

Assessment Committee Update and Recommendation

March 24, 2015

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Overview

- Context: SUSD contract, Az Standards & Assessment
- Purpose of the Assessment Committee
- Members of the Assessment Committee
- Timeline of the Committee's Work
- Committee's Learning and Need for Feedback
- Data to Support Recommendation
- Committee's Recommendation
- Discussion

Context

- * The contract with our assessment vendor, ATI, expires at the end of the 2014-15 school year.
- * State assessment and accountability is changing in AZ.
- * There are many unknowns (i.e. will AzMerit have benchmark assessments for purchase, how will student learning performance on AzMerit impact teacher classification, the future of pre/post tests for teacher classification in SUSD, etc).

Purpose of the Assessment Committee

- Develop criteria for an assessment tool that meets the needs of SUSD educators and stakeholders
- Create an RFP based on the criteria (scope of work, evaluation criteria, etc)
- Participate in the review of proposals and vendor presentations
- Recommend an assessment tool that meets the needs of SUSD educators and stakeholders

Members of the Assessment Committee

Voting Members:

- One teacher from each school recruited by SEA president
- Five site administrators representing each learning community and level (ES, MS, HS) recruited by SAA president
- Two district administrators (SPED, Safe & Supportive Schools Specialist/PBIS coach) recruited by District leadership
- Three district Teachers on Assignment (K-5 ELA, 6-12 math and ELL) recruited by District leadership

Facilitators (non-voting)

- President of SEA
- Executive Director of Instructional Services
- Executive Director of Elementary & Assessment
- Executive Director of Secondary & Assessment
- Director of Curriculum
- Student Testing Coordinator

Timeline of Committee's Work

- January 22, 2015 (2 hours)
- February 11, 2015 (6 hours)
- February 24, 2015 (2 hours)
- March 3, 2015 (2 hours)

**The State Department of Education adopted AzMerit as the state's ELA and math assessment in December 2014*

Summary of Committee's Learning

- Teachers assess student learning in many ways
- Assessment data is used by a variety of stakeholders for a variety of reasons including:
 - to guide instruction and school improvement
 - guide professional development
 - comply with state and federal mandates (K-3 Move On When Reading, K-12 Pre and Post Tests for Teacher Classification)
- Assessment data is *not* used by a variety of stakeholders for a variety of reasons including:
 - misalignment of test questions to what has been taught
 - tests provided by vendors are not indicators of what students know
 - lack of trust in the vendor

Committee had a decision to make

- Continue with purpose and goals of the committee to develop criteria for an RFP, and selection of an assessment vendor in 2015-16

OR

- Continue with current vendor for one year, 2015-16, waiting to learn more about the status of Az academic standards, state assessments and accountability

