

MA Consortium for Innovative Education Assessment
September 15, 2016 Meeting Minutes
Somerville Public Schools

Preparing for MCIEA launch: Addressing concerns. We set aside the bulk of the meeting to discuss questions and concerns about MCIEA launch. Questions that were raised that framed the discussion were as follows:

- What components will the accountability system we want to create consist of?
- What is the purpose of the assessments being created – local and common?
- What is the full commitment for districts?
- What is the obligation of the grant funds?

We had a lengthy discussion based on the questions raised; there was understandable concern that the consortium had been moving too fast and not everyone fully understood the scope of the work before us. We spent time reviewing the proposed work and timeline. The performance assessment institutes will build the capacity of performance assessment lead teams from selected schools to lead their faculties in creating high quality, curriculum-embedded performance assessments. The common task working committees will create a set of common tasks in ELA, math, and science that will primarily be used for ensuring inter-rater reliability across districts. The school quality measures will conduct focus groups in each community on what is most important to know about the quality of their schools, and a multiple measures school quality database for each participating school will be created. To have this system truly be different, we need different measures for student learning other than MCAS 2.0; hence, the focus on performance assessments.

Ultimately, MCIEA, as quoted in our founding overview document, is aiming to “create and implement a cross-district model of an assessment system that contains multiple measures to use in making robust determinations of student academic progress and school quality, while serving as a powerful tool to improve local instruction, assessment, and student learning. The eventual system will contain two components: (1) a performance assessment system combining teacher-generated local and common performance tasks to drive instructional improvement, curriculum design, and rich measures of student progress, and (2) a school quality measures system – comprised of academic, social-emotional, and school culture measures, to assess school quality while leveraging improvement in school culture, student support, and instruction.”

The question came up at the end of the meeting of whether the consortium was seeking to engage in intensive professional development to build faculty capacity to create robust performance assessments for the classroom OR create a new accountability system based on multiple measures with performance assessments as the primary source for determining student learning. There was a question of whether you can do both at once. There was overriding sentiment that you can accomplish both purposes and that was the intent of the consortium.

Agreements: We agreed that the process of roll-out had been moving too fast and we would slow things down. We agreed on the following process and timeline:

Timeline	Activity
By October 30	For this year, districts can choose to participate in the (a) school quality measures work, (b) performance assessment work, or (c) both. Each district should inform Dan by Friday, October 30 of which option they have chosen. In FY 2018, every consortium district will be expected to participate in both the school quality measures and performance assessment work.
November 2	Dan will inform Jack which districts will be participating in the school quality measures work. Jack will begin work with these districts, setting up and conducting focus groups, soon thereafter.
By November 16	Districts that select the performance assessment work will spend September, October, and early November building teacher awareness and understanding of the MCIEA initiative, while also selecting schools to participate and identifying Performance Assessment Lead Teams in selected schools. Each district should submit the names of the participating schools and PA Lead Team rosters to CCE by November 16th.
By December break	During late November and December, each district participating in the performance assessment work should schedule CCE to meet with the PA Lead Teams of selected schools and provide them with an orientation to the upcoming work.
By December break	The governing board will have further discussed the rationale for creating common performance tasks and decided whether and when to move forward with them
January 2017	Performance assessment institute begins for the first cohort of schools and runs through May

Preparing for public announcement of MCIEA launch. Originally, there was a September 15th State House event scheduled that would have been MCIEA’s public launch; this event was postponed due to the need for further board discussion about MCIEA activities. We don’t want to schedule it prior to the November elections.

Agreement: We agreed to schedule our public launch event for some time in January.

Selection of MCIEA Governing Board Co-Chair. The superintendent co-chair position was open.

Agreement: Todd Gazda, Ludlow, was elected unanimously. Erik Fearing, Revere’s teacher union president, and Todd are the two governing board co-chairs.

Meeting Location. We need a more central location to meet.

Agreement: CCE will look into getting meeting space at the MA Secondary School Administrators Association offices in Franklin.

Next Meeting Agenda Items: October 20, 9:00 – 11:30 am (location to be determined)

- Building Support in the Field (15 m.)
 - Secretary of Education Peyser – Mary, Dianne, Stacy
 - MA Secondary School Administrators Association – Alain
 - Urban Superintendents Network – Stacy
 - MA Business Alliance for Education – Dianne Kelly
 - MA Parent Teacher Alliance – Mary Skipper
 - Assessment & Accountability Advisory Council to DESE – Mary & Paul S.
 - MA Association of Vocational Administrators - Stacy
 - MA Mayors Association – Paul T.
 - MA Board of Elementary & Secondary Education individual members

- Business (15 m.)
 - Convening LMS Committee
 - Report on conversation with the CORE executive director

Future MCIEA Governing Board Meetings (locations to be determined)

November 17, 2:00 – 4:30 pm

December 15, 9:00 – 11:30 am

January 19, 2017, 2:00 – 4:30 pm

February 17, 9:00 – 11:30 am

March 17, 9:00 – 11:30 am

April 27, 2:00 – 4:30 pm

May 18, 2:00 – 4:30 pm

June 15, 9:00 – 11:30 am