

Title I Committee of Practitioners – July 27, 2017 meeting

COP meeting minutes will be available on MSDE website.

Below is the list of member's questions and Comments from the meeting:

Questions:

- If the state does not currently have data for a category, how will the missing data affect the calculation?
- Exactly how is the equity gap calculated?
- Will the state conduct two rankings (one of all schools and one of Title I schools only)?
- Can the state add an asterisk next to stars to designate equity gap?

Comments:

- The accountability system will have an equity gap component that will have impact on the final category scoring. Member Recommendation - have an asterisk next to the star to note that equity gap was not met. This will help parents to better understand the rating. Equity gap counted as one star is too much weight on the final rating.
- Communication (messaging) about school ratings will have to be very well thought out.
- It will be good when parents, educators and the community see how a school compares to previous years in their report card evaluation. When a school demonstrates improvement each year or consistently high achievement for several years it will strengthen the view from parents, etc. that the school is on the right or good track.

(Duane recapped his questions and sent it via email after the meeting)

- The student growth measure has some issues, particularly around students who are already proficient. The issues seem most pronounced in middle school math. My suggestion would be to use the growth measure with caution for students already proficient or better.
- Student growth targets show a lot of promise. I suggest looking at the DC model.
- Non-academic measures are cited in both the comprehensive school support and in the Protect Our Schools legislation, but I think chronic absenteeism is a weak proxy for the non-academic measures. I have spent a fair amount of time looking at this and a quality survey may be the best option. There is some work being done on student efficacy which may prove promising, but chronic absenteeism is not the best way to go. I like the support for low performing schools language better than NCLB. I think the previous law was too restrictive and punitive. This is better.