Alternative Education Accountability

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MACAE Conference, October 19 2015
Agenda

• Introductions

• Brief History of Accountability in Alternative Education in Michigan

• Proposed System of Alternative Accountability

• General Q&A regarding Alternative Education, Accountability, Waivers, etc.
About YOU

• Who are you?

• Where are you from?

• What do you hope to accomplish by participating in this session?
Historical Perspective

• Alternative programs assessed in the same way as traditional programs; square peg in a round hole.

• Many of our students are sent to us so the traditional can avoid the students adverse effects on the accountability.

• Many alt schools shutter not long after conception due to their impact on the public perception of the hosting district.
Issues for Alt Schools Under Existing Accountability Programs

• Many alt ed schools currently not accountable as most students are not present long enough to be considered Full Academic Year (FAY)

• Many alt ed school currently not accountable because of their size
  – Currently Scorecards and Rankings require a minimum count of students alt ed just doesn’t have
Concerns with Alt Ed & Accountability

• Michigan law extends program offerings up to the age of 26.
• Scorecard/Rankings don’t “fit” since many alt students aren’t assessed.
• Alt students present for a short window—should they count for a school in reporting?
• Graduation rates for certificate/GED completers don’t count positively toward grad rates like they’re wanted to.
Another Way to Look at Alt Schools?

• While some concerns districts have re: alt schools cannot be alleviated due to federal law, with others we can work to change some things.
  – E.g., while we can’t suppress reporting of the fed cohort method’s district and alt ed school grad rates, we can change how we use them in accountability.
    • Attainment rate
    • Grad rate index
    • Other ideas?

★ Need to identify more fitting metrics and overall system for alternative schools...
How can we do that? **Pilot programs!**
Piloting an Alt Accountability System

• As part of Michigan’s approved ESEA Flexibility Waiver, MDE will pilot a new accountability system for alt schools.

• Increased interest in differentiated and flexible accountability across the state and country.

• Many states have successfully implemented full accountability systems for alternative schools...
  – E.g. Colorado (https://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/stateaccountabilityaecs)
Timeline

• 2015-16
  – Convene stakeholder workgroup
  – Run feasibility pilot with a sample of alt schools

• 2016-17
  – Run statewide pilot with application process using best methodologies from feasibility pilot results
  – Work with stakeholders and USED to determine final recommendations

• 2017-18
  – Operational system in place with USED approval
Alt Accountability Feasibility Pilot Program
2015-16 School Year

- Pre-determined sample of schools will have proposed metrics run for them.
- Metrics will be those identified by stakeholder workgroup.
- Approximately 10 alt schools will be piloted.
- Should be little/no assistance from school, depending on workgroup’s recommendations.
- Run using data from 13-14 school year or prior.
Schools in Feasibility Pilot
2015-16 School Year

- Ishpeming-Negaunee-NICE Comm. Ed. Division – 08864
- White Lake Area Community Ed. - 07704
- Eastside Detroit Lions Academy - 08925
- Covenant House Academy Detroit - Central Site - 09649
- Covenant House Grand Rapids - 02075
- Oxford Virtual Academy - 00784
- Swartz Creek Academy - 07465
- W-A-Y Niles – 01032
- Oakland Opportunity Academy - 00449
- Berrien Springs Virtual Academy - 00567
Statewide Pilot
2015-16 School Year

• Alt ed schools that meet certain eligibility requirements will have the pilot alternative accountability system computed for them
  – Examples of eligibility criteria:
    • 100% students reported with alt ed MSDS program participation code (9220)
    • School is in EEM with a school code
    • Has an “alt ed” school setting in the EEM
    • Has “Alternative Education” school emphasis in the EEM
Goal of the 2 Pilot Studies

• While still not perfect, these pilots will attempt to collect accountability data that better suits the alternative ed student.

• With stakeholder workgroup, we will iteratively run and fine tune an alt accountability system.

• Have a clearer picture of alt end school performance from less [traditional] data variables.

• Have a recommendation and proven method at the end of the second pilot.
Possible Alt. Measures

- Student Attendance or Chronic Absenteeism
- Reporting Compliance
- School Climate
- Student Test Participation
- Student Growth
- Career- and College-Readiness
- Parent Engagement
- Course Completion Rates
- Attainment or GAD Rates
- Postsecondary Enrollment
- Others?
Identify How to Combine and Display Data Components

• Apply each data variable to a rubric evaluating data component.

• Combine recommended/piloted data components
  – Point ranges/scales for each variable?

• Mock up dashboard or display for Alt. Ed. Data.
  – Preferably simple, clean display of selected metrics

• Finalize system and business rules for an operational run.
Sample Display

2014-15 Alternative Education School Scorecard
Tinkham Alternative Education - Wayne-Westland Community School District

Alternative Scorecard Status: ✔ Meets Expectations

Total Points Earned Overall: 1100/1200

Attendance: 68%

Attainment: 68%

Course Completion: 68%

Other Academic Indicator: 68%

Assessment Participation: 68%

Student Growth: 68%
Questions?
Thank you!

Don’t hesitate to call or e-mail with questions.

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– www.michigan.gov/alted - MDE Alternative Education information