



## GRADUATION GUIDELINES TASK FORCE

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

3:30 – 5:00 – EAC Willow

### Meeting Notes

#### I. Welcome and check in and reflection

**Present:** Stephanie A., Dan O., Lacy U., David P., Tracie C., Laurie D., Colin W., Bob B., Mario R., Sean S., Rhonda S., Sean B., Rosalie K., Shannon C., Ryan B., George S., Laurie U., Nancy W., Joanna P., Diane F., Dan H., Melissa W., Clark M., Karen H., Brett S., Richard MN., Krista P., Koryn K., and Karin R.

**Absent:** Kolette B., Jay F., Sarah K., Holly M., Riley N., Molly R.

Members discussed areas of reflection since the last meeting:

- SAT v. ACT
- Reminder that the coursework and required credits stays the same as it was last year with the policy was revised by the Phase I of this GGTF.
- One member mentioned our Wordle from last year's work, and she wondered if the GGTF is focused on this document with this year's discussions about the Menu of Options. Karin reminded the task force that the Wordle, developed as a result of a discussion about what we hope for our graduates last school year, reflects what the Phase I team determined needed to happen with the Graduation Requirements policy that was revised to reflect the need for a whole child who can communication, problem solve, etc. The task force members who were in place last year agreed, and reminded this year's team that our charge it to determine how we will work with the Menu of Options to ensure that our students can graduate from high school.

#### II. Review December Minutes and discussion of the Menu of Options

Members agreed that they had reviewed the minutes and had nothing to offer to the list of Menu of Option items that we shared and considered most accessible for our students based upon research. A few asked if other options were now off the table, and all agreed that the Industry Certificate would still be a viable option should students need support in demonstrating proficiency.

#### III. PARCC, CMAS, SAT

Reminders about the pending assessments, knowing that the ACT will be given this year instead of the SAT that will take over next year, and a reminder that the PSAT is a part of the state assessments that we will be giving to kids this year.

- IV. Review of homework documents and websites: Individual sharing of learnings
- a. CDHE FAQ – Changes to the Colorado Admissions policy
  - b. Will New Diplomas Leave Behind Special Education Students (Claire McInerney)
  - c. <https://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/grad-promising>
  - d. <https://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/grad-resources#act>

Members reflected on the homework that they reviewed. Highlights included:

- We need to take care of special needs students who need additional support. What we have now regarding modifications and accommodations based upon IEP needs seems to be working, and we don't want to lose that in this process. Karin reminded the group that CDE allows for this conversation and a continuation of efforts to support special needs students.
- Karin provided hard copies of five of the best practices submitted to the CDE site, and all agree that, while helpful, they do not provide much assistance for us in our planning. There are still gaps in the work that has been shared by these districts.

V. Sharing of a tracking possibility

Clark Maxon shared a tracking (Xcel) document that he prepared that might be beneficial as we ask counselors to track student progress toward graduation. Conversation following that reinforced the need to focus on ways to ensure that students can get to graduation. On initial review, it seems that 10% of our seniors, at this time in the year, do not have assessment data that demonstrates proficiency in ELA, and about 40% cannot demonstrate that through the assessments we have in math. Discussion of the power of a Capstone project, Industry Certification, and ACT Work Keys ensued.

Karin asked each member to vision what they would do if they were in charge of creating a plan for meeting the graduation requirement mandate. She asked them to bring back this plan, either created individually or with a team of two or three, that would be the “perfect” plan for showing student proficiency on this menu of options, knowing that we cannot recommend that the mandate/law be removed, and knowing that we will still maintain our 50 credit requirement to ensure that we address the whole child and not just an assessment score.

VI. Next meeting: 2/25/16 from 3:30 – 5:00 in Willow

Members will have provided a plan to Karin prior to this meeting so that she can have copies made for review.