



Texas Education Agency
Policy Committee on Public Education Information
Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Wm. B. Travis Building, 2-195
1701 N. Congress Avenue
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mary Ann Whiteker (Chair)

Mary Ann Whiteker called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

Roll Call

In attendance:

Mary Ann Whiteker, Paul Clore, John Bass, Ronny Beard, Sharon Wermuth, Cody Carroll, Lisa Garcia, Danny Villarreal, David C. Harris, Danny Lovett, Paul Norton, Terry Driscoll, Patricia Shafer, Mary Beth Matula, Clyde Steelman, Gilbert Trevino, Wade Wesley, Mark White

ITF Member in attendance

Nancy Dunnam, ITF Chair

TEA staff in attendance:

Melody Parrish, Terri Hanson, Leanne Simons, Bryce Templeton, Fernando Garcia, Amanda Callinan

2. Approve Minutes from the October 28, 2014 PCPEI Meeting

Action Item

Mary Ann Whiteker introduced the PCPEI meeting minutes from the October 28, 2014 PCPEI meeting and asked for any corrections or other comments.

John Bass made a motion to approve the PCPEI minutes from the October 28, 2014 PCPEI meeting as presented. Paul Clore seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. ITF Report to PCPEI Committee

Presentation of action item recommendations and discussion items from the January 20, 2015 ITF Meeting

Action Item

Presented by David McKamie, Information Task Force Vice Chair

**Information Task Force (ITF) Report to the
Policy Committee on Public Education Information (PCPEI)
For the January 20, 2015 ITF meetings**

1. TReX Data Standards Baseline Discussion

Discussion Item

The Texas Education Agency has taken the necessary steps through the governance process to establish a baseline from which all future changes to the Texas Records Exchange (TReX) System will initiate. From this point forward, all TReX changes will be presented to the Information Task Force, Policy Committee on Public Education Information, and the TEA Data Governance Board before implementation.

Fernando Garcia provided a comprehensive list of TReX data elements that will serve as a baseline for any new data elements added in the future which will require approval by the three data governance approval committees: ITF, PCPEI, and the DGB.

ITF Discussion

Adrian Garcia asked if a data element has to affect all the districts to be considered as a new TReX data element. Bryce Templeton stated that has been one of the deciding factors in the past when considering additions. Adrian mentioned creating a new element that would make it easy to identify students who have met the TSI requirements for English and Mathematics. TEA staff asked Adrian to send this suggestion to Glenn Shelton. Adrian Garcia said that he would send more information about TSI.

Nancy Dunnam stated that the TReX data elements would have the same approval guidelines as the PEIMS data standards elements; element justification, cost benefit, etc. TEA staff confirmed this statement.

Terri Hanson explained that the PCPEI committee had already reviewed this item and agreed that the TReX elements should go through the governance process, and that the approval process would begin with the 2015-2016 TReX data standards and that all changes to TReX would begin with the ITF committee.

ITF Recommendation

None.

PCPEI Discussion

MaryAnn Whiteker asked for clarification to make sure that the TSI indicator is not linked to passing the exam (some students take 2 dual credit courses and are therefore exempt).

PCPEI Action

None

2. SSI Promotion Retention Indicator Code**Action Item**

Due to the transition to revised statewide curriculum standards, State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) mathematics assessments for Grades 5 and 8 will be administered only once in the 2014–15 school year. Consequently, the Student Success Initiative (SSI) requirement that students in Grades 5 and 8 must pass the STAAR mathematics assessment in order to move on to the next grade level will be suspended for the 2014–2015 school year.

Amanda Callinan explained that SSI requires students in Grades 5 and 8 to pass reading and mathematics STAAR examinations in order to be promoted to the next grade level. Amanda stated that Commissioner Williams announced in a “To The Administrator Addressed” letter on May 1, 2014 that the mathematics portion of the SSI requirement will be suspended for one year, the 2014-2015 school year. Amanda explained that this request was made because there will be no opportunity to retake the mathematics examination because the performance standards are being revised to incorporate the new mathematics TEKS, and these standards will not be set until after the 2015 Spring administration. Amanda commented that the proposed edits ensure mathematics failures cannot be reported in the 2015 fall snapshot. Amanda reminded the committee that the proposed edits are temporary since Commissioner Williams is only suspending the requirement for one year.

ITF Discussion

Nancy Dunnam stated that her districts have asked about the SSI and whether it will continue to be funded. Nancy questioned the accuracy of the data element if SSI is no longer funded. Linda Roska stated that the SSI funding was eliminated in 2011, but that the SSI Promotion Retention reporting is still a mandate in state law.

ITF Recommendation

Dara Fuller motioned to approve the changes that prevent the SSI Promotion Retention codes concerning Mathematics assessments for the 2015-2016 school year and restore the same for the 2016-2017 school year. David McKamie seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PCPEI Discussion

MaryAnn Whiteker asked if the SSI information was automatically imported into a PEIMS extract file. Bryce indicated that the software vendors, not the districts, would be impacted. The software vendors would change their extract programs to ignore the SSI information for the 15-16 school year only.

