

3x5 IMPLEMENTATION STEERING COMMITTEE
Thurs., Mar. 20, 2014
Parr Room
8:00-9:00

Report

Committee members present

Barb Bellamy
Cecelia Brands
Chris Castillero
Jennifer Geller

Cassandra Kamens
Jon Lauch
Oscar Loureiro
Laurie Moses

Updates

3x5 Implementation Team

Cassandra reported on the latest work of the 3x5 Implementation Team. She said that the team reviewed its recommendation for length of AP and IB courses. Added into that discussion was consideration of prerequisites and support classes in relation to courses.

Cassandra also said that the team discussed whether Algebra 1 should be two trimesters or three trimesters long. She said that they considered a model that would have students receiving intervention support in a strategic way (e.g., at the end of each unit) during the course of a term. The overall goal of this approach would be to provide for students needing extra help as quickly as possible and in an on-going way.

Cassandra said that the following were also discussed:

- Period 0. Period 0 could be a site-based decision; however, limits for period 0 need to be clear.
- Relationships. Teachers on the team will be asking at their school's department level what the priority for scheduling would be (e.g., teacher-period continuity between A and B). Cassandra asked the teachers to take that information back to their school's administrator in charge of scheduling.
- State testing. The schools are not consistent in the ways staff members are organized to provide for state testing. Looking ahead, providing for the Smarter Balanced assessments will need to be addressed.

3x5 Teacher Instructional Advisory

Cecelia reported on the latest discussions at the 3x5 Teacher Instructional Advisory. She said that the teachers were willing to share how stressed they are feeling; they reported that there does not seem to be enough time to prepare between terms, especially when many are preparing for new classes.

Cecelia also said the following were part of the Advisory's discussion:

- Teachers reported that having a professional day the day following a final term's day and before grading day is not helpful. Casandra suggested that the 3x5 Implementation Team review the school calendar for 2014-15 before it is approved.
- Fully scheduling grade 9 students seems to be putting additional pressure on what can be offered by way of courses at other grade levels. Trying to provide for grade 9 is affecting and limiting what can be provided to grades 11-12.
- Assessing the 3x5 earlier than later might provide for making changes that would improve the system and potentially reduce the stress teachers are feeling.

Cecelia said that the Advisory is looking at Canby High School for how it has organized for the 3x5 schedule and is using it.

Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee

Carmen reported that members of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee talked about the 3x5 schedule at their last meeting. She said that students identified issues with the 3x5 that others, such as teachers, had also identified. Concerns included (1) not having the same teacher for both parts of a course, (2) not having two sections of a course in consecutive terms, and (3) some classes not being offered to accommodate the full-scheduling of 9th graders.

Carmen said that the students expressed concerns around some issues, such as changes in grading practices and preparing 8th graders for high school and its 3x5 schedule.

Class Size Data

Oscar reported on class sizes. The data he presented showed that for high schools the increase in staffing ratio over the last 5 years (increase of 3.91 students per class) has been the same as for the previous 20 years (increase of 3.93 students per class). He also pointed out how class sizes will naturally be lower on the 3x5 than other schedules because more of the staff are teaching each period.

Casandra pointed out that some schools may have intentionally lowered class size for core classes and made electives larger. She also commented that some support classes in core areas will be smaller.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wed., Apr. 16, 2014.

Submitted by
Larry Brown