



**ESSA IMPLEMENTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
CHOICE READY ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE
MEETING MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 16, 2019 11:00 AM–12:00 PM

AGENDA ITEMS:

11:00 am Welcome and Introductions

Subcommittee Members Present:

Laurie Matzke – Assistant Superintendent
John Alstad – Principal, Robert Miller
Aimee Copas – NDCEL
Tracy Friesen – Non-Public
Nickkie Gullickson - NDPTA
Shawn Kessel (Michelle Kommer) – Deputy Commerce Commissioner
Kristin Knorr – ND Afterschool Network
Sara Medalen – Teacher, Minot
Jerry Standifer – Principal, West Fargo/Elementary Advisory Cabinet
Heather Tomlin-Rohr – Teacher, Jamestown
Ann Ellefson – Director, Academic Support
Greg Carslon – NDUS Research
Lea Kugel – NDDPI, Special Ed
Tammy Mayer – NDDPI, Assessment
Amanda Peterson – Assistant Director, Academic Support
Stanley Schauer – Assistant Director, School Approval & Opportunity
Matt Scherbenske – NDDPI Strategic Officer
Jim Upgren – Assistant Director, School Approval & Opportunity

Rationale for Elementary/Middle Choice Ready Subcommittee

- ✓ **Support High School Choice Ready Framework**
- ✓ **Increase Number of Accountability Elements at Elementary/Middle**

We are three years into our ESSA plan. The plan is a working document which will be revised regularly. We are considering possibilities for increasing the number of elements at the elementary level for accountability as there are more elements at the high school level.

In the future, we will be adding School Climate at both the high school and elementary levels.

Student Engagement could be used at the elementary level also, however some revisions could be made on this survey to address the fields concerns regarding the surveys that were administered to the high school.

There is a survey that will go out to indicate that both NDDPI and Cognia will have listening sessions so feedback can be received on the survey so improvements can be made.



There may be other tools that could measure student engagement which will be discussed.

Summary/Recap of Meeting One

Several concerns were discussed including opening the plan to make a change which allows the USDE the opportunity to require states to make other changes to the plan in all areas.

Currently, we do not desire to open the plan. There are two contentious items in our plan; one was the Choice Ready element, the other is our method on reporting on effective teachers. The field did not want to identify teachers, so our reporting is not on teachers, it is on FTEs.

As an FYI – AdvancED is now Cognia.

Going Forward - Potential Ideas

✓ **Overview of new ACT Tool (Additional Element) – Matt**

This is an opportunity to see what some options are going forward.

Some in the field would like more tools to be utilized and some others don't want more but possibly a revised tool.

ACT uses a tool called Tesera which looks at grit, rigor, curiosity, etc.

Social and Emotional Learning Assessment System

NDDPI has done a crosswalk of current standards for Social Emotional Learning with this tool. This tool could potentially measure those areas for schools.

We are asking ACT to show us the alignment it would have with this model to address the needs for each individual student.

Even if this tool does not become part of accountability, it is still a great tool for schools.

There are limitations on grade levels at this point. Currently includes grades 6-12 but looking toward updating to include grades 3-12.

The more tools at the field's disposal the better.

Some feedback on this tool is it was too long, so they have reduced to approximately ½ hour for students to take and it is given as a survey.

West Fargo is part of the pilot for this tool. They started it in 9th grade and has grown from there. It is comprehensive but is a really good tool that can be used in the Choice Ready area. They have been administering twice a year. The teachers also provide input. It is a good tool but is time consuming and expensive. Should NDDPI dive into this tool to get more information?

Should we add elements? Should we explore one tool with multiple measures? Should we keep the Cognia survey but have options for schools to use as resources but not include them as part of accountability?

Three committees will be surveyed for input regarding the concept of where the field would like this discussion to go in the future: Climate Subcommittee, Choice Ready Elementary/Middle Subcommittee, and Superintendent's Elementary cabinet.

The results of this survey will be reported to the full ESSA committee in October.

We don't want to focus on a vendor specific tool but on the concept.



- ✓ **Overview of Career Ready Standards – Jim**
[Elementary Career Exploration Course Code \(20004\)](#)
This Career Development information was sent to the field last week. There was a lot of time spent at the high school level however the importance of having this at the elementary level is important. One of the important items was that we need to make sure more staff are involved in the process and not just the counselor. One item is the Career Integration Across Curriculum tool. This information is intended to be guidance for schools. Standards were created for career development at the elementary level to get the conversation going. Standards are separated by grade level and a resource for all teachers. It is not mandatory but is good guidance. A new course code has been developed so credit can be given for this instruction. The objective was to develop a tool to incorporate all grade levels for teachers to use as a resource for career development.

- ✓ **Explore Boston Model – Laurie**
Another tool is the School Quality Beyond Test Scores. This is a framework from another state that they will be using for accountability. We do not necessarily need to use it for accountability but could still use this example as a framework. States are working to get away from quick test assessment measures but rather building a framework or rubric to show growth. These are more time-consuming than taking a quick test. We could reach out to get more information from Massachusetts. We could use this tool in addition to other tools as resources for schools to help prepare their students but not make it an accountability requirement. The areas are broad in this framework. There are many vendors that have tools or are working on tools.

- ✓ **Create an Elementary/Middle Choice Ready Framework – Jerry (To build a foundation and set up students to be successful in High School)**
Jerry created the graphic to look like the Choice Ready report that is already out there for the high school.

The idea behind this graphic was created and tried to align them with what would be required. Using 21st century skills rather than the Choice Ready elements used for high school.

The graphic is another option or resource that could be used for accountability and one of the most important sections is the essential skills. This, at the elementary level, would start the process of these skills and in turn, would help students be more successful on the essential skills section at the high school level for Choice Ready.



Essential skills were very contentious when the Choice Ready committee was meeting.

Demonstrating competency in some of these areas may be difficult but aligning areas would need to be flushed out if this a concept we want to move forward with.

Next Steps

✓ **Follow-up ACT Tool**

Do we want to dig deeper?

✓ **Dig Deeper – Boston Model**

Do we want to reach out to get more information?

✓ **Share at ESSA Meeting**

Do we want to move forward and use the two tools that would be included in accountability while the others would be resource for best practice for schools?

The need for career exposure needs to be at an earlier level.

Schools already work with Cognia so they are familiar however Cognia needs to improve their product. Even though it may not be a part of accountability, it is still important because they need these skills at the high school level.

It is important to work on the framework and allow for a pathway for students to go from elementary into the high school.

School administrators should look for the survey coming out on the feedback session for the purpose of improving the student engagement survey.

When minutes are sent, a survey will also be included for members to indicate the direction they wish this committee to move forward in. Please be as detailed as possible as this will be shared with the full ESSA group in October.

✓ **Ascertain Interest in Small Group Work on Framework**