kauffman, Dick Trerise, Char Allred

1. Adding in 19-21 year olds and 5th year seniors (Sean Maharg)

- a. Bozeman: Policy 3111P Age of Attendance (19 years old before Sept. 10th but not turning 20 years old within the school year.) Also policy on 5th year Seniors if age eligible meaning they meet our age of attendance policy. Still Superintendent discretion for 5th year.
- b. MSU: Life Scholars will not be accepting new students in the Fall due to COVID. Can accept for Spring pending COVID. Jody Bartz-maybe get ready for the Fall and the Spring. No grants at this time to support Life Scholars. Going to get creative for the Springtime. Everything is up in the air at this time.

2. Which screening and/or assessment instruments are being used in the field? (e.g. Woodcock, Dial-4, Brigance, etc...) (Jody Bartz)

- a. MSU Bozeman students pay \$6000-\$8000 to get sped endorsement.
Endorsement Project - MSU Bozeman students are the only ones who pay (compared to Western at Dillion, MSU Billings)
- b. New assessments coming out
 - i. WIAT
 - ii. Battelle Developmental Inventory - 3rd edition
- c. Guidance from Pearson is giving permission to administer assessments via online-but not for most assessments
- d. KTEA, WIAT IV, Battelle Developmental Inventory - 3rd edition, Brigance, DIAL, WJ IV, BASC 3-Social/Emotional,

3. SPED Students and P/F grading (Kim McCauley)

- a. Fourth quarter grading suggestions:
 - i. (Bozeman) High School all teachers use discretion to award pass/fail. Impact on reflection of learning and transcripts are being considered. Idea that grades should not go down after schools closed/COVID. They can improve grades. Consider "do no harm" relative to COVID.
 - ii. (Belgrade)- discussions with administrative teams to address unique impacts for students. Look at past years when considering pass fail grading
- b. Grading practices are under the direction of the board and are being reviewed relative to COVID-19. Guidance from MTSBA policy language.

- c. Article "Everyone Should Get A's"
<https://medium.com/@manuelrustin/give-them-all-as-7ea4d0cc52ba>
- d. Chronological age and physical development should be strong factors in the decision to move a student from the junior high or middle school to the high school. Consideration also must be given to the least restrictive environment principle in planning for promotion.
- e. 10.16.3345 LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROMOTION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

4. How are others servicing their most significant students? (Dan Laughlin)

- a. Nonverbal, Autism who require one-on-one. Struggling to meet their needs. ESY or Compensatory ed? Going to offer a Boot Camp this summer. Using GoalBook strategies
- b. Offering many options and being flexible, making changes, listening to parents about their ability to engage the student
- c. Article on mindset shifts for "routine based intervention" consult models with community agencies and family consult about what is functional during your day.
<http://naturalenvironments.blogspot.com/2017/08/teamwork-can-succeed-through.html>
- d. Virtual meetings with parents to problem solve engagement. Maintain a relationship with parent, student and staff.

5. How are others "spicing up" ESY through distance learning? (Dede Frothingham)

- a. Kids who come typically come because it is a different system, activities, etc. Concern is that if we have students who are not participating online, this is not enticing for ESY.
- b. Chad-noon meeting on what returning to school looks like as we don't know due to health and safety requirements.
- c. Michelle-continuing with remote learning. Maybe initiate ESY in late July-August. Some parents are really struggling to implement remote learning. Have stopped some services in agreement with the parents and will use the ESY process to implement in the summer.
- d. Quote from Perry Zirkel- In these trying times, school district special education leaders need to apply common-sense proactive measures, as is their admirable norm and as our government is advocating for dealing more generally with COVID-19. Rather than fixating on perceived mixed messages, focusing on overly nuanced questions, or confusing well-intended guidance with binding legal requirements, local special education leaders should continue to use their particular forte in being creative, constructive, and collaborative, with due consultation with local legal counsel where needed.

6. Progress Reports (Kim McCauley)

- a. Statement from Dale Kimmet (OPI) to put in a progress report document, "Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and mandatory shut down of schools, the most recent and qualifiable data is limited and does not contain a true picture of overall progress or regression."
- b. Using some videos and online meetings to monitor goals.
- c. Chad-have written in our remote learning plans some goals are not appropriate to address via online. We know that this information will not be pulled into the Progress Reports as it is a document outside of an IEP. We also do not have some of our district assessment information to use for progress on goals. Using alternative data to monitor goals.
- d. Statement about goals not addressed as not accessible through remote learning/on-line platform impact; communication about last measured and anecdotal information or information limited data and how collected.

7. SLP Toolkit and state approval (Monica Pugh)

- a. Apps and Programs that have student information stored. Speech and Language Pathologist Toolkit.
- b. Need to have a 3rd party agreement
- c. Michelle-not using the SLP Toolkit each district privacy agreement
- d. Chad-Curriculum Office monitors our vendors. Vendors sign off on the data privacy agreement.
- e. Is this a district issue vs. a Cooperative issue?

8. Recruitment Needs

- a. Park Coop: Shields Valley 7-12 Sped Teacher
- b. Bozeman: Sped Teachers, possible School Psychologist
- c. East Helena will need 2 special education teachers - PK-2 and M.S.
- d. White Sulphur Springs will need 1 elementary Special Education Teacher
- e. Townsend will need a Special Education Teacher PK-2
- f. Gallatin-Madison Special Ed. Coop: 1 FTE School Psych; 1 FTE Special Ed Teacher

9. Celebration!!

- a. Park County Special Education Cooperative was rewarded \$350,000 (over 3 years) grant for access to mental and behavioral health services in rural schools
- b. Collaborate with Community Health Partners, Thrive Project, Montana Healthcare Foundation
- c. Hiring two positions to assist with grant implementation
- d. Would Jenny be willing to do a workshop at some point?

10. Any summer programs for emotional/social/engagement locally?

- a. Youth Probation Food Bank

- b. MSU-we are still launching an Inclusive Community (virtual) camp this summer... more to come. Check in with Jody Bartz
- c. Eagle Mount
- d. MOSS
- e. [Sky Horse Ranch](#)

Next Meeting: May 14th at 10:00