

Gifted Indicator Work Group Minutes

March 26, 2014

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Work Group Members Present

Tom Ash, Colleen Boyle, Matt Cohen, Jamie Meade, Ann Sheldon, Wendy Stoica, Michael Tefs, Chris Woolard

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Chair Chris Woolard called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., welcoming all work group members and guests. Chris asked for any comments or corrections to the March 18th meeting minutes. There were none, and the minutes were approved.

Review of Meeting #1

During the first meeting of the Gifted Indicator Work Group, the context of the work was discussed, and ODE staff were asked to return with several sets of data for review. Ann Sheldon was asked to open this meeting with a review of Ohio Association for Gifted Children's (OAGC) concerns and suggested policy considerations. Ann distributed handouts and gave a general overview of the material. The OAGC handouts are available for review on the ODE website at the link provided on the last page of this document.

Discussion on Indicator Framework

Chris led a discussion around whether Gifted Progress, Gifted Performance, and Gifted Inputs are the correct headings. A question was raised about the definition of "inputs". Matt Cohen explained that the statute reads "based on opportunities provided," though "inputs" is generally considered to mean "identification and service." Work group members discussed the possibility of using "achievement" rather than "performance" and the need for uniformity in the language. ODE staff will research what language is used where, and report back to the group. Once the appropriate headings are agreed-upon, the group can dig deeper into the issues within each heading.

Matt reviewed handouts showing teacher value-added results by grade and subject and prior achievement level of students. Based on analysis of school level data, this review looked at how schools with high-achieving students are doing on value-added. SAS was asked to look at detail from the perspective of individual teachers, particularly the top ten percent of teachers who had the students with the highest prior achievement, then determine what is the distribution in terms of value-added for those teachers. For those teachers, one fifth to one half are in the highest category of value-added. Matt noted that this was strong evidence that our value-added measure does not create a bias against schools or teachers who have high performing students. Individual teachers can explore this further in the EVAAS system.

Matt and Chris reviewed information about distributions of buildings and districts by type within the gifted value-added grade, gifted performance index, gifted achievement index, and other comparisons. A proposed point system for gifted inputs was reviewed and discussed, as well. Matt reiterated that the responsibility to establish the threshold falls to the State Board of Education. The goals of an indicator framework remain that it be easy to compute and a system that is difficult to manipulate. Additional goals identified include:

- ✓ Should be able to accommodate additional measures of results as they become available in the future
- ✓ Must clearly identify which groups of students are being measured
- ✓ Must be able to differentiate what it means to be doing well
- ✓ Should strive to make the incentives explicit
- ✓ Must make the system fair to all types of districts

The group discussed an option to submit their recommendations with a statement saying the gifted performance index should be reviewed after new assessments are in place, and cut scores revisited at that time if necessary. Also reviewed was the use of grade bands. After much discussion, it was agreed that ODE will be bring additional data to help the group decide if the bands are broken at the right grade levels.

Next Steps and Adjournment

At the April 2nd meeting the team will preview the gifted dashboard and review data on ID rates. Additional discussions will include where to make the cut on grade bands and whether current inputs are correct or if accelerations are needed. Chair Woolard adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Next meeting dates: April 2, May 1, May 7 – all meetings are scheduled for 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Materials reviewed during the March 26, 2014 Gifted Indicator Work Group meeting are available at <http://education.ohio.gov/State-Board/Committees/State-Board-Accountability-Committee-Meetings/Gifted-Indicator-Workgroup>