

MINUTES

**Regional MAELAA Directors' Meeting
November 4, 10 & December 9, 2011**

MTI PD OPPORTUNITIES

MTI- Very good remarks were consistent throughout the state. Several directors have requested that perhaps a drop-down box would allow teachers (who are enrolling) to select their program director resulting in an email confirmation could be sent to the director to assure the teachers were in fact enrolled before the workshop filled. For workshops with PD credit, it was suggested the enrollment screen also list number of hours of PD credit. Occasional email blasts 1 or 2 monthly with perhaps a calendar of scheduled workshops. Also, if workshop titles explicitly reflect the content of the workshop. Programs desire a teaching strategies workshop to help raise CASAS scores. CASAS testing and EL Civics courses must always be available.

MISSOURI CONNECTIONS

AEL Directors would like to know if programs are required to enroll students in Missouri Connections.org, and, if so, how many students must have a folder? Does this include ESL students? Not all directors have introduced students to this operation. They would like more hands-on training in front of a computer before they train students. One director had a couple teachers go to the Missouri Connections training. She did not receive good feedback. Her teachers found the training quite confusing. More training is definitely needed and it would be beneficial if that training was AEL-specific. Need clarification of the state's expectations regarding transitions.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Most programs stated their enrollment numbers were down, but contact hours and progression were up. Large programs contribute low enrollment numbers to Managed Enrollment because they are unable to accommodate as many students. For those who are experiencing a drop in enrollment, perhaps some additional guidance in marketing would be helpful. Maybe the MAELAA website could have a place to upload and share marketing materials. Directors are concerned about budgets reduced.

2014 NEW GED TEST

Concerns about the 2014 GED test were expressed. One concern was cost, and the other was accessibility. Many students will not be able to afford the test, thereby affecting number of students enrolled/served, which will negatively affect budgets. Secondary costs, such as the costs of computers, training, and curriculum must be addressed. It was also suggested that the state should invest in a statewide

license for some sort of typing software like Mavis Beacon that could be made available to all programs.

CONTENT STANDARDS

The directors believe that Content Standards should be a more useful tool to aid in progression. In its current form, checking off standards used in the classroom is cumbersome “busy work.” Although the general standards give permission to teach many things, the directors desire common core standards driven by TABE and aligned with testing so they will be more relevant to achieving federal targets.

CQI VISITS

By following the CQI listing on the DESE website directors will know how to be prepared. Generally, a consistent team from the state office doing the CQI reviews will prevent discrepancies from program to program of what in were looked for in the reviews.

REGIONAL GRADUATION

There was little interest if any to introduce regional graduations across the state.

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