

## Broad Based Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

The second meeting of the year for the Broad-Based Planning Committee was held in the White Oak Large Professional Development Room. Members in Attendance: Amy Beliles, Savannah Hwang, Kristen Hwang, Malari Williams, Jackson Williams, Julie Stevens, Janet Craig, Andrea Brown, Jessica Guerrero, Damon Guerrero, ChiaYee Ang, Ethan Hemphill, Parker Hemphill, Susi Clark, Holly Barker, Amy Maharas, Lori Taylor, Melissa Beeker, Amanda Ramirez, Emily Garrett, Matt Hines, Jenny Shayotovich, Dr. Sarah Pies and Barb Marcotte.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Dr. Sarah Pies. Sarah thanked everyone for coming on such a cold and dark evening to talk about high ability. Tonight's topic is Data Dive. We are going to review numbers from the IDOE and Avon Schools. We will also work on high ability programming for our new grade bands of Kindergarten through Grade 5, Grades 6 through Grade 8, and Grades 9 through Grade 12.

At the last meeting, we looked at high ability and how we identify students. We want to break down barriers. One of the possible barriers could be the letter that we send parents notifying them of the selection of their student for the high ability program. In the past we required a permission slip to place students in the high ability program. This could also be seen as a barrier for parents. Schools and the administration office have been following up with families to collect these, but not always successful. Dr. Pies drafted a new letter for the committee to review, removing the barrier of returning a permission slip. Neighboring school districts and the IDOE do not require a permission slip for high ability placement. Parents may complete an exit form if they do not want their student in high ability classes. Appeal forms will also be available for families on our website, who wish to file an appeal for their student to be in high ability classes.

Grant funding for NWEA testing will be ending soon from the state. The State of Indiana has incorporated a new through-year assessment system with the ILEARN Checkpoints. The ILEARN Checkpoints are given three times throughout the year in grades 3-8, with the assessments varying by grade and subject. Next year parents will be able to see how well their student is doing throughout the school year in a parent portal. Avon Schools is piloting the program this year and we have completed two of the three Checkpoints so far. A student will receive an Overall Performance score of below, approaching, at, or above proficiency for each Checkpoint. Within each Checkpoint are Subdomains, which are comprised of two or three different academic standards. The Checkpoints will compare the student's score with district and state norms. School districts will have a window of a couple of months to take Checkpoints.

Next on the Agenda is a review of Winter 2024 NWEA ELA and Math data for students who are high ability and students not identified at high ability; and the results comparing their scores to the ILEARN Checkpoint 1 State and District percentiles. A note catcher was given to members to review the data and capture their initial thoughts. Time was then given for members to work in small groups to discuss their review of the data.

The Top Ten skills of 2023 were shared with the group. How can we help our students social and emotional growth skills by practicing these skills? A reverse brainstorm activity had the group define a problem, reverse the problem, collect ideas, reverse the ideas to find solutions. How do we increase achievement and growth in our high ability students? The committee was divided into three groups (high school, middle school and elementary). Time was given to collaborate and complete the worksheets given. One person would be responsible for reporting out to the group. The high school's topic was finding a good balance for collaborative work to maintain meaningful homework. The middle school's topic was self-driven select projects, where students can use alternative methods to complete their assignment. The elementary group wanted more choice and tools needed for cluster classrooms and a greater understanding of cluster teaching. Could we possibly get a guest speaker to discuss cluster teaching? This would be valuable for all teachers, not just high ability teachers. Communication is the answer – with parents, staff and students.

Our next meeting will be on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. As an exit ticket, please use a post-it note and list what you would like on the agenda for the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.