Alternative School Accountability

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In 2015, the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) was directed to develop a framework for alternative school accountability.

- Goal: a model that yields a more accurate representation of alternative school performance than what is provided with WY’s current state accountability model for all schools.
Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA)

• Components of high school accountability under WAEA:
  - Achievement (based on composite ACT score)
  - Growth (Student Growth Percentiles)
  - Equity (consolidated subgroup)
  - Readiness
    - 9th grade credits earned (over credits required)
    - High school graduation rate
    - Tested readiness (based on Explore, Plan, ACT)
    - Eligibility for state scholarship (4 levels)
Framework for Alternative Schools

• Designed by committee of alternative school principals and superintendents, WDE staff, and the Center for Assessment

• Components of alternative school accountability will include:
  ❖ Academic Performance
  ❖ Attainment/Readiness
  ❖ Climate
  ❖ Engagement
Visual of Framework for Alternative Schools

- Overall Performance
  - Academic Performance
    - Student Achievement
    - Growth
  - Readiness
    - Credit Earning
    - Attainment
  - Climate
    - Climate Survey
  - Engagement
    - Student Success Plan (includes attendance)
  - Other Indicators
    - Hathaway
    - Graduation
A Deeper Look: Academic Performance

- **Achievement**
  - The same measures used for general school accountability will be used for alternative school accountability, but the cut scores may be different (spring 2018)

- **Growth**
  - The same growth model used for general school accountability will be used for alternative school accountability
A Deeper Look: 
Attainment/Readiness

• Based on “exit outcomes” for alternative school students:
  ❖ Graduation (including extended time)
  ❖ High School Equivalency Exam (HSEC)
  ❖ Transfer to eligible post-secondary program (i.e. Job Corps)
  ❖ Eligibility for state scholarship (4 levels)
  ❖ Post-Secondary Credits Earned* (applied to graduates only)
  ❖ Career/Industry Certification* (can apply to graduates or non-completers)

• Also includes credits earned over credits attempted each year
A Deeper Look: Attainment/Readiness (continued)

• Point value assigned to each exit outcome, for example:
  - Student graduates: 100
  - Student transfers to post-secondary program: 80
  - Student earns HSEC: 60
  - Student drops out: 0

• Point value also assigned for each level of state scholarship (4 levels)
A Deeper Look: Attainment/Readiness (continued)

*Bonus points earned if students:

- Earn post-secondary credits while enrolled in alternative school (AP/IB, Dual/Concurrent, etc.)
- Earn an industry certification while enrolled in alternative school
- Other

Value of bonus points and cap amount TBD
A Deeper Look: Climate

• 20-question online student survey (4-point Likert scale) covering student perception about:
  ❖ Trust
  ❖ Respect
  ❖ High Expectations
  ❖ Support

• One open-ended question: “Is there anything else you want to tell us about your experience at this school?”
A Deeper Look: Engagement

- Initially considered using attendance rates, but logistics for collection and reporting, in addition to data security concerns, proved to be insurmountable at this time.
- Instead, Engagement (including attendance) will be addressed through a Student Success Plan.
Student Success Plan

• Students assigned to mentor who will help them set goals through a Student Success Plan (SSP)

• Components of the SSP will include:
  - Student goals and interests (including attendance goal)
  - Academic history
  - Attendance rate and history
  - Post-secondary plans and preparation activities
Student Success Plan (continued)

• Used to provide relevant feedback and set actionable goals
• Mentor will meet with assigned student at least twice per year
• Assurance signed by principal and sent to state
• SSPs kept on file at alternative school
• Formally reviewed as part of 5-year accreditation process
Implementation Timeline

• First Pilot 2016-17 School Year (hold harmless)
• Refine during spring/summer 2017
• Second Pilot 2017-18 School Year (hold harmless)
• Refine during spring/summer 2018
• Set cut scores during spring/summer 2018
• Full Implementation 2018-19 School Year
Questions?

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