

Delaware's Promise Dropout Prevention Committee Meeting Highlights

Cabinet Room, Townsend Bldg.

August 24, 2009

2:00 – 4:30 pm

- Dr. Coffield welcomed the committee members and asked for introductions.
- Dr. Coffield shared that the purpose of today's meeting was to view a demonstration of a module for Eschool Plus by Sungard that would meet our needs for the Dropout Early Warning/Predictor System. Dr. Coffield told committee members that Eschool is the current statewide pupil accounting system. This module pulls from existing student data housed in our data warehouse.
- Bruce Dacey, DOE Technology Management and Design workgroup introduced the presenters and turned the meeting over to them for the demonstration.
- Some questions were raised about the difference between creating COGNOS static reports and using the Sungard module. The questions were forwarded to the Technology Management and Design Workgroup in DOE. After follow-up conversations, the following clarifications are provided:
 - The existing Student Success Plans that utilize web based Career Cruising as a delivery mechanism is NOT an early warning system and does not have that capability. Sungard does not plan to incorporate any career exploration or postsecondary information into their system. Their module is primarily designed for school/educator use, while the primary user of Career Cruising is the student. One does not replace the other. The combination of both products will provide a more complete system for ensuring student success.
 - The Sungard module (also called student success plans) completely automates the queries AND alerts. It further has the ability for educators to develop an intervention plan. The individualized student intervention plan is developed with input from the student's teachers, the student's parents or guardians, guidance counselor, and others. This plan includes the ability to track changes, schedule follow up interventions, etc. The Sungard Student Success Plans span grades K-12.
 - Eschool is used by educators in the state on a daily basis. Rather than depending on people to run reports out of Cognos, this system relies on the server/program to monitor student indicators and automatically send alerts to appropriate staff as configured by each school district. The early warning module would be incorporated into the existing system and would require very little training. It would reach a larger number of educators on a daily basis than would a specifically generated report. It would also allow the automated tracking of students in real time (day by day) as opposed to once a quarter (or however often the COGNOS reports would be run).
 - It is better to use existing integrated systems that are built for interoperability than to cobble together a hodgepodge of static reports and systems. The module is simple to install and set up.
 - There was concern that the districts were not using current programs to the fullest extent of their capabilities. I don't know that we have any facts on

which to base that assumption, but the level of implementation of the tool in the classroom and at the school is the responsibility of local districts. While the Department would support and facilitate the rollout and implementation, day to day operations are the role of the local administration. We have heard from the district superintendents that this is a product that they want.