Texas Education Agency (TEA)
Information Task Force (ITF)
July 8, 2020

Zoom
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Call Meeting to Order   Nancy Dunnam
Nancy Dunnam called the ITF meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll call of the ITF members was taken by Leticia Ollervidez.

ITF Members Present via Zoom:
Nancy Dunnam, David Taylor, Dianne Borreson, Dana Braun, Jennifer Carver, John Shaffer, Keitha Ivey, Sandra Katz, Kathy Bray, Pablo Martinez, Brenda Padalecki, John Newcom, Scott Lewis, Traci Pesina, Joel Garcia, Linda Roska, David Marx

TEA Staff Present via Zoom:
Terri Hanson (ITS-BMD), Leanne Simons (ITS-BMD), Jamie Muffoletto (ITS-BMD), Leticia Ollervidez (ITS-BMD), Stephanie Sharp (ITS-BMD), Candice DeSantis (ITS-BMD), Scott Johnson (ITS-BMD)

Leanne Simons wanted to thank everyone for meeting with TEA while we work through the significant amount of changes for the upcoming school year.

Terri Hanson added that we have a significant amount of changes to discuss in regard to how attendance will be taken, and TEA will try to answer some of the questions, but today the committee needs to focus on the data collection. There will be other opportunities for attendance taking questions to be asked. Terri also wanted to thank everyone for joining us on short notice.

2020-2021 Attendance Reporting Changes   Action Item

Jamie Muffoletto presented the 2020-2021 Attendance Reporting Changes ITF Proposal.

After, March 19, 2020 and the temporary closure of schools which turned into a permanent closure, TEA needed a new framework for schools that addressed instruction and funding. On June 23, 2020, the commissioner introduced two new instructional methods, remote synchronous and remote asynchronous for the 2020-2021 school year.

TEA proposes to add 30 new data elements to the Texas Education Data Standards (TEDS) and two new data elements to the Texas Records Exchange (TREx) in order to report Remote Synchronous instruction and remote Asynchronous instruction days present. All new TEDS data elements would be reported in the PEIMS Summer Submission (Submission 3) and in the PEIMS Extended Year Submission (Submission 4) if the Local Education Agency (LEA) is participating in the Additional Days School Year (ADSY) program.

The proposal includes the following:

Data Collection Requirement Changes:
1.   Add new data element RS-TOTAL-ELIGIBLE-DAYS-PRESENT (E16XX) to the BasicReportingPeriodAttendanceExtension.

2.   Add 14 new Remote Synchronous data elements to the SpecialProgramsReportingPeriodAttendanceExtension.
   a.   RS-BILINGUAL/ESL-FUNDING-CODE (E16XX)
   b.   RS-TOTAL-ELIG-BILINGUAL/ESL-DAYS-PRESENT (E16XX)
   c.   RS-TOTAL-ELIG-RESIDENTIAL-FACILITY-DAYS-PRESENT (E16XX)
   d.   RS-TOTAL-ELIG-PREG-REL-SVCS-DAYS-PRESENT (E16XX)
   e.   RS-TOTAL-ELIG-SP-ED-MAINSTREAM-DAYS-PRESENT (E16XX)
   f.   RS-ELIGIBLE-DAYS-PRESENT-IN-INSTR-SETTING (E16XX)
   g.   RS-INSTRUCTIONAL-SETTING-CODE (E16XX)
   h.   RS-EXCESS-HOURS-IN-INSTRUCTIONAL-SETTING (E16XX)
   i.   RS-ELIGIBLE-DAYS-PRESENT-V1 (E16XX)
   j.   RS-ELIGIBLE-DAYS-PRESENT-V2 (E16XX)
   k.   RS-ELIGIBLE-DAYS-PRESENT-V3 (E16XX)
   l.   RS-ELIGIBLE-DAYS-PRESENT-V4 (E16XX)
   m.   RS-ELIGIBLE-DAYS-PRESENT-V5 (E16XX)
   n.   RS-ELIGIBLE-DAYS-PRESENT-V6 (E16XX)

