

EMIS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) Grant Workgroup Agenda

Location	Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams
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Date	Tuesday, August 25, 2020; 2:00pm-3:30pm
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Facilitators	David Ehle**	Marianne Mottley**		
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Attendees	Alex Ahlers	Jamie Hamilton	Bethany Lopez	Amy Szymanski
	Crystal Aker	Stephanie Heidenreich	Karen Meister	Bill Wagner
	Jeremy Beardmore	Lee Herman	Helen Mills	Alice Weygandt
	Jim Collins	Kirsten Hill**	Amber Myers**	Judy Williams
	Greg Cosimi	Brian Jettinghoff	Michelle Reid	Teresa Williams
	Scott Davie	Heather Keating	Kim Rhoads Atwell**	Graham Wood
	Lenee Giuliano	Kylea Kimmerly	Ben Richards**	
	Jackson Haas	Dara LaForest	Ryan Shively**	
	Sue Hall	Carrie Long	Mindy Sturm	

** Indicates the workgroup member is also on the EMIS Advisory Council.

Agenda Items	Facilitator	Approx. Start Time
Welcome/Introduction to Microsoft Teams/Roll Call	David Ehle	2:00
SLDS Grant Introduction, including ODDEX enhancements	David Ehle	2:10
Overview of Grad Requirements	Graham Wood	2:30
Overview of Early Warning Systems	Amy Szymanski	2:40
Subgroup Discussions		2:50
Next EAC Workgroup Meeting	David Ehle	3:20
Additional Opportunity- SLDS Stakeholder Focus Groups	David Ehle	3:25
Adjournment	David Ehle	3:30

Meeting Minutes

Welcome/Introduction to Microsoft Teams/Roll Call

- The meeting was called to order by David Ehle at 2:03pm.
- The first order of business was roll call. All members were present except for Jim Collins, Lenee Giuliano, Jamie Hamilton, Lee Herman, Bethany Lopez, Karen Meister, Michelle Reid, Amy Azymanski, and Judy Williams.
- Department staff introduced themselves, and David Ehle offered guidance and best practices on how to use Microsoft Teams and the its functionality. He explained that later in the meeting, the group would break out into subgroups for discussion and each group would have a facilitator and note taker before coming back together in the full group to offer final comments and adjournment.

SLDS Grant Introduction, including ODDEX enhancements

- The SLDS workgroup was established at the EMIS Advisory Council in June 2020. This grant was awarded to the Department this spring and involves four projects related to the use of data, in support of ODE's strategic plan.
- In the grant, the EMIS Advisory Council is listed as a source of input/feedback of implementing the grant, especially for project #3. Project #3, led by David Ehle, focuses on using data to identify students at risk of not graduating.
- This workgroup will meet for the next two school years to provide input and feedback on how to enhance the existing system and data sets, develop reports on progress towards graduation, and develop an Early Warning System related to likelihood of graduating.
- This workgroup will meet two to three times per year to discuss using data to identify students at-risk of not graduating. As part of this, the Department is also creating focus groups that will help with detailed design of different parts of the system.
 - One focus group will look at progress towards graduation and this group will be used to help understand the audience for this report. Another focus group will look at ODDEX to help determine how to integrate the data into ODDEX.
 - Participants on this workgroup can volunteer for as many focus groups as they want. Other individuals will also offer input and assistance. If any member of this current workgroup would like to nominate someone they feel would have good input for these focus groups, please feel free to send nominations to Taylor Beougher or David Ehle. On September 2, 2020, there will be a meeting to preview the focus groups.
- David discussed the three main parts to the grant include:
 - **Part 1 is to enhance the system ODDEX and EMIS.**
 - For this, student claiming will be enhanced. The goal is to get to 15 minutes from when a student is entered to be able to see things like credits earned towards graduation, state assessment scores, graduation cohort, are they in a special program, etc.
 - **Part 2 is collecting more data**
 - ODE will add the collection of course grades this year and graduation seals. They also will collect progress towards earning credits. Attendance will be collected across the school year and not just at the end of the year.
 - **Part 3 is adding report functionality**

- David explained today's reports are pretty generic, but we will add some PDF reports that have more functionality. One is a series of reports that will center on the progress towards graduation. Another is a calculation of risk/early warning system related to likelihood of graduating on time.

