DC PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

Adult Education PMF Task Force Meeting Notes
March 23, 2016 | DC PCSB | 1:00-3:30

Attendees:
DC PCSB: Sareeta Schmitt, Naomi DeVeaux, Rashida Tyler, Erin Kupferberg, and Adam Bethke
Academy of Hope: Patricia DeFerrari, Marcos Pantelis, Charlie Riebeling
Briya: Karen Hertzler, Christie McKay, Cara Sklar, Lorie Prelam, and Shamika Hapu
Carlos Rosario: Patricio Sanchez and Sarah Berlin
Community College Prep: Shannon Webster
LAYC Career Academy: Angela Stepancic, Nicole Hanrahan, and Amber Eby
Maya Angelou PCS – YALC: Sarah Navarro and Nora Shetty
The Next Step PCS: Julie Meyer and Melvin Freeman
YouthBuild PCS: Alexandra Pardo, Andrew Touchette, and Phil Lasser

Meeting Notes:

Agenda & Objectives

- Sareeta reviewed the agenda and objectives and highlighted three key topics for today's meeting:
  - Student Achievement, particularly the GED metric(s)
  - Updating the floors and targets for Student Progress and College and Career Readiness (CCR) measures
  - Tiering the AE PMF

- DC PCSB reviewed the feedback from the last meeting and clarified the business rules for Retention based on school's feedback
  - See handout with updates for Retention
  - Eligible students can show Retention by attempting (rather than earning) certifications

Retention (follow-up from last meeting)

- Students Pre-testing at ABE Level 6
  - For Retention, the group agreed last month that these students can count as retained if they attempt at least one GED Subject Test during the program year
  - This is for students who are attempting a secondary credential
  - Carlos Rosario: there are about a dozen students annually who end up in ABE Level 6 based on the CASAS but they are on the ESL track
    - Sareeta: These students are captured using the traditional pre- and post-test method since they are ESL students taking the CASAS for ESL
- CTE students
  - Sareeta clarified that CTE students with 120 hours or an official practice certification test or actual certification test are counted as retained

Student Achievement

- PCSB proposes a new measure, GED Subject Test Achievement, based on feedback from the schools that captures students passing GED subject tests along the way to earning the secondary credential
- PCSB shared the proposal to use students passing all four GED Ready test as the denominator for the Obtained Secondary Credential measure
    - YouthBuild: If a student passed all four sections, but was not tested on GED Ready, they are excluded from the GED Attainment measure?
    - Sareeta: Yes, that would be the case as written. We are concerned about the lack of an incentive to give students the GED Ready. If we just add in students would pass all four GED sections and school does not give the GED Ready to anyone, then that school is guaranteed a rate of 100% and we would not know how many other students were prepared to take the GED.
    - Next Step: We're fairly liberal in sending students, even if they're below the Likely to Pass threshold.
    - Sareeta: Students can still certain try for the GED but schools would only be accountable in this measure for those students who are shown to be prepared with a "likely to pass" GED Ready score
    - YouthBuild suggested adding students who took all four GED assessments to the denominator regardless of whether they pass the GED sections
- Schools shared what they typically see in the GED Ready data such as students needing to score above the "likely to pass" threshold, and that the GED Test Service recalibrated their metrics, changing the "likely to pass" score cutoffs
    - Academy of Hope: Once students score "likely to pass" they are pretty much guaranteed to pass. Our challenge is getting them down to take the test.
- A question came up about whether the AE PMF would use the "likely to pass" score that aligns the new 145 passing score or the old 150 passing score since DC has not yet adopted the updated score
    - PCSB would use the "likely to pass" score that aligns with a passing score in DC
    - Naomi: OSSE is supposed to come out with a decision on that very soon by April
- Schools brought up some scenarios of students moving from one school to another and asked about how they might be captured
    - PCSB asks that schools include these in their feedback forms so that the PMF team and consider them
- The group discussed the proposed business rule to set the floor and target based on three years of data with the 10th and 90th percentiles as the 35% and 65% of range cutoffs
    - Next Step: Weren't the n-sizes very low and/or masked? How does that affect this proposal?
    - Sareeta: With 3 years of data, we can create a an average rate for each school with larger n-sizes
    - Briya: The 90th percentile is the target in other frameworks, right?
    - Sareeta: Yes, in many instances it is in the other framework, but this allows us some more leeway in scoring because of there are so few schools by allowing for a floor slightly below the 10th percentile and target slightly above the 90th percentile
- There was discussion of students who pre-test at ABE 6 and do not have a secondary credential being included in the GED Subject Test Achievement measure

