



ESSA IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

ESSA Subcommittee Meeting – Early Learning

Date, Time: Friday, June 24, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: 135 South Union Street, Suite 215

ALSDE Facilitator: Karen Porter

Members present: Sandy Little, Deborah Love, Jennifer Stephens, Tracye Strichik, Hope Zeanah

Members absent: Barbara Cooper, Holly Box

Summary: Goal is to provide ideas relative to early learning that will inform early learning committee.

- What could early learning in Alabama look like in the future?
- How do we measure the effectiveness of Early Learning?

Next meeting: Friday, July 22nd, 1:00 p.m., 135 South Union Street, Suite 215

Detailed Notes

All notes below are comments with committee members and the ALSDE facilitator.

Question 1: Dream: What could early learning in Alabama look like in the future?

Possibilities for early learning opportunities in Alabama

- Quality comprehensive based system – support/credentials b-4; ECE certified teachers 5-8 with admin with ECE content
- Standards based promotion
- Emphasis on attendance – provide additional services for truancy
- Transition systems through grade 12
- Whole child instruction/whole child assessments
- On site after school care
- In school health care
- Parenting opportunities
- Hispanic family and parental involvement (face-to-face and electronic communications)
- Allow kids time to be kids
- Early Learning education, sustained professional development, taught by Alabama’s best teachers
- Highly funded-Pre-K, free and available to every child
- Pre-K sets the tone for education in this state
- Developmentally appropriate standards based, researched-based curriculum

Question 2: How do we measure the effectiveness of Early Learning?

Ideas to consider measuring the effectiveness

- Teacher Evaluation – try to differentiate and look at Early Childhood to see what different things teachers should be doing
- Guidelines for selecting/administering assessments – innovative ways to assess without being punitive. Look at what produces the “whole child”- social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, mathematics, science and technology, the arts, and English language acquisition
- Institutions of Higher Education – is it possible to include specialization coursework for administrator certification. Administrators leading ECE would have x number of hours in ECE content, ELEM admin would have x hours in elementary, and so on. Not necessarily a specialized degree but a credential to serve each population.
- Teachers – certified with Early Childhood degrees
- Poverty – additional training for teachers regarding poverty and the impact of poverty on children and families

Action Items for Next Meeting:

- Review Plan 2020 – compare ideas from this session and how they correlate with items in Plan 2020.
- How can ESSA help with what is not already in place?

