

Task Force to Study the Adult High School Concept, House Bill 1381
Meeting Notes
Low House Office Building, Room 150 (Prince George's Delegation Room)
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
Wednesday, April 12th, 2017
1:00 – 3:00 PM

- Welcome and Introductions
 - Co-chairs Delegate Luke Clippinger and Assistant Secretary James Rzepkowski welcomed members and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

- Recap of HB1381/SB866 and Stakeholders' Roles
 - The Task Force will continue its work until the final report is submitted by June 30th.
 - Some Task Force members will continue to work on the concept of an adult high school beyond when the final report is submitted in order to address the components of the bill.
 - The bill goes into effect July 1st.
 - See the bill for additional information and requirements.

- Discussion of Next Steps for the Task Force
 - Task Force members will continue meeting over the next two months to create the final report as well as to prepare for the implementation based upon components of the bill.
 - Some concerns were shared by Task Force members, including the:
 - Need for additional information and research in order to help make informed decisions regarding implementation of the bill,
 - Risk of comparing the effectiveness of schools in the pilot, current Adult Education Programs in Maryland, and other programs that receive a significant amount of additional funding per pupil since the programs and funding may be quite different,
 - Existence of high standard to know that the adult high schools are of high quality and help students to become college and career ready, particularly if subjective models like portfolios are used for accountability purposes (Note: National External Diploma Program could be a model for the use of a portfolio and establishing criteria of effectiveness.),
 - Need for academic rigor and the hiring of highly effective staff to be maintained as the program continues following initial implementation,
 - Timeline for implementation since having the pilot in place by the start of the 2017-18 school year is not realistic given the time it takes to get the components of the bill, evaluation criteria, and possibly regulations in place,

- Regulations and whether or not they would be permanent or temporary, such as for a pilot, and ensuring that the regulations share the structure, process, and criteria for applications and incorporate flexibility to make adjustments are able to be made as needed,
 - Number of providers that can realistically accomplish the creation of an adult high school with their own funding; private funding may be able to be pieced together for the pilot but might not be sustainable,
 - Creation of a model that promotes innovation while being held accountable; the assessment of programs could be innovative and different from current models, too, and outside of the NAEDP or GED,
 - Staffing and the hiring of a variety of teachers who receive the opportunity for on-going professional learning, including teachers who are full and/or part-time and have content certification and/or adult education experience,
 - Possible 13.5% decrease in funding in adult education programs from federal funds,
 - Possibility of having experts in the field provide input regarding what should be in plans for the adult high schools as well as the criteria to evaluate them, and
 - Approval of the pilots; although DLLR and MSDE will ultimately approve to pilots, any work that the Task Force can complete to contribute to the pilot and determining criteria for approval would be helpful.
- The Maryland Adult Learning Advisory Council (MALAC) may be able to assist in next steps and follow up on Task Force members' work and should include staff from MSDE as well.
 - The interest and input of adult education providers might be sought at the Maryland Association for Adult, Community and Continuing Education (MAACCE) Conference on May 4/5.
 - Heather will look into the possibility of an extra session (i.e., board support, schedule, space, and communication) following the MAACCE conference on Friday, May 5th at 2:00 PM at the Maritime Institute to share information about the bill, address questions, and gain feedback from providers.
 - Opportunity could serve as a survey/feedback mechanism to gather input
 - Subcommittees focused on the following will meet and determine next steps and information to include in the final report:
 - Funding – (ways funding might be provided beyond the pilot)
 - Committee – Helene will coordinate subcommittee with previous funding group members (Heather, Elizabeth, Benton, Kathy Stevens, and Bill Ferguson) and Sonia Socha.
 - The subcommittee will possibly explore public and private funding, charter or contract schools, and current models that are determining the appropriate funding needed to implement the models.
 - Accountability (certification/teacher credentialing and pilot provider accountability)
 - Committee – Helene will coordinate subcommittee with previous operator/ accreditation group members (Heather, Donna, Mike, and Brian) and Barbara, Regina, Cynthia Campbell.
 - Subcommittee will review certification and pilot provider accountability models used in different states, such as the evaluation of the Goodwill model across different states (Indiana and Washington D.C.).

- Groups to possibly consult with include charter schools (i.e., the evaluation process to evaluate as a high school), teacher certification renewal, and professional learning.
- Regarding certification/teacher credentialing:
 - Consider what an appropriately trained personnel plan looks like, including professional learning (Note: Penn State, Rutgers, etc. have some good professional learning opportunities and some are online.),
 - Need to look at what is needed content-wise as well as in working with particular adult learners (i.e., special education or English learner expertise) for the adult high schools, and
 - Perhaps the plans should include minimal qualifications for the pilots, such as having co-teachers (content and adult education/ESOL).
- Round-table discussions
 - A subcommittee with Delegate Clippinger and Brian will look into the possibility of hosting a round table to help entities come together and make connections/partnerships if interested in applying, and
 - Perhaps current operators will be included in the discussion to share expertise.
- DLLR and MSDE-specific tasks from the bill
 - DLLR and MSDE staff members will meet to determine components and evaluation criteria for the plans; at the next meeting, Task Force members will determine additional questions/information needed and not addressed in the bill.
- Discussion of Final Report
 - The work and future timelines of subcommittees will be included in the final report and should be shared with Laura Hook and Perketer Tucker prior to or at the next Task Force meeting on May 15th from 1:00-3:00 PM at the Baltimore Metropolitan Council.
- Meeting Adjournment
 - The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 PM.