Overview of Grad Requirements

- Graham Wood explained the progress towards graduation tool that will be created. The main focus is on the permanent requirements for the Class of 2023 and beyond, but they will include options for the Classes of 2021 and 2022. He went through the graduation requirements for the Class of 2023 – course requirements, demonstration of competency and demonstration of readiness.
- Most districts are using some type of early warning system to help understand who is at risk of not graduating. This grant will help formalize that process and make it part of a routine, using data to identify that a student is not on track or at risk of not graduating.

Overview of Early Warning Systems

- Next, David explained the symptoms of kids not graduating, which include the “ABCs”— Attendance, Behavior and Course Performance.
- The goal is to identify risk and put together some interventions to help mitigate that risk and also monitor response to the interventions.

Subgroup Discussions

- The workgroup broke into 3 subgroups to provide some initial feedback on the SLDS plans. The discussion was focused on 3 questions, and the workgroup members were divided into administrator, EMIS, and counselor subgroups.

Question 1: In the context of your role in your organization, what are the current day to day challenges you face in understanding where students stand on their progress towards graduation and likelihood of graduation? Think of this as “current state”- what are the problems where we may be able to assist you and your students in being successful?

- The administrator group commented that
 - JVSJs have trouble keeping track of the status of the students from many partner schools
 - It is difficult to get a district-wide view of graduation progress
 - Chances for error increase when compiling information by hand and it is less efficient than being able to pull from the SIS
 - Making information easy for parents and students to understand is challenging
 - It is confusing to remember that standing is based on the year when a student entered 9th grade
 - Using a system based on locally created documents makes it difficult to consistently track transient students
 - Nearly all have a system of some sort to track progress towards graduation, but only about half have some type of early warning system
- The EMIS group commented that
 - Most reports don't take transfer data into account- have to look carefully to determine status
 - There is lots of apprehension about seals and progress towards earning them

- The counselor group commented that
 - As students near graduation, it is currently easier to track on paper
 - The SIS does not give a reliable status for each student
 - It is a challenge to get all of the relevant data entered and checked for accuracy
 - We have information, but limited time to plan and give enough lead time for students
 - Parents trust the counselors to get the students to graduation
 - Current requirements and the number of options are too complicated for parents to understand
 - It is especially challenging for JVSDs since each home school tracks information differently

Question 2: Now that you have heard some of the information about this SLDS project, what excites you about the potential for the project? Be as specific as you can- what, if implemented, could be the best things since sliced bread when it comes to helping districts and staff help students reach graduation? What about the project concerns you- where do you see challenges or outcomes that may not be as helpful?

- The administrator group commented that
 - They already have a system in their SIS that does some of the graduation tracking, but having everything in one place would be wonderful
 - Being able to see all the information- academics, behavior, attendance- in one place and as it changes over the years will be helpful
 - The system would make it possible to see and applaud the successes and to fix the weaknesses related to graduation progress across the district
 - Knowing where interventions are needed (such as summer school credit recovery) would be helpful for planning
 - Want to make sure this data is used internally and collaboratively, and does not become another competition with friends and neighbors
- The EMIS group commented that
 - It will be exciting to see the data and progress to find errors before graduation
 - For class of 2023 and beyond, will help to make sure kids are meeting criteria
 - They are concerned about how often the reports will be updated
 - Potentially viewing middle school students will be helpful for helping students earlier
- The counselor group commented that
 - The potential to have everything accurate and in one spot would be great
 - It would be helpful and more efficient with transfer students
 - The coding must be consistent and accurate or we will just use paper; the electronic system must be 100% trustworthy
 - Need help understanding the seals, and making sure they are coded correctly
 - It would be helpful to understand how my district compares to others

Question 3: What other ideas do you have that could help districts and schools better serve students as they work towards graduation? When you volunteered for this workgroup, were there new products or services that you hoped to hear about that do not appear to be in our initial plans?

- The administrator group commented that ODDEX is a hidden gem- the more we can have schools using a common process and framework, the better. Most of the data is

already being reported, so compiling it and giving one place where everyone knows to go to access it would be helpful.

- The EMIS group did not have any comments
- The counselor group did not have any comments

Next Steps/Adjournment

- The next workgroup meeting will be scheduled for late November/early December. Workgroup members can expect to receive date/time options for the next meeting from Taylor Beougher.
- The meeting adjourned at 3:26pm.