DAPA Advisory Committee
Kent General Hospital, Dover
April 27, 2006
12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS MADE BY THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ARE NOT BINDING. THE DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DDOE) MAKES ALL
FINAL DECISIONS REGARDING THE DAPA.

Attendees: DAPA Advisory Committee: Norma Brister, Tim Bush, Diana Farrell, Christine
Griswold, Melanie Hoffman, Letitia Jackson, Mary Johnson, Carol Lay, Judi MacBride, Michael
Gamel-McCormick, Patrice Madden, Patricia Murrell, Kyle O'Shea, Wendy Roberts, Glenda Scott,
Linda Smith, Vicki Spence, Brian Touchette, Doreen Walls, Janine Weisman

Brief Updates

DAPA Portfolio Scoring
• Score reports are expected to go out in May.
• The State Summary Report is due in July.
• Brian reported that exemptions are down from last year with a total of 66 Content Areas.

Proposed Changes to DDOE for 2006-2007
• Grades 3, 5, and 8 will be assessed in all four Content Areas (ELA, Math, Science, and
Social Studies). Grades 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10 will be assessed in two Content Areas (ELA and
Math). Grade 11 will be assessed in two Content Areas (Science and Social Studies).
• Number of Standards for each Content Area – There was discussion about adding additional
Standards under each Content Area. Federal requirement state that “an appropriate number”
of Content Standards must be addressed in the Alternate Assessment. The consensus was to
leave the number of Standards as it is under our current system and review this again as the
Revision process continues.
• Delaware Content Standards document – There was discussion about using the current
Content Standards document for ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies or to begin using
the “new” Recommended Statewide Curriculum. Again, as above, the A/C feels that it is
best to continue using the current document for one more year rather than having developers
working from multiple documents. Developers should look for training opportunities within
their districts over the next school year in regard to the new Recommended Curriculum.
• Extended Performance Indicators – Discussion of whether or not to continue using Extended
Performance Indicators occurred. Currently developers are able to choose a Performance
Indicator (PI) from any grade level or use an ExPI within the Delaware Content Standards.
Several reasons for this change were discussed: ExPIs will not be available in the new
Delaware Recommended Curriculum, students must be provided access to the general
education curriculum, pushing developers to select a Grade level PI will assist with
increasing access, and PIs can be modified if needed to meet student needs.
  o A cut-off date for using ExPIs (only IEP meetings held before August 15, 2006 can
use an ExPI) was recommended. If an IEP meeting is held August 15 or later, the
developer must use a PI that is found from Kindergarten or higher.
• Curriculum Target – Recommendation that IEP Objectives are not required for the
upcoming year. If an IEP team determines that it is appropriate to address a Content Area

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Standard in the IEP that is fine. If the IEP does not include an objective that can be used in the portfolio, then a “Curriculum Target” may be developed. The “Curriculum Target” would look the same as an IEP Objective but without the force of the IEP; it would still be measurable, meaningful, and have a baseline and be tracked over time. Some other details about this will need to be worked out such as: what will the form look like that this is included on, will parents need to approve or be aware of the target, how far out will the target be set, and how much data must be shown in order to show progress, and how will the developer report progress. There were no clear recommendations from the A/C on these issues.

**Developer Training**
- Brian reported that full day training will be a requirement for new developers only; an Update Training will be available for developers who attended a full-day session in the 2005-06 school year.

**Revision of the Alternate Assessment**
- Letters were mailed to 5 experts asking for their feedback on the work from the ReVision Group as well as other guided questions. These recommendations are expected by May 12
  - University of Mass, Univ of NC-Charlotte, Univ of IL-Urbana/Champaign, Univ of VA, Univ of DE
- ReVision Group has a meeting scheduled for May 16th to review recommendations from the 5 experts prior to the next A/C meeting
- Review of ReVision Group recommendations will occur at the A/C on May 18th
- With all input, development of proposal for a new assessment process will be created by CDS

**Additional Information**
- Diane Browder and Claudia Flowers at UNC Charlotte and the National Alternate Assessment Center are conducting research on the alignment of alternate assessments, content standards, and instruction. They have developed a hybrid alignment protocol using the Achieve, SEC, and Webb models. They have implemented the protocol with a performance based assessment state and are currently looking to work with a portfolio state that is getting ready to make significant changes to their assessment. They would conduct two alignment studies with the state- one on their current or mature assessment and one on the revised assessment. Delaware is in an excellent position as we will be using our current DAPA for one more year and then likely move to a Performance Based Assessment in two years. This alignment study is being offered for free to Delaware, and would assist us in the future activities of Federal Peer Review of our Alternate Assessment. This study would help to “fill in some of the holes” that will be needed in coming years. The staff time needed on this would include: 1. gathering of necessary materials (most of this is found on-line, however our contractor will need to assist in putting onto disc or some other format copies of approximately 120 portfolios that have been scanned); 2. approximately 3 days of meetings with some exceptional children staff, members from curriculum and assessment staff as well as staff from our contractor; 3. some teacher time as well to complete surveys. This study would likely begin at the beginning of the coming school year and would likely involve additional days once our new assessment is completed.
• A new book *Teaching Language Arts, Math & Science to Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities*, by Diane Browder and Fred Spooner, is now in print and available through Brookes Publishing (http://www.brookespublishing.com). This is a great reference tool for developers and programs; provides educators with ideas for how to make the general education curriculum accessible to all students.

• Next meeting: May 18th, 12:30-3:30