    - The group generally agreed that this would work
    - Academy of Hope and Briya noted that they have a few students who aren't in a GED program who are CASAS tested and wondered if they would count
    - PCSB noted that students who are in a CTE program or on an ESL track would be tracked according to their program, and would not be in this measure
- In discussing whether students who pass a GED subject test without taking a GED Ready, Youthbuild suggested that the language clarify that students must be in the denominator to be included in the numerator
- Schools asked about a couple of scenarios to clarify how they would be handled under the proposed business rules
    - AOH: Can students count in the denominator multiple times
        - Yes, the person can count up to four times, once for each subject
    - Next Step: If a student scores likely to pass on the GED Ready in some subjects and passes those subject GED tests in one year, would the student count in the second year in the GED subject and the GED overall?
        - Yes as long as that student is still in your LEA both years
    - LAYC: What if a student takes all four GED subjects, has an ABE 6 pretest, and no GED Ready tests?
        - That student will count in the numerator and denominator one time for the GED Subject Test measure
- There was brief discussion again about students who may pass a GED subject test without having taken the GED Ready
    - PCSB indicated that they are incentivizing students taking the GED Ready; this also aligns with where OSSE is heading with their (proposed) regulations that would allow for a school to vouch for a student to take the GED once but if the student does not pass, then s/he would have to take the GED Ready
- The group looked at the GED Ready section of the 2014 GED Test Manual to discuss floors and targets for the GED Subject Test measure
- Schools expressed concern around getting all students who score "likely to pass" to take the official GED test
    - Naomi: PCSB is not proposing what the guidelines say, which would be even higher. If the issue is getting down to the testing site and signing up, let's change that rather than have lower standards.
- YouthBuild proposed that the metric be total students who passed over students who sat for the test
    - PCSB shared that this does not align with the spirit of the measure to capture all student who are prepared to take the GED not just who actually take it
- LAYC shared frustration that minors who attended high schools have to wait 6 months and then get approvals before they can test
- Schools proposed that we pilot the collection this year
    - PCSB agrees, would like to collect the data
- A question came up about whether the GED TS data was for English GED only or also Spanish GED
    - Sareeta is working on getting in touch with someone at GED TS to get more information on this
- The group agreed that we want to see student scores and gather more data on how many students are scoring likely to pass and taking or not taking the actual GED

    - Schools agreed to share what data they have for this 2015-16 year so far for us to revisit the floor and target for the GED Subject Test measure in April
- Sareeta clarified that for Student Achievement the overall indicator score would be all measures rolled up weighted by n-size, similar to how it is done for Student Progress
    - The weight for GED Subject Test Achievement would be number of unique students not number of subject tests

Updating Floors and Targets

- Sareeta walked through the proposed business rules/methodology for updating the floor and target for Student Progress and CCR measures
- The group looked at how the floors and targets would change
    - There was some confusion over the columns title “Tier 1 cutoffs” and “Tier 3 cutoffs”
    - Sareeta clarified that these are only the points at which a school gets 65% or 35% of points for that measure
    - PCSB will update this language on the file posted to the website

Tiering Proposals

- Sareeta walked the group through PCSB’s thought process in creating the current tiering system
- YouthBuild: To be clear, you believe that the targets are currently attainable.
- Naomi: Yes; right now, that’s the case. It became that way because the schools negotiated really well. The compromise was the current tiering structure. While PCSB leadership and staff as comfortable with the current tiering structure, we are open to other tiering structures but are having difficulty figuring out a viable alternative. We’re happy to hear your proposals.