



DATA STRATEGIC ACTION TEAM
May 29, 2013; 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
NH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION
WORKSHOP SESSION SUMMARY

Those in attendance: Lance Gilman, Bill Hurtwich, Sallie Fellows, Irene Koffink, Sudha Sharma, Amy Slattery, Dan Shepard, Ken Gu, Peg Votta, Heidi Hedegard, J.P. Beaudoin, and Duke Albanese. Chuck Martie joined the meeting via conference call.

The workshop session was called to order at 9:42 AM, and the agenda was reviewed. It was noted that several members of the Team were unable to attend due to last minute conflicts.

As is customary, a sharing roundtable ensued with members updating the group on the latest data activities and important happenings in the respective states. Updates included the recent announcement that Secretary of Education Armando Vilaseca of Vermont would be leaving his position; the supportive and education-focused state of the state address by Governor Shumlin of Vermont; governance structural changes in the University of New Hampshire System; the anticipation of a new chancellor for the UNH system; progress, in baby steps, regarding the sharing of data between K-12 and the collegiate level in NH through P-16 indicators group; NH still waiting on a federal waiver request for ESEA; the merger of the higher education and K-12 governing boards in Rhode island; enabling legislation in R.I. regarding the sharing of education and labor data; Maine's governor's executive order to develop and release a school report card and grading system; final negotiations with Feds on Maine's ESEA waiver request including the Fed's take and rejection of using 4 year and 5 year graduation rates (only 4 year approved); the positive reaction to Maine's data warehouse; student performance still a sticking point in Maine's teacher effectiveness plan; Maine Department of Labor's work on data with state's colleges and universities; Connecticut's progress on the SLDS, slowed by prior vendor, but now reworking a new model; data sharing between CT Department of Labor and Board of Regents for Higher Education; progress on other fronts including major data summit with school districts and the CT SDE.

The agenda turned to a work session led by NESSC Data Coordinator J.P. Beaudoin of Research in Action, Inc. J.P. proceed to review a draft format of the NESSC Annual Data Profile for 2012-13 (See attached.) that will succeed the past Technical Report layout completed by the Donahue Institute at UMass. J.P. shared the data as submitted, profiling it with basic graphs, guiding questions, and bulleted data summary suggestions. A lengthy conversation followed as Team members commented on the format and content. Intended to inform the next iteration, J.P. welcomed feedback and conversation.

Lunch: 12:10 - 12:30 PM

The workshop resumed with J.P. Beaudoin reviewing the measures on high school graduation and dropouts before moving to post-secondary measures. To this point, the collection, analysis, and display of data for graduation and dropouts adhered to the business rules in the Procedural Guidebook as adopted at the February 26, 2013 meeting of the Data Team. Before moving to college measures, J.P. noted that the final 2012-2013 Annual Data Profile would include, in the Appendices Section, additional sub-group data, in table form, beyond the Low Income analysis - e.g. racial and ethnicity data.

Regarding the post-secondary measures, it was noted that NESSC had worked hard to coordinate with the National Student Clearinghouse to identify a common request period to access college going data. Prior conversations with NSC and among NESSC Data Team members indicated that such coordination would result in better data and more comparability. For this reason, a February window was recommended by NSC for NESSC states to request their data.

Discussion turned to the business rules guiding college persistence. A lengthy exchange ensued as Team members shared their views on the best way to collect this data. The NESSC work on developing a college readiness index based on a working definition and multiple measures helped to inform the conversation. The group was reminded that the NESSC work, which the Data Team has shaped and passed on to the Council uses a college readiness definition of a 2.5 GPA and 24 credit hours earned OR enrollment in the 3rd semester. It was further noted that nationally, collegiate institutions use enrollment in the 3rd semester as a benchmark for college persistence -- students are on their way to earning a college degree.

At this point in the discussion, J.P. had to leave in order to catch a flight to Mississippi.

In the end, the consensus for capturing and reporting data on College Persistence was 1) to combine students pursuing 2 and 4 year degrees into one measure; 2) use students who graduated with a regular diploma in the subject year (irrespective of cohort) who subsequently enrolled in college by October 15 of that same year and are still enrolled in college the following October 15th. It was agreed that this decision would be conveyed to J.P. Beaudoin so that he could incorporate it in the revised NESSC Procedural Guidebook, which he would send out to Team members and states. The subsequent submitted data for College Persistence would follow these guidelines and eventually be published by Research in Action in the NESSC 2012-13 Annual Data Profile.

IMPORTANT NOTE: In conversation with J.P. Beaudoin after the meeting, it was recognized that the discussion on college persistence raised some good points as NESSC examines this measure as one of several indicators of efforts to strengthen secondary schools across the states. However, in light of the agreed upon submission date of May 15, the contract with Research in Action, Inc, and the time/financial restraints, it is necessary to adhere to the NESSC Guidebook and business rules, approved in February 2013 and used for the May 15 data submission. Next year the Data Team and J.P. can discuss and plan forward for any desired changes in capturing the data on our key metrics.

The workshop session concluded with a discussion of possible media coverage of the work of the NESSC Data Team.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Duke Albanese