



Meeting Minutes
Choice Ready Subcommittee
February 18, 2021
11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

11:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

- **Roll Call–List of Committee Members Present**

Adam Tescher

Aimie Copas

Ann Ellefson

Greg Carlson

Jane Hovda

Jeff Fastnacht

Jennifer Fremstad

Jim Upgren

Joe Kolosky

Kelly Pierce

Laurie Matzke

Maria Neset

Mark Wagner

Matthew Lonn

Melanie Kathrein

Stan Schauer

Robert Grosz

Ross Roemmich

Wayde Sick

- **New proposed Secretary of Education – Miguel Cardona**

Laurie Matzke anticipates Miguel Cardona will be confirmed in the Senate. Once that happens, states should be receiving information on assessment, funding, etcetera. Our accountability addendum was submitted but we have not heard anything yet. At this time, we are going forward with accountability. CSI schools will be frozen until next spring, however, we will choose new TSI schools. Ross indicated they are ready for the Choice Ready reports. Greg concurred that they are ready to go from a data perspective.

- Choice Ready for 2020-2021

Laurie asked Jane Hovda if there is any way to know which districts are working on Choice Ready reports and if all schools have an identified person who has Choice Ready permissions for 2020-2021. Jane can provide a list of people who have Choice Ready permissions. Laurie suggested that staff should be ready to go once we receive word from Cardona. Jane will get the report to Laurie by next week.

- Choice Ready Scholarship Bill (SB 2289)

Jim Uppgren provided information on SB 2289 and shared a PowerPoint. The bill aligns the state scholarship with Choice Ready. If it is passed it would create the "North Dakota Scholarship" which would align the scholarship requirements to Choice Ready Requirements. Some of the elements involve being ready for the work force and ready for the military. Every student who meets the requirements and is Choice Ready would be eligible for the scholarship. The objective is for any student that earns the scholarship will also be Choice Ready. They would complete 4 of the 8 Essential Skills. Additional rigor above Choice Ready requirements would be: 3.0 overall grade-point overall average for all pathways, 24 on the ACT or 1180 on the SAT, requires two indicators in addition to the ACT score ("or" to "and"), removes CREAM/CLEM as an option for an indicator.

Workforce Ready (24 on ACT or 5 or higher on WorkKeys, 4 credits CTE, 2 in same plan of study for Workforce-Ready Option, eliminates CREAM/CLEM as an option for indicator). Military Ready (ASVAB score of 85 or higher unless the student has completed basic training-31 would then be allowable).

Timeline if passed: class of 2021 would use current requirements. The next three classes would be allowed to use either of the scholarship requirements and would only receive one \$6,000 scholarship. After that the new guidelines would be in effect. The bill must pass the full Senate before it can go through the process to become law.

- Choice Ready Grants

Laurie provided an overview of DPI's intention for the DPI to put out some communication and then have a Teams training to provide information and ideas. This could potentially be spread out over a three-day period with 15-minute sessions. Some principals may be interested, others may be too busy at the moment. It could possibly be offered again this spring for next year. Looking at the Choice Ready Chart, what could high schools do to get students post-secondary ready? Sylvan has ACT prep courses. Algebra II has prep classes. Some other areas of interest: AP scholarships, dual credit, expand/implement CREAM, 21st CCLC skills. Other suggestions: purchase online courses through CDE, military. What are some roadblocks? WBL courses through CDE, career exploration, industry credentials, organizing data within Choice Ready tool. The more ideas the DPI can provide, the more helpful it would be.

Wayde asked how much money is involved. What is the grant ceiling? Laurie stated there could be up to \$1 million dollars for this project.

Wayde asked whether this can be provided to individual students or a program? Laurie stated it could be provided to individual students if the districts can demonstrate it would help get more students Choice Ready.

Laurie stated that anything that would get more students Choice Ready would be an option. Wayde asked if this could be a statewide initiative? Laurie stated the ultimate goal would be anything that would get more students Choice Ready.

- Next steps

Laurie will conduct a follow-up survey in the next couple of days about the topics discussed at today's meeting to determine ideas and plans.