DAPA Advisory Committee
Collette Building
March 4, 2008
9:00 a.m.-12:00 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.


Introductions: The meeting was called to order by Sarah Celestin. Sarah introduced the members of the DAPA Project from the Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS), University of Delaware and DDOE and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Screening Report: Sarah Celestin reviewed the process conducted at the fall Screening Sessions. Approximately 75% of the portfolios were Screened through this process. A breakdown of district participation was also provided (participation percentages may be lower because exemptions were not included). Portfolios that were initially Screened in the fall went through a verification process after they were turned in, and all portfolios that had not been Screened went through Screening in the month of February.

Scoring Overview: Sarah Celestin provided an overview of the Scoring process. Training for potential scorers took place February 25 and 27. The first round of Qualifying took place February 27 and the final round will take place tonight, March 4. DDOE would like to select ~20 scorers in total. Scoring will take place Spring Break week – Tuesday, March 25 through Saturday, March 29 – at the Center for Disabilities Studies. All portfolios will be scored through a Single-Scorer Method. There are numerous safety nets in place including redundancy within the Scoring Worksheet, Reliability Checks, and Random Re-scoring. A final safety net is the Appeals Process in which the Developer is able to appeal a student’s score.

Exemption Policy Review: Brian Touchette reviewed the Exemption Policy. Due to a change in the DSTP policy (extension of transfer exemption to 60 days), Brian asked for recommendations* from AC on changes to Exemption Policy. Recommendations:
- Transfers (out of state/instate & between districts) – 60 day allowance (currently 60 days for out of state/instate & 30 days between districts)
- Transfers (from DSTP to DAPA) – December 1 deadline; use as cut-point – if a student transfers to DAPA after deadline MUST take DSTP for current school year, assessment change would take place the following school year; automatically give Duration Exemption
• Duration Exemption (limited Interactions) – Keep as safeguard for students with frequent absences due to serious medical conditions; may also be used for cases when full exemption is applied for but Duration Exemption granted
• Include Exemption Policy information in Guidelines for Inclusion, DelSIS when selecting #64, and disseminate to Special Education Directors

*Recommendations are to be reviewed by Martha Toomey for Approval.*

**IEP Pilot:** Brian Touchette provided an overview of the Pilot IEP form. Pilot is currently underway. All schools will be expected to use new form for the 2008-2009 school year. Brian illustrated an example of goal and objective writing on the new form. DDOE will provide annotated version (for teachers and parents). Training will most likely be provided to district special education leadership for dispersal to teachers within district. DDOE has decided to move forward with the on-line IEP system which will be connected to DelSIS. One district (TBD by DDOE) will pilot the on-line system in the Fall of 2008 with pilot expansion to 5-6 more districts in the Winter/Spring 2009. The hope is for all districts to use the on-line system in the 2009-2010 school year.

**Update 2008-2009 School Year:** Brian announced that DDOE has decided to hold off on the RFP for a new alternate assessment. A committee is currently drafting an RFP for a new general assessment. This new RFP will likely include three sections: regular assessment, formative assessment, and alternate assessment. Test vendors may bid on all three assessments or portions of the RFP. Next year, DAPA-II will continue as the alternate assessment. For the 2009-2010 school year, a decision has not been finalized, but it is likely DAPA-II will continue. DDOE projects that we will move to a new assessment in the 2010-2011 school year.

For next year, the Delaware Recommended Curriculum will be used for selection of Standards and Grade-Level Expectations (GLEs). CDS is currently working on a crosswalk between the Teacher’s Desk Reference and Delaware Recommended Curriculum and plans to provide a guide for developers at Professional Development Sessions held in August through November. Fall Screening Sessions will continue; however, CDS is looking at a variety of ways to make the Sessions more “user-friendly” including an online webform for submission and modification of scheduling based on program readiness.

**Next Advisory Committee Meeting:** 5/16/2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.