Changes for coming year
Brian discussed changes to the DAPA for this year. According to No Child Left Behind and IDEA, Math and ELA need to be assessed as often as they are in the DTSP, which is yearly. This year students ages 5 to 15 will be assessed (instead of 5-19). The new due date for portfolio submission is February 19, and the public report will be available by Memorial Day. The two domains (Math and ELA) have been combined into one domain in order to reduce the amount of work required of teachers. Next year, science and social studies will be added to the portfolios also. Portfolio scores are reported back to the student’s home school for accountability purposes, not to the special school they are attending. The standards still need to be aligned and the extended performance indicators need to be worked on also.

Related Questions and Concerns:
Check status of current scores on the website. Provide data summary reports to schools. One of the goals of the remodeling committee will be to streamline the process. Shaunna will send memo of “changes for current year” from Martha to all present at this meeting.

Update Training
Diana Farrell, the project trainer, gave a sample update training presentation.

Standards work group sign-ups
To address the issue of aligning all the standards in the DAPA to the general content standards, two committees have been established.

ELA and Social Studies Committee
Barb Ashmead, Margaret Colvin, Madelyn Jablon, Mary Johnson, Carol Lay

Math and Science Committee
Lori Duerr, Melanie Hoffmann, Glenda Scott, Linda Smith, Jeremy Wolfer

Special Exemptions
Brian discussed the special exemptions decision-making process. The application process is changing. In the past, it was submitted via hard copy. During the 2003-2004
school year, District test coordinators and school building test coordinators must submit an on-line form. It will be available in three weeks. The application itself has not changed, only the process for submitting an application. The deadline for known exemptions has not been finalized. This deadline will be sometime in December. Information will be on the DAPA website (www.dapaonline.org) regarding deadlines. Our website will also link to the Exemptions Application Form.

Related questions and concerns:
If a student takes the DSTP ELA, then would they only do the Math for DAPA? What if a student only takes DTSP Reading, but not writing? Brian will consult Martha Toomey about these questions.

Parents and Families
Judi MacBride, the family liaison, presented ways in which she can help parents and families better understand the alternate assessment process.