
Absent: Christopher Audretsch, Joanne Audretsch, Holly Bales-Hall, Tanja Bisesi, Janice Bizzari, Lana Cummings, Denise Dorsey, Joe Doyle, Sarah Franklin, Janice Hazelrig, Cheryl Lewandowski, Pat Marvin, Tammy Miller, Rob Moore, David Sabbagh, Lacey Winckelbach, and Monica Zerfas.

1. Approval of April 2014 Minutes- Andrea Mobley moved to approve, Sarah Franklin seconded and minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Coordinator’s Report:

a. Elementary ALPS-
   - We placed three new fifth grade students and three new sixth grade students in the ALPS program.
   - The HA Grant is supporting a class size instructional assistant for the elementary ALPS program. The assistant works 5 hours a day, 25 hours a week.

b. K-3 High Ability ID
   - We will begin the K-3 screening/identification process for 2014-15 in December. The three domains designated and required by the state high ability mandate are: general intellectual, specific academic LA, and specific academic Math.
   - The identification process uses multifaceted assessments that include the KOI and Renzulli gifted behavior observation checklists, ACUITY, AIMS Web, benchmark common assessments, and other grade level assessments. Some schools will be using additional activities that solicit high ability behaviors for the screening. Building norms are used for identification. Students must be receiving services/instruction to meet their learning needs in order to be designated on Skyward. I will be meeting with individual schools to assist with the ID process.
   - Last year’s data: K: 44 GEN, 25 LA, 3 Math; 1st: 56 GEN, 24 LA, 5 Math; 2nd: 70 GEN, 30 LA, 18 Math; Grade 3 was based on the In View, past and new NWEA, and ID committee recommendations: 3rd: 94 GEN, 32 LA, 16 Math.
   - Students in the ALPS program and those recommended for a Gen Intellectual cluster at their home school are designated the same on Skyward. Students must have gifted behaviors as well as high achievement in both math and LA. Any changes in ID will be updated annually in Skyward. District norms are used for placement in the ALPS program.

c. Middle School-
   - Included in the October 2014 enrollment for the middle school ALPS program are the following new students placements: BAT: 2 8th, JAC: 4 8th, TRI 1 7th and 3 8th.
• Middle School math (HA designation is only for 6th or 7th grade Algebra I or Geometry and 8th grade Geometry and Algebra II): BAT: 13 Algebra, 12 Geometry; JAC: 40 algebra, including 5 sixth grade (ALPS UNV), 42 geometry, and 2 Algebra II at South; TRI: 21 Algebra, 29 Geometry, and 5 Algebra II at North

d. High School-Data from DOE looked good for 2012-13. Jan will talk about IB grade weighting.

e. 2014-15 HA Grant-applications for the 2014-15 IDOE HA Grant Funds are due November 14. I am hoping to have our application complete and ready for signatures next week. We received a $1515.00, 2.1%, increase

f. Professional development-
  • Great Books Shared Inquiry Training-20 K-12 training to be offered in December or January.
  • IAG 2014 in Indy December 15 and 16. We will be sending 15-17 teachers and administrators

4. Grade Weighting for IB Courses-we have had a few students come to MCCSC with IB courses on their transcripts. Jan Bergeson and Kim Williams met with high school principals to develop guidelines for weighting these courses that will align with MCCSC grade weighting guidelines. Jan Bergeson shared that we all agreed that we would give the same weight, either 1.0 or .5, as we give to our honors and AP courses. We will not weight the grade of a course that we do not weight even if the grade was weighted at the student’s previous high school.

5. Updating ALPS Identification Plan-MCCSC is no longer administering the NWEA to all students in grades 2-6. The Indiana Code for High Ability Students requires that school districts implement a multi-faceted identification plan to identify students for high ability services, including quantitative measures of both ability and achievement. National norm-referenced tests such as NWEA and In View are appropriate for identification of high ability students. Criterion-referenced achievement tests (e.g. ISTEP or Acuity) are used to determine the individual’s mastery of specific skills or knowledge but have limited utility in identifying high ability students because they do not provide opportunity to demonstrate advanced abilities or show what students know compared to others. The MCCSC has administered a cognitive abilities assessment, In View/Test of Cognitive Skills, for many years. We have also administered nationally normed achievement tests, including Terra Nova, CTBS, and NWEA. The HA Grant has purchased a number of “seats” for administering the NWEA for HA identification. At our November meeting, we will review Acuity scores of current identified HA students to determine any value the assessment may have in the identification process. We will also develop specific screening guidelines to determine which third and sixth grade students will take the NWEA.