3.   Add new data element RA-TOTAL-ELIGIBLE-DAYS-PRESENT (E16XX) to the BasicReportingPeriodAttendanceExtension.

4.   Add 14 new Remote Asynchronous data elements to the SpecialProgramsReportingPeriodAttendance Extension.
   a.   RA-BILINGUAL/ESL-FUNDING-CODE (E16XX)
   b.   RA-TOTAL-ELIG-BILINGUAL/ESL-DAYS-PRESENT (E16XX)
   c.   RA-TOTAL-ELIG-RESIDENTIAL-FACILITY-DAYS-PRESENT (E16XX)
   d.   RA-TOTAL-ELIG-PREG-REL-SVCS-DAYS-PRESENT (E16XX)
   e.   RA-TOTAL-ELIG-SP-ED-MAINSTREAM-DAYS-PRESENT (E16XX)
   f.   RA-ELIGIBLE-DAYS-PRESENT-IN-INSTR-SETTING (E16XX)
   g.   RA-INSTRUCTIONAL-SETTING-CODE (E16XX)
   h.   RA-EXCESS-HOURS-IN-INSTRUCTIONAL-SETTING (E16XX)
   i.   RA-ELIGIBLE-DAYS-PRESENT-V1 (E16XX)
   j.   RA-ELIGIBLE-DAYS-PRESENT-V2 (E16XX)
   k.   RA-ELIGIBLE-DAYS-PRESENT-V3 (E16XX)
   l.   RA-ELIGIBLE-DAYS-PRESENT-V4 (E16XX)
   m.   RA-ELIGIBLE-DAYS-PRESENT-V5 (E16XX)
   n.   RA-ELIGIBLE-DAYS-PRESENT-V6 (E16XX)

5.   Update existing PEIMS reports and/or add new PEIMS reports to reflect the changes in this proposal.

6.   Add, update, and remove associated data validation rules to reflect the changes in this proposal.

Texas Records Exchange Requirement Changes:

1.   Add new data element RS-TOTAL-DAYS-PRESENT (TE136) to the TREx data standards.

2.   Add new data element RA-TOTAL-DAYS-PRESENT (TE137) to the TREx data standards.

ITF Discussion:

Nancy Dunnam asked if Jamie could first discuss definitions of the two new methods, Remote Synchronous and Remote Asynchronous which were provided in the TEA FAQ.

Jamie presented a slide with the definitions.

Nancy Dunnam called for other comments or questions.

Traci Pesina requested clarification regarding students changing from one method of instruction to another within the same grading period, or if it needs to be one choice for the entire period. Traci mentioned a grid that was released on July 7, 2020. The note on the attendance method comparison stated: "A student could change between each of the attendance methods below by day depending upon the school's planned instructional methods". David Marx and Terri Hanson clarified that it is possible for students to change from one method of instruction to another within the same grading period under certain circumstances. Jamie noted that on page 13 of the FAQ provided by TEA, this question is addressed.

David added that for the first three weeks of school, TEA is going to provide a level of flexibility for students. David also said he would review the grid to confirm the intent of the note and make changes if needed.

John Newcom from Skyward requested clarification on reporting attendance event indicators for the new remote instruction methods. Terri responded that we did not add any new attendance event indicators and LEAs should use the existing indicators for remote synchronous and remote asynchronous.

John also asked about the domain of values for TREx and the maximum value of 180. Is that giving the district more than 180 days to report, or they can only report up to 180? Terri clarified that LEAs should report the allowable domain of values on the existing total-days-present element for TREx. TEA can review this maximum value if LEAs are finding they need to report more days.

John asked if remote asynchronous attendance is compatible with the new Additional Days school year program. Terri replied that this question will be added to the HB 3 Additional Days School Year FAQ when it is released on 7/9/2020, and that yes, it is compatible.

Kathy Bray stated that when attendance is submitted in the SIS, it is for a point in time and period. With remote asynchronous, we would still want to maintain the 90/10 engagement rule but if the definition of engagement is over three or four periods, how can we roll that up in the SIS to one place where it is pulled for attendance? David replied that for the remote asynchronous instructional plan, there may be a case where a student is completing most of their work at any point in the day, for example, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. The teacher may be reviewing the work one or two days later, determining the level of daily engagement and then marking the student present or absent for asynchronous instruction at that time. The time of day that the work is completed may vary. In order to be marked present for asynchronous attendance, a student must be engaged. Terri added, there is still a master schedule with courses and periods. In a secondary setting, marking a student remote asynchronous present in each of those periods may be delayed a few days as the teacher reviews the course work completed.

Nancy asked to clarify the guidance that states a student cannot work ahead in the remote asynchronous environment. Per the guidance, engagement is required on a daily basis and attendance is funded based on this. David confirmed that a student wouldn't be able to do the work for the week on Monday and then allow the district to receive credit for funding Tuesday through Friday. Another example David provided is that the student cannot do their work on Saturday and receive credit for engagement/funding Monday through Friday for that work. Nancy added that teachers should monitor attendance on a daily basis. Nancy also said it would be beneficial to give some of these examples that have come up in this meeting in the guidance. Terri agreed and stated we will include some examples in the training for ESCs and Vendors as well.

ITF Chair, Nancy Dunnam called for additional questions or comments. Hearing none, she requested a motion.

Motion Made By: Dianne Borreson
Seconded: Jennifer Carver

Vote: Passed

<u>**Adjournment**</u>
ITF Chair, Nancy Dunnam called for additional questions or comments. Hearing none, she requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion Made By: Dianne Borreson
Seconded: Jennifer Carver
Nancy adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.