



Data Strategic Action Team

Tuesday, April 11, 2017 | 9:30 AM – 3:00PM

Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH
MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 AM in the Concord Room at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, NH.

Those in attendance included: Sallie Fellows, Janet Fiderio, Erik Klardie, Rick Bergeron, J.P. Beaudoin, Lauren Leigh Hinthorne, and Duke Albanese. Peg Votta and Ken Gu joined via conference line from Rhode Island, as did Heather Bouchey from Vermont. As is customary, data representatives from the SEAs shared -- in a Roundtable format -- highlights of various data and policy issues in their respective states. **Rhode Island** reported that ESSA and its changes, especially on accountability matters, report cards, and the effects on school districts and RIDE has been all-consuming and will continue through the fall; **Vermont** has submitted its ESSA plan and continues to work on its LSDS data structure, as well as hiring a vendor for the report cards; **Maine's** focus has been on the submission of its ESSA plan with stakeholders on board; a new data warehouse with the new commissioner's charge to make the data profiles more visual in their layout is also in progress; **New Hampshire** is working on a new effort to have school districts report financials at the school level across accounts; and NH higher education is focused on the reporting requirements for IPEDS.

JP Beaudoin shared some insight regarding the mobility of students, especially ELL students in rural as well as urban centers ... and how they need to be reported and most importantly how the numbers affect accountability at the local school district level.

A brief discussion followed on the general trend toward data visualization, maybe at the expense of an explanatory narrative. The breadth of the audience of consumers of data -- including the general public as well as moms and dads -- have led to more data dashboards and visual representation, sometimes without adequate accompanying analysis.

NESSC/GSP staff summarized the on-going evaluation and research coming out of the NESSC Next Gen schools. It was noted that the recent *March School Redesign in Action Conference*, held in Hartford, CT was a great success. The conference attracted a sell-out audience of 1200 educators and policy makers from across New England and the nation. Schools and districts shared exemplary practices, and the NESSC network and movement celebrated its continued expansion and success.



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J.P. Beaudoin of Research in Action -- the NESSC Data Coordinator based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana -- guided the gathering in an updated review of the Procedural Guidebook for 2017. Business rules and computational procedures were discussed. The group reviewed the College Readiness Index section. A conversation followed as Data Team members posed questions. It was agreed that the Procedural Guidebook language on page 6 regarding College Readiness be tweaked slightly in terms of tense and clarification of the working definition.

Changes were made on page 23, 2.27.5 and 2.2.7.6, regarding the notations for Maine on the dropout cohort. The references under ELL and SPED were removed.

The matter of student mobility and its effects on student success was discussed as an important data point that NESSC and other reporting efforts don't address. It was agreed to discuss further in 2017-18.

It was also agreed that the entry code column be removed from the tables on Pages 16-18 of the Procedural Guidebook. A brief discussion ensued regarding alternative measures to Free and Reduced School Nutrition as an indicator for Economically Disadvantaged students.

J.P. Beaudoin shifted the conversation to the Data Template. He proceeded to the matter of Outlier Identification. This led to a lengthy conversation about an empirical approach to the analysis of data submitted vis a vis historical data patterns. With SEA staff turnover, it is especially important to examine data patterns to help flesh out any issues with the data.

Conversation turned to the need for a procedural roadmap for correcting historical data points determined to be suspect anomalies. It was decided that we develop such a procedure at the fall meeting. If an issue arises this spring, the Data Team will convene via conference call. It was also determined that a Data Template containing past years' data points will be sent out by J.P. Beaudoin.

The meeting turned to the matter of expanding sub-group reporting to include race/ethnicity. After a thoughtful conversation of the inherent statistical challenges given low 'n' counts, the group suggested that the issue of reporting race/ethnicity be carried to the fall for further consideration. It was agreed that the position of the group and its rationale be shared back to the NESSC Leads.

Lunch: 12:15 -- 12:55 PM



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The Team reviewed the key dates for the data submissions and timeline leading to the preparation and ultimate publication of the 2017 NESSC Data Report. It was underscored that SEA data is due to Research in Action by **May 26, 2017**.

The agenda turned to delayed and gap year college enrollment. A discussion of submission details followed as Data Team members clarified how each state had interpreted the rule and submitted data. It was apparent that Maine and New Hampshire have been interpreting the rule differently. It was decided that J.P. Beaudoin would circulate, via email, an example calculation using the present business rule governing delayed/gap year and college enrollment to Data Team representatives in each state. Once he garners the present interpretation by each NESSC state, J.P. will advise the Data Team regarding clarification for this year's submission.

The slate of business progressed to the potential for capturing data around Dual Enrollment/Early College participation, a discussion that had commenced at the December 14, 2016 meeting. A conversation ensued. It was agreed that the matter of adding the collection of dual enrollment data be presented to the NESSC Leads for their sentiment about inclusion in next year's report.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Duke Albanese



NESSC METRICS Submissions and Timeline Final Adoption: April 11, 2017

Data submission timelines and process discussed, modified, and tentatively adopted by NESSC Team: **December 14, 2016**

Data tables – revised as necessary by Research in Action, Inc. and sent to SEA Data Teams; preliminary posting on NESSC site of the NESSC Procedural Guidebook: **By January 23, 2017**

Data request window – National Student Clearinghouse: **February 6 – 24, 2017**

Finalization of the NESSC Procedural Guidebook; data submission process reviewed and modified, if necessary, at NESSC Data Team Meeting: **By April 11, 2017**

Data tables completed and submitted by SEAs to Research in Action, Inc. for 2016 Annual Data Report (2014-15 school data): **By May 26, 2017**

Data review and refinements completed by Research in Action in collaboration with each SEA: **By June 30, 2017**

Draft of 2016 NESSC Data Report distributed to Data Team for review by: **July 17, 2017**

Written response to 2016 NESSC Data Report draft due to the Great Schools Partnership by: **July 24, 2017**

Great Schools Partnership Publishes and Distributes to the Nellie Mae Education Foundation and to NESSC the 2017 Annual Data Report and the 2017 NESSC Procedural Guidebook: **By August 14, 2017**