

Iowa Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2023

Present: Wendy Andersen, Jennifer Anderson, Dawn Bonsall, Carrie Champine, Carol Cherne, Shawn Datchuk, Andrew Dewein, Casey Force, Lori Janke, Rhonda Hartz, Tami Hoffman, Jessica Iverson, Pam Litterer, Amy Llewellyn, Lee Longmire, Kim Neal, Sarah Norvell, Anne Michelle-Pedersen, Stephanie Smith, Karen Thompson, Rebecca Torres, Mary Jackson, Sandra Smith, Joel Weeks, and Doug Wolfe.

Absent: Joy Barlean, Johnna Deaton-Davis, Jimmy Graham, Amy Knupp, Keri Osterhaus, and Sonia Reyes.

Zoom: Rachel Terry

Department Staff Present: Barb Guy, Nancy Hunt, Beth Buehler-Sapp

Public Comment: None

Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Dawn Bonsall, Chair at 9:04 AM. Introductions were made around the room.

Consent Agenda

Minutes were reviewed by the panel members. Joel Weeks made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 2023 meeting. Shawn Datchuk seconded the motion. A vote was taken with no abstentions and the minutes were approved.

IDEA Differentiated Accountability: A Deep Dive into the Process – Mary Beilke and Tiffany Poage, Iowa Department of Education ([Slide Deck](#))

Mary and Tiffany gave a presentation regarding IDEA, Differentiated Accountability. They summarized the process, talked about the levels of support, the data review process and the professional learning packages for literacy.

They explained the Differentiated Accountability is Iowa's model designed to provide support for districts when and where they need it most. The model's primary focus is on improving educational results and functional outcomes for all students with disabilities and ensuring compliance with Part B.

A Desk Audit has an internal and external team and was expanded in 2016 to include additional indicators including Academic Success and Transition and an Implementation Support Rubric. The Rubric takes the measures and puts through modeling, similar to ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) using Comprehensive, Universal, and Targeted Instruction. Many of the districts have never

been involved in any data review processes before. It has been an informative educational experience for district staff.

SDI Framework was developed in 2015 by a group of over 100 stakeholders. Over the last 7 years, the DE and AEAs have been working together to design and deliver the SDI literacy learning packages (Preschool, K-6 Literacy, and Significant Disabilities) under the State Personnel Development Grant that Iowa received in 2015 (the grant ended in 2021 but the work has continued). These learning packages are the professional development districts will receive as part of IDEA-DA.

Iowa SDI (Specially Designed Instruction) consists of diagnosing and delivering SDI services to Iowa's students and families. This involves determining supports needed for students to be successful. It is important to have communication and collaboration with all of the individuals who work with and support a learner.

Currently, districts identified as needing level 2 supports are engaging in data review and implementation planning. Districts are also engaged in the professional learning packages and system coaching. The tools to support IDEA – DA data review and implementation planning will soon be available in ACHIEVE.

Focused Monitoring Review Questions – Barb Guy, Iowa Department of Education

This topic will be moved to the January meeting.

ACHIEVE Family Portal – Shannon Grundmeier ([Slide Deck](#))

Shannon provided an update on the progress of the Family Portal soon to be available in ACHIEVE. She also provided a demonstration of the tools available.

Recent Enhancements:

- **Child Search/Location Search:** results now include additional information and the location search will automatically default to the most recently searched location
- **PK to K IEPs:** all new IEPs for children age 4+ who have a grade level of PK will have the capability to include PK and K services based on the projected kindergarten start date
- **Consent to Release Information to/from Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services:** there now needs to be an approved consent on file to share information with IVRS
- **Forms Section:** new section on the Documentation page to include Manifestation Determination, Collection of Additional Information, and Functional Behavior Assessment

Launch of New ACHIEVE General Supervision Tools:

- **Continuous Improvement Tools**
 - IDEA-DA Implementation Plan: gradual release to Level 2 IDEA-DA districts Oct/Nov 2023
- **Data Management Tools**
 - Early Literacy Alternate Assessment (EL AA): launched July 2023
- **Specially Designed Instruction Tools**

- Iowa Literacy Observation Tool (ILOT): launched August 2023
- Framework Implementation Tool (FIT): launched November 2023
- Coach Self-Assessment (CSA): launched November 2023

Testing of the family portal took place in July and August through 13 sessions. There were 18 family members who participated in addition to individuals from the Department of Ed, ASK Resources and the AEA's.

Family testers appreciated the access to real-time progress monitoring data and they access to view information electronically 24/7. They also commented on the transparency and education on the IFSP/IEP processes. They liked that the system was intuitive and user-friendly and gave them the feeling of being included as an active member of the team. The testers also expressed appreciation in the amount of work that has gone into building the system.

Family-School Partnerships – Karen Thompson, ASK Resources ([Slide Deck](#)) ([Handouts: SDI Framework, Iowa SPDG Stoplight, Goals Together Partnership Report](#))

Karen Thompson, ASK Resources, provided information on the SPDG Family School Partnership. This is a follow up from the last time we offered this topic to the panel and included the history of the work and the timeline.

Karen shared the [SDI Framework](#) that was built over time with feedback from many stakeholders. The section of the framework in green, *Indicators that Support Engagement for Learning*, is where the work started. This section is about family and school partnerships for engaging learners. This focus became a strand within the larger SPDG grant that began in 2016. The dollars from the 6-year grant was used for this work with the focus on literacy.

A Design Team of 25-30 consisted of AEA staff, FEP Team (family educator partnership), Administrators, and parents were invited to join the work. During 20-17-18, the team worked on identifying promising practices and held a Think Tank. In 2018-19, the Goals for Partnership (GTP) project was launched and a project proposal was chosen. The usability sites began work in 2019-20. A model was designed for how a school family partnership could look.

The design team launched a survey around family and professional partnership.

1500 surveys were sent out and survey participation was as follows:

- Families completed 1071 surveys
- Teachers completed 391 surveys

22 building principals met to discuss the survey results and were invited to apply to partner on the process. 3 schools chose to participate. A Summit was held and leaders, teachers and families from these 3 buildings came together for training and to learn a bi-directional process.

The linked report provides details on the projects for the participating schools. Synonyms were used for the names of the schools as both what went well and what didn't go well is included in the reports.

Covid interrupted some of the plans for the projects. They were able to come up with the Tenets for Family School Partnership, a GTP Team (composition of the team and roles and responsibilities) and the GTP Implement team (composition of the team and roles and responsibilities).

Karen asked the Panel to review the projects and provide comments and suggestions.

Announcements

None

Future Agenda Items

Secondary Transition

Focused Monitoring Review Questions

Emerging Issues

None

Adjourn

Casey Force made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sandra Smith seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 3:01 pm.

2024 Upcoming Meeting Dates

January 12, 2024

February 23, 2024

April 5, 2024

May 10, 2024