

EPI Influences Workgroup: Interim Meeting

July 7th, 2010

11 AM-12 PM

Participants in this meeting were: Charles Utermohle, Elizabeth Ripley, Becky Judd, Devon Urquhart, Deborah Hull-Jilly and Sally Rue.

Sally Rue Reviewed the School Climate Connectedness Survey

The SCCS is a statewide initiative for community engagement has been going on for 10 years. . Working with the SCCS is the American Institute for Research, where Elizabeth Ripley works, to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of the survey. It is broad based. It measures school climate, connectedness to the school and socio-emotional learning. The SCCS has been embraced by schools since being piloted in 2005. In 2 years there have been 33 participating districts, including 2010. Most are district wide; from 6th to 12th grade. In recent years students and teachers have been participating more, with 33,000 valid student responses in recent years.

Participating in the SCCS

Of the 35 districts participating over the last five years, about 6 districts have participated. Since 2006, Anchorage School District has participated every year.

The SCCS measures diverse aspects of school climate. School leadership, respectful peer climate, parent community involvement, youth social and emotional learning, student involvement, school safety and risk behaviors are some examples of what the survey evaluates. Risk behaviors are measured by peer involvement so the survey would not have to obtain parental consent.

Schools pay a fee to participate in the SCCS and participate for 3-4 years. After partnership is officially over they are able to participate on a year by year basis. In return, the school district participants receive a report, analysis and action planning assistance.

Initiatives

One initiative is community engagement and student involvement. 3 year term that the district partners with. The SCCS doesn't expect sustainable change in such a short period of time.

Consortium for digital learning is a 1-1 laptop initiative. Using this depends on the size of the district. People who are engaged in this initiative also participates in SCCS in the 4 year project.

Districts/Regions Participating in SCCS

Not counting the sample year of 2005, 45 districts have participated in the SCCS, and many have participated multiple years. From Anchorage, Fairbanks participated 2008 and 2010. Juneau every year

since 2007. Kodiak has participated every year since 2006. Rural districts such as Kake, Yukon Koyukuk and Lower Kuskokwim have participated, as well.

There are 5 districts which have the lowest scores: Lower Yukon, NW Arctic Borough, Yukon Koyukuk, Upiat and Yukon Flats are the lowest five districts. 3 of these 5 districts have participated in the SCCS.

Districts which have not participated in the SCCS: Aleutian Region, Bering Straights, Lower Yukon, Mat-Su, Nome, Pelican, Skagway and St. Mary's.

It should be noted that districts who do not participate are not measuring connectedness. For example: Mat-Su uses a resiliency survey from California, but does not delve into school climate, but measures the community and community supports.

Weighting Process

Anchorage has high response rates from staff/students have high response rates, so they make up the largest sample used by SCCS. In order to reflect other school districts effectively, the SCCS measures the proportion of 5th through 12th grade students enrolled in the participating district and how many students participated in survey. This methodology aligns the sample size with how much of the state they represent in their district.

Web Site for SCCS

Phase 2 of ranking of indicators will happen soon, and Deborah Hull-Jilly requested web site links to be able to review the SCCS more. The web sites include copies of statewide reports from each year. Data from 2010 will not be posted until a later date, most likely in the Fall.

<http://www.alaskaice.org/material.php?matID=529>

BECKY: I feel that this is relevant information—but am confused on where to insert these comments

56 percent of 5th-12th grade participate in the sampling.

9 QS2 Districts which are participating in the SCCS. Several are digital learning partners.

AYP= Adequate Yearly Process which is involved in the No Child Left Behind effort.

Next Meeting

The EPI Influences Workgroup will meet on 7/8/10 from 1:30-3 PM. The call in number is: 1-800-315-6338. The call-in code is: 8078. We look forward to working with you soon.