FATA Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2017

9:00-11:00 Mission Inn

* Secondary Test Scheduling Best Practices (Columbia County)
  + Brevard—Find where most WAPs are and bring carts there to mass test students. It takes a lot of organization and teachers need to be on board. They tested close to 900 students in one day. They stagger the students and students take session 1 in the morning and session 2 in the afternoon.
  + Seminole—AM and PM sessions, can get through it in two days and then do the extended time students on different days. They have to adjust lunch schedules to make it work. They test in gyms, media, etc.
  + Lake does bag lunches for the students testing.
  + Pasco and St. Lucie have similar models.
  + Orange and Osceola suspend early release Wednesdays so they are able to test on Wednesdays.
  + Lake considered testing on Saturdays a few years ago and DOE said they would support that. They didn’t end up doing it but may have to consider it for next year.
* FSAA Graduation Requirements (Lake)
  + Unaware that these graduation requirements mirrored FSA and had to reprogram their SIS.
  + Paula asked DOE to add FSAA graduation requirements to the Florida’s Testing Graduation Requirements document but has not heard back yet.
  + FSAA EOCs can give credit if the student passes the EOC without taking the course.
* EOC Email from Parent
  + Shed light on how different the 30% is calculated across districts.
* Testing Requirements for Students Transferring from Hurricane Impacted Areas
  + DOE is supposed to update us at FOIL.
* Legislative Concerns
  + Going back to paper is still a concern. Paula heard that they are considering bringing to legislature to go with paper for all testing.
  + Spring 2019 testing schedule is a big concern since it will overlap with AP/IB/CTE/district EOCs, etc.
  + Schools of Hope are concerning to districts. Misconceptions are cropping up.
* FLKRS Best Practices
  + Pasco felt timeliness of response was not adequate. It was problematic to not have a district data file to download. Not sure why we got a file with students missing a FLE ID when they said we couldn’t put a student in the system without a FLE ID.
  + Marion had a lot of rostering issues. One school in their district had Star already and so the whole district was rostered without the district knowing about it and they sent a separate file which caused problems. It took a while for someone to get back to them to work on it.
  + For those that are Star districts, FLKRS data didn’t transfer because it is a test in isolation. They had to re-administer the assessment again to their students for it to be included in Star.
  + Columbia was able to get Renaissance to send them directions to export a file to import so they didn’t have to have their students test again.
* WIDA Screener
  + Marion is going to roll it out in January. The district is going to make the copies and their ESOL office is going out and training paras to administer.
  + Seminole has been using it for years. Their ESOL department handles it. Minnie Cardona is the contact person to speak to if interested in finding out more.
  + Lee county said it is a more time intensive test, but the results are good.
* School Improvement Learning Gains Update
  + Discussion of PERT counting for learning gains for math.
  + FSAA—they broke level 1 into 3 buckets and levels 2 and 3 into 2 buckets. They still have to make a rule and set cut scores.
* PERT Math Diagnostic
  + Lake just started using it and the teachers love it. It helps give students and teachers feedback on what the students need to work on.
  + Pasco uses it and they have had mixed reviews. Math has a lower and upper diagnostic and their 7 schools use the lower one but it seems too low and the upper seems too hard.
* Open Discussion
  + Sam Whitten mentioned that there are districts still not scheduling middle grade students in Algebra 1. He feels that if the students are placed in Algebra 1 they will pass the EOC. This is hurting school grades. Districts should try to change the culture and support these students being placed into Algebra 1.
  + Lake asked if 7th grade advanced math students should take the Grade 8 math FSA because those are the standards being taught. Osceola gives grade 8 and said most students get 4s and 5s. Brevard doesn’t want to give grade 8 because it could hurt learning gains.
  + Many districts are using the ACT School Day Non-College Reportable for concordant. Citrus is paying for their students to take it. Pasco is going to send letters to students who graduated with a certificate of completion to let them know about it. Marion had a 95% passing rate last year for the students who took it. They have juniors and seniors take it. Pasco is going to have students pay for it but will help those students who have a hardship, might be full, might be partial.
  + FATA Annual Meeting—we need a committee to work on planning the 2018 meeting. Neyda volunteered to chair and we need more people to step up. It involves planning and getting sponsors.
  + Test Hound would like to be a sponsor at our Annual Meeting next year. Their company would like to meet with districts, they have software to do test planning and they have scanning equipment. They are in Texas right now and are working with Sumter currently. They are beginning to come into Florida. They are willing to come to our Region 4 meeting and present.