

Notes from Educational Options Council Meeting: November 20, 2008

NCLB and Algebra

Federal Programming: Obama has made it clear that there will be emphasis on Special Ed, Quality teachers, preschool, and secondary education as a transition to career & college. We have a special opportunity to work with our affiliates in DC to put a different face on how the Federal Government should work with education. At present there is significant “micro-management” of categorical programs. This will be discussed with the new administration.

Release of new Title I regulations: Increased focus on graduation rate reporting. States will now have to demonstrate how they calculate these rates. This will work better when we have CalPADS & CSIS online.

- a. **SubGroup Aggregation:** For NCLB purposes, we will have to report total grad rate and sub-group grad rate. This will trigger districts, schools, etc., into PI based on reported grad rate.
- b. **Corrective Action:** Approximately 150 school district now in corrective action. EL proficiency & special education are the particular issues.

Algebra I: Board approved a modified blueprint for those students that have not yet taken Algebra I. Feds are convinced that there must be an 8th grade Algebra I standard. At present integrative mathematics curriculum is still permitted. However, in May the governor pushed Algebra I to be a standard in 8th grade.

- b. **Outcome – ACSA Lawsuit:** ACSA filed a lawsuit – it charges that the meeting & agenda was not posted as required by law. Also the State Board does not have the authority to modify state standards. In fact, you can take Geometry or even Trigonometry in the 8th grade. Only the State Legislature has the authority to change Content Standards for a given grade. The case is now on hold. The Judge will rule on 12/19/08.
- c. **Survey:** There will be a Zoomerang Survey on math needs.

ASAM Review: The Board will approve the basic revision by July 2009.

Budget Updates

- **What’s going on with budget?** Early in November the Governor called special meeting for Legislature. Revenues are deteriorating rapidly. Multi-billion dollar deficits coming. Corrective actions need to be enacted. Governor looking at revenue in addition to cuts.
- **Education:** Looking at education to take care of a large part of the deficits through \$2.5 Billion cuts. His idea is that the existing legislature solves the budget deficit. Special session ends on Sunday – 11/23. This sets the stage for the January budget.
- **Proposal:** Cut money 1.7 Billion from revenue limits, but ultimate flexibility to make any cuts you might choose locally to make your budget. Reduction of COLA and more which will create a savings up to about \$4.5 Billion.
- **LAO:** Different approach. Forecast for this year and next 3 years creates a lull to meet spending expectations. Their approach is to minimize as much as possible

the midyear education cuts. LAO's idea is to minimize cuts to \$1 billion by eliminating COLA, professional development, instructional materials, and maintenance. There would be targeted cuts to program budgets that are under-utilized. LAO feels that the legislature has to act NOW. We can't stay with "as is" or there will be a \$20 billion deficit in the coming year. The expectation needs to be that 50% of any cuts will be to education specifically.

- **Flexibility Proposal:** Districts can use resources as they see fit to meet local education responsibilities. Example: Districts can set aside class size reduction and increase teacher/student load. Perhaps Adult Ed would be completely eliminated. Any program you can think of could be cut to backfill the fulfillment minimum needs.
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CDE Educational Options Program Updates

- **Educational Options Alliance:** It is important that public relations work take place to change the public perceptions of Ed Options
- **Message:** Need to get out the message regarding the positive impact Ed Options campuses have on their students. Alternative schools have recently been cast in a strong negative light. Few realize that the students that graduate from our schools are saved from being drop-outs.
- **Save Rate:** Measurement should be on a save-rate versus a dropout rate. Need public and policy acceptance of a "save-rate."
- **Career Tech Ed:** Few continuation students have access to Career Tech because 5 strands are required to collect Carl Perkins funds.

Model School Application

- Passed out overview of 15 applications this year.
- Site visits are being conducted now. Anyone interested in doing site visits, please contact Dennis Fisher.
- CCIS is on the 2nd year of their Model Independent Study School programs.