Mary Ann Whiteker stated that in lieu of funding, TEA had arranged a state contract for software for iStation and Think Thru Math.

The PCPEI asked whether there was a designated date that the vendors needed to have this programming change completed. Terri Hanson indicated that the summer PEIMS Vendor Training conducted by TEA would address this change. Danny Lovett asked if TEA had issued a press release. Amanda Callinan stated that the Commissioner had issued a TAA letter on May 1, 2014 as represented in the materials.

Amanda Callinan stated that the PEIMS validation rules will also begin checking to make sure the correct grade is reported (e.g. if student was in grade 5, and is retained, then the grade reported must be grade 5).

PCPEI Action

Motion: Terry Driscoll made a motion to approve the ITF recommendation to approve the changes that prevent the reporting of SSI Promotion Retention codes concerning Mathematics assessments for the 2015-2016 school year and restore the former level of reporting for the 2016-2017 school year.
Ronnie Beard seconded the motion.

Vote: The PCPEI motion passed unanimously.

3. Career and Technical Education Indicator Code**Action Item**

The Tech Prep Program was defunded by the USDE in 2010. Most, if not all, students that were in the program at the time of defunding have completed the high school program. The Tech Prep code will remain in place for the 2015-2016 school year and then be removed for the 2016-2017 school year. New validations will be implemented for the 2015-2016 school year that restrict certain students from being reported with the CTE code 3.

Bryce Templeton explained that students enrolled in grade 12 in the 2015-2016 school year should be the only students still reported in the Career and Technical Education Tech Prep program. All other students that are pursuing a CTE study program should be reported with the Coherent Sequence Code. The remaining students taking a CTE course(s) should be coded as "taking a CTE course". Bryce commented that TEA would add an edit to the 2015-2016 school year data collections that limits the CTE Tech Prep Code to Grade 12 students.

ITF Discussion

Dara Fuller suggested that TEA publish early notice of the CTE Tech Prep Code removal in the 2015-2016 PEIMS Data Standards and the TSDS Texas Education Data Standards.

ITF Recommendation

Cathleen Freeman made a motion to implement the new edit that limits the 2015-2016 CTE Tech PREP students to those in Grade 12. Brenda Padalecki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PCPEI Discussion

Danny Lovett expressed concern regarding Special Ed students, and how they would be affected by this change. Danny was concerned that special education students would be able to make it through the program without any negative ramifications.

Mary Ann Whiteker stated that the Tech Prep funding was actually sent to the community colleges to hire Tech Prep Coordinators to help facilitate the program at schools.

PCPEI Action

Motion: Danny Lovett made a motion to approve the ITF recommendation to implement the new data validation that limits the 2015-2016 CTE Tech Prep students to those in Grade 12. Patricia Shafer seconded the motion.

Vote: The PCPEI motion passed unanimously.

4. TSDS Disciplinary Reports**Action Item**

TSDS PEIMS reports PDM3-132-003 – Student Disciplinary Action Summary and PDM3-132-006 – Student Disciplinary Action Incident Counts by Reason Code are duplicative in appearance with different titles. A revision to the reports for TSDS PEIMS is being proposed to make the reports more usable to the schools.

Bryce Templeton stated that the SEDS department is reviewing all of the Edit+ reports as part of the TSDS conversion process. Since two reports have the same content but different titles - TSDS PEIMS reports PDM3-132-003 – Student Disciplinary Action Summary and PDM3-132-006 – Student Disciplinary Action Incident Counts by Reason Code, Bryce stated that TEA is proposing changing the PDM3-132-006 to provide discipline action reason incident counts only and keeping PDM3-132-003 as a detailed report displaying disciplinary action reason codes by disciplinary action codes as well as incident counts by discipline reason and action.

ITF Discussion

Nancy Dunnam asked that the 003 report have each code and its definition listed at the bottom of the report. Bryce Templeton stated that a disciplinary action code key could be added to the bottom of the report.

ITF Recommendation

Keitha Ivey motioned to approve the changes to report PDM3-132-006 to become a report of incidents counts by discipline action reason only, and that report PDM3-132-003 be modified to include a legend of the discipline actions at the end of the report. Patty Streat seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PCPEI Discussion

Mary Ann Whiteker asked if the counts in these reports allowed for students to be counted more than once. She stated that the counts could be misleading when reporting (to Legislature or media). Mary Ann suggested that TEA add an additional column to the report that tabulates a "Distinct Student Count". John Bass state that this modification would assist school districts with the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) reporting.

Terry Driscoll asked if there were any other reports that would benefit from a similar revision to include distinct student counts (PDM3-132-006). TEA staff stated that the reports requirements were almost finished for the 2015-2016 school year and that the any other reports modifications would have to be considered for the 2016-2017 school year release of the TSDS PEIMS portal.

