

The K-20 Accountability Project

Progress Report: Synthesis of Interviews

State Core Measures

- Express desired results
- Drive accountability and performance funding systems
- Actionable -- agency can effect changes in results measured
- Consistent with indicators required for national comparisons
- Apply to all members of system, K-20
 - Six measures apply consistently to all four sectors
 - Three negotiable measures are more flexible

1

Students achieving at high levels

Recommendation:

Use external validations of student accomplishments to determine progress toward high-level student achievement by each educational sector

Challenges:

- Determine currently available alternative measurement tools
- Find and obtain external validations for postsecondary education
- Find ways to extend testing programs to include all students and disciplines
- As an interim step, use existing tests that measure minimum achievement

2

Accessibility

Recommendation:

For each educational sector, use two accountability measures for accessibility:

- ▶ Measure how well sectors serve students who are in underserved populations
- ▶ Measure proportion of educational services made available through alternative delivery strategies

Challenges:

- Define “underserved” -- should some populations have priority?
- Identify common set of alternatives

3

Credentials granted

Recommendation:

Count the number of credentials granted, by type, for each sector

Challenges:

- Consider alternative measures of educational gains to satisfy this measurement theme
- In establishing goals and standards, allow for “ramp-up” time for program improvements to affect results

4

Students ready for and progressing to next educational level

Recommendation:

- ▶ For each educational sector, measure proportion of students who graduate or who are accepted into the next level of education *without the need for remediation*
- ▶ Assure that this measure is “actionable” by holding sectors accountable only for students who complete certain thresholds of credit

Challenges:

- Take into consideration that some credentials are not necessarily designed for progression (*i.e.*: baccalaureate degree, technical certificate)
- Consider recruitment as an accountability goal

5

Initial employment and earnings of graduates who are not pursuing the next educational level

Recommendation:

Calculate the in-Florida employment rate among former students

- ▶ Calculate rate for graduates and others who complete defined thresholds of credit
- ▶ Delay calculation until 1 year after last enrollment period
- ▶ For former students who are employed, measure average earnings

Challenges:

- Environmental factors also affect employment rate
- Is retention in employment a necessary component?
- Include measures of employer satisfaction measures at the institutional level
- Establish earnings targets by sector

6

Quality and efficient services

Recommendation:

Use graduation rate or completion rate to measure efficient services for each educational sector

Challenges:

- Consider a measure for the cost per enrollment, completion, and leaver
- How to measure quality?

Flexible, Negotiable Measurement Themes

7

State and national recognition of schools or other educational institutions linked to academic standing

8

New, innovative knowledge or instructional techniques -- development, delivery, or application

9

The extent that program mixes deal with designated state priorities for programs, service, or economic development