Committee Developed Survey to Gather Feedback

February 27

a survey was sent to teachers
and administrators to gather their
feedback

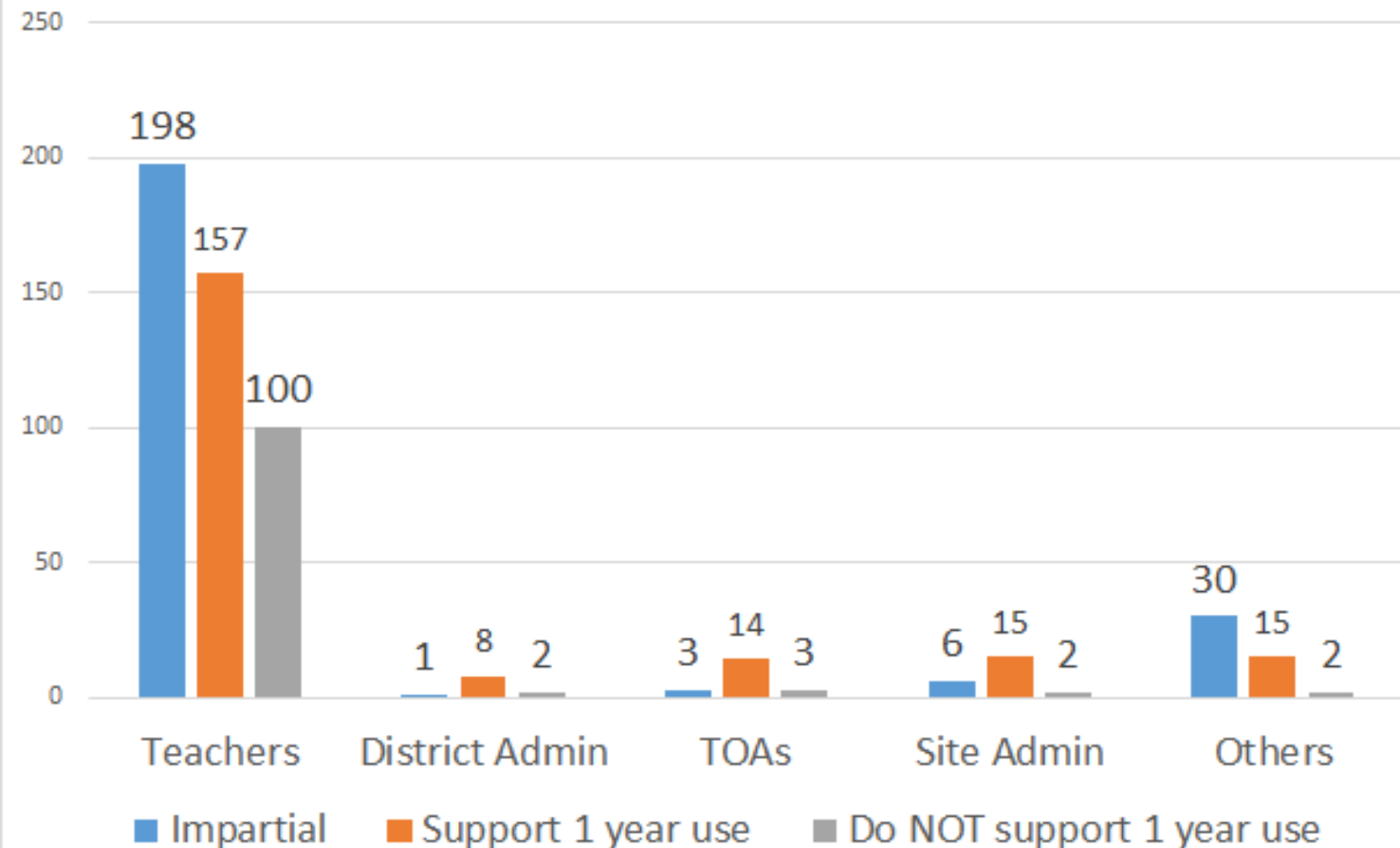
March 3

committee reviewed survey results

Survey Results

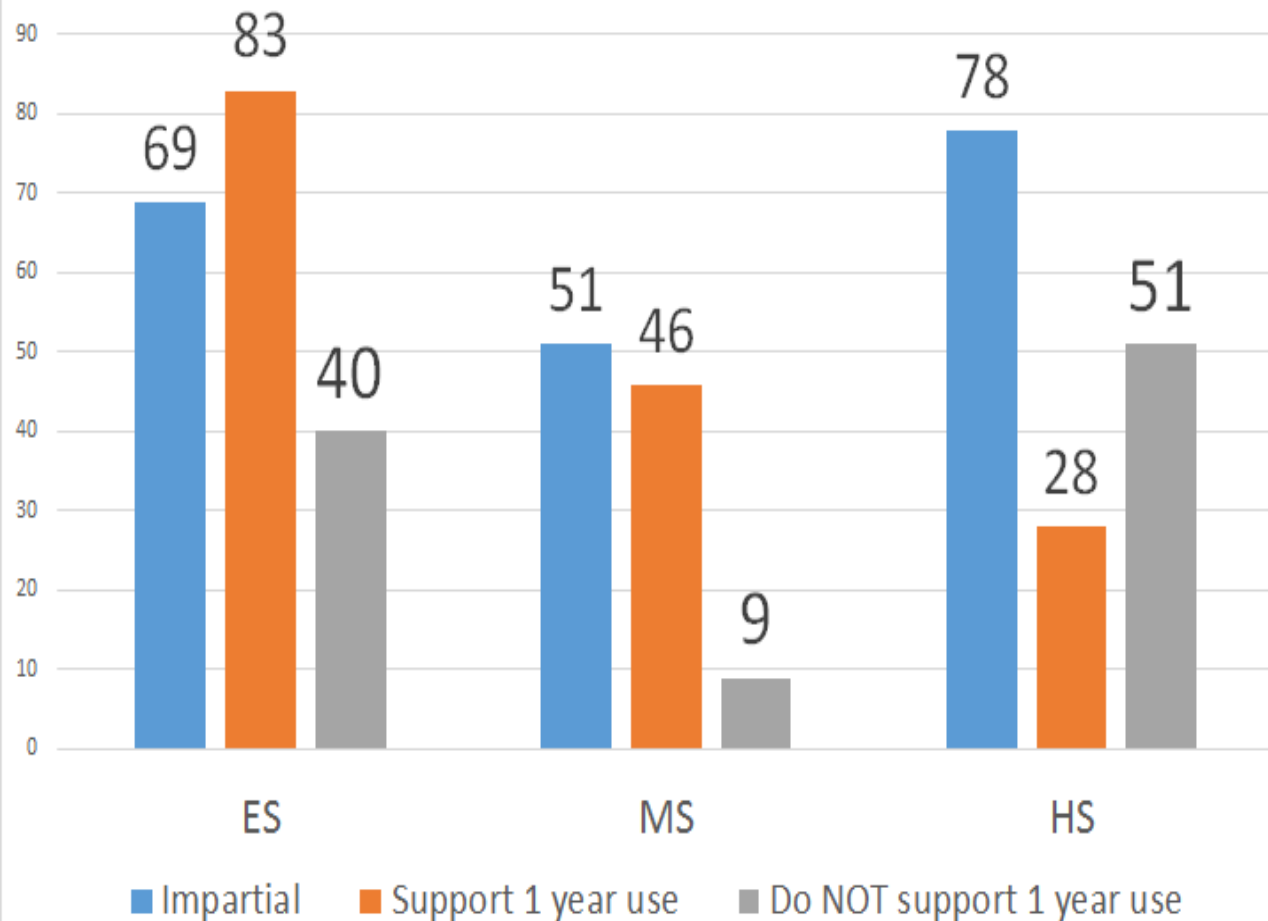
Survey Results

Overall Data



455 Teachers
11 District Admin
20 TOAs
23 Site Admin
47 Other

Teacher Breakdown



Breakdowns

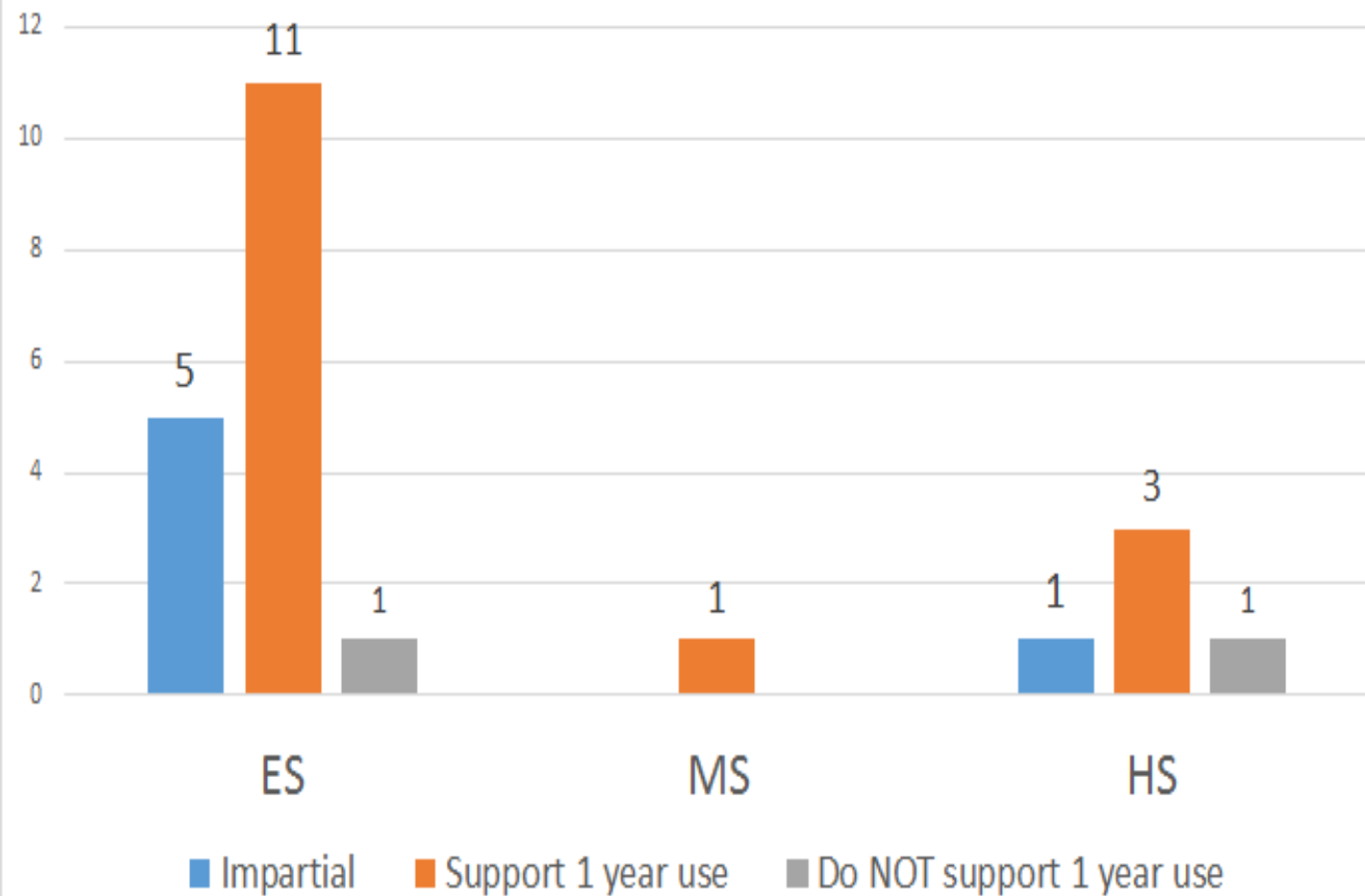
ES- 192

MS- 106

HS- 157

Site Admin Breakdown

Breakdown



Committee Recommendation

The Assessment Committee has taken on the task to look at what future assessment tools (for pre/posts, benchmarks, etc...) will look like in SUSD since the ATI/Galileo contract is expiring June 2015. It has become abundantly clear that different levels have different needs. Based on the time spent researching, discussing, and reflecting on the different purposes and types of assessments, the committee is recommending to extend ATI for only one year as a sole source to satisfy State and Federal compliance requirements.

The variables that influenced the committee's decision are listed below.:

- ❖ More time for the state to finalize the current AzMerit cut scores, performance levels and accountability*
- ❖ Fiscal responsibility to avoid spending money on a program, and time for training, that may or may not support our needs and state regulations*
- ❖ SUSD to remain in compliance with state and federal mandates (Move on When Reading, Teacher Classification, Student Growth, etc.)*
- ❖ More time for research about assessment and options*
- ❖ More time to gather feedback, so we can be most thoughtful in making recommendations.*

Current pricing for ATI, SUSD's current assessment vendor

- 2010 contract agreement \$8 per student
- 2014-2015
 - \$191,400 total
 - \$8 per student, 23,952 yearly enrollment based on mid September Synergy report
 - Capital override funds are allocated for this expense

Next Step

April 14, 2015:

Consent agenda item requesting the SUSD governing board for a one year contract extension

Discussion