

ELL Task Force
ELSWD Subcommittee, 4-24-19
Summary of Discussion Issues

Present: John Mudd, Cindie Neilson, Kim Tsai, Ellen Kelleher

1. Review and approval of Minutes

The group reviewed and approved the minutes of the meeting of March 20, 2019.

2. Summary of Data Issues Discussed

Cindie reviewed the new data that had been prepared for the subcommittee and highlighted a number of issues.

She was particularly concerned with the large number of Latinos identified as LD, and raised the question of whether this reflected a misdiagnosis of speech problems that were in fact based in language.

There are also a large number of children being diagnosed with autism, especially in K0-K2.

There are in addition a large number of EL/DD students moving from substantially separate settings into inclusion settings. This raises questions about whether they are getting appropriate language support to deal with their disabilities, or what they are moving, or what?

[Please correct these specific examples included in the draft as necessary.]

3. Summary of Key Issues for Potential Pilot Projects

There are a number of key issues raised by the data that require further analysis and discussion in the development of pilot projects in the future:

Are there groupings of students by disability, grade level, language and ELD level in individual schools that could/should be the focus of pilot projects?

Are there numbers of students by language, disability, and level that could be grouped at the district level as the focus of a district-level pilot project or projects?

Cindie raised the issue of whether it might be better to focus our attention on Resource Room supports for students, rather than on students in substantially separate classrooms. She noted that we could reach more students that way and proposed we take a deeper dive into that potential focus for our efforts. She said she would gather additional data relevant to this possibility for our next meeting, such as breaking out data on Resource Room students by school. The question then: What would be the options for providing access to native language in these pull-out settings?

4. Summary of current practices

The group discussed whether it would be possible for Ellen to expand on the material that she had provided to the subcommittee and develop some descriptions (vignettes) of the ways that innovative schools have patched together approaches to provide access to native language for current ELSWD students. She said she would try.

Kim said she would ask Priya if she knew of model classrooms that could be used in this effort.

There were suggestions that teachers who had been successful in working with ELSWD students could receive stipends to present their strategies to other teachers.

These materials could also be used for presentation at the next Principals Institute in August.

5. Change next meeting date

Because of conflicts, the group decided to change the next meeting from May 15 to May 20 at 4:00.

6. Public Comment

There were no representatives of the public present at the meeting, and, therefore, no public comment.