PCPEI Action

Motion: John Bass made a motion to approve the ITF recommendation to approve the changes to report PDM3-132-006 to become a report of incidents counts by discipline action reason only, and that report PDM3-132-003 be modified to include a legend of the discipline actions at the end of the report, and that the report include a column to represent the distinct count of students for each disciplinary action reason appearing on the report.

Paul Clore seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

5. TSDS Major Funds Reports

Discussion Item

PDM2-102-002 – Fund Balances Section of Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds and PDM2-102-003 – Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Government Funds. These reports will allow the user to choose up to 4 Major Funds to appear on the report, and save those fund code choices.

Bryce Templeton explained that with the TSDS system development, it is necessary to change the way that users process two particular mid-year audit reports.

- 1) PDM2-102-002 – Fund Balances Section of Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds and
- 2) PDM2-102-003 – Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Government Funds.

Bryce Templeton explained that these reports will allow the user to choose up to four Major Funds to appear on the report, and save the output to a local network area. Bryce commented that the user will be able to choose the four major fund codes that appear on the report using a user administration screen. Bryce mentioned that this feature should be available by the April release of the TSDS PEIMS system for the mid-year collection.

ITF Discussion

Nancy Dunnam asked how to select parameters and Bryce explained there would be a dropdown menu and that the user could create a custom product.

Nancy Dunnam asked if the report could be saved to PDF, CSV, or Excel, and Bryce confirmed it would have that capability.

Terri Hanson explained that the other reports can be frozen but this one is too large and too complex, and that if users want to save the report they should export it into their preferred file format.

ITF Recommendation

None.

PCPEI Discussion

None.

6. Houston ITF Membership

Action Item

Cathleen Freeman nominated Pablo Martinez to be her alternate. Cathleen summarized Pablo's background and mentioned that he had been with Houston ISD for 25 years.

ITF Discussion

None.

ITF Recommendation

Judi Sparks made a motion to approve Pablo Martinez as the Houston ISD ITF alternate member and Keitha Ivey seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

PCPEI Discussion

None.

PCPEI Action

Motion: Patty Shafer made a motion to approve the ITF recommendation to make Pablo Martinez the Houston ISD ITD Alternate member. Terry Driscoll seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

7. Skyward Corporation Software Vendor ITF Membership

Bryce Templeton presented information concerning the ITF membership for the Skyward software vendor that was recently vacated by Tom Priem who had left the employment of the Skyward Corporation. The Skyward Corporation has nominated Nancy Smith to replace Tom Priem as the ITF member for Skyward. Bryce stated that Nancy Smith has been employed by the Skyward Corporation for many years and serves as the Texas consultant for the company.

PCPEI Discussion

None.

PCPEI Action

Paul Norton made a motion to approve the nomination of Nancy Smith to be the newly appointed ITF member representing the Skyward software vendor. Clyde Steelman seconded the motion.

PCPEI Vote

The motion passed unanimously.

8. Northeast ISD PCPEI Membership

Bryce Templeton presented information stating that Brian Gottardy, PCPEI member representing Northeast ISD, has nominated Deborah Caldwell of Northeast ISD to be his newly appointed alternate to the PCPEI committee replacing Brenda Padalecki.

PCPEI Discussion

None.

PCPEI Action

Ronnie Beard made a motion to approve the nomination of Deborah Caldwell to be the newly appointed PCPEI member alternate representing Brian Gottardy and Northeast ISD. Danny Lovett seconded the motion.

PCPEI Vote

The motion passed unanimously.

9. PCPEI Alternates

The PCPEI members without a named alternate were asked to name an alternate if they were able at the time of the meeting.

John Bass named Ray Cogburn as his alternate.

Cody Carroll named Nancy Shipley as his alternate.

Lisa Garcia named Sandra Rodriguez as her alternate.

David Harris named Gabrielle Lemonier as his alternate.

Danny Lovett named Linda Hoffpaur as his alternate.

Paul Norton named Nannette Power as his alternate.

Gilbert Trevino named Rex Holcombe as his alternate.

Wade Wesley named Toni Waldo as his alternate.

10. Open Forum

- Mary Ann Whiteker asked if there were plans to create additional internet browser compatibility for TEAL. (i.e. Google Chrome) Melody Parrish that the legislature directed the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to conduct a modernization study of state agency software systems and stated that a recent audit has found that approximately many of the existing TEA applications require modernization primarily for security updates and that TEA has requested \$23 million in exceptional item funds from the Texas legislature to implement these audit recommendations. As part of the security enhancements and modernizations. The browser compatibility issues could be taken into account if the legislature appropriates the funds for the TEA to update these systems such as TEAL.

11. Next PCPEI meeting June 2, 2015

The June 2, 2015 PCPEI meeting will be conducted via GoToMeeting.

12. The PCPEI meeting was adjourned.