

Overview of Ad Hoc Committee on Assessments and the Diploma System Informal Facilitated Discussion Groups

The Ad Hoc Committee on Assessments and the Diploma System convened stakeholders to engage in facilitated discussion about the Diploma System. The following information summarizes the method used to convene the groups.

Recruitment

Angela Teixeira, Liaison to the Board of Education, emailed invitations to professional organizations inviting members to participate in the focus groups. Organizations included:

1. The Rhode Island School Committee Association,
2. The Rhode Island School Principal Association, and
3. The Rhode Island School Superintendents Association.

A variety of students organizations were also invited, including:

- The RI Association of Student Councils;
- Young Voices,
- Youth in Action,
- Providence Student Union; Skills USA,
- The Rhode Island Urban Debate League,
- The Met,
- Future Business Leaders of America, and
- Year Up, and Stepping Up.

Teachers were recruited independently by RIAFT and NEARI.

Facilitator

David J. Ruff, Executive Director, Great Schools Partnership, Inc. was the volunteer facilitator for the conversations.

Overarching Research Questions

1. What was the scope of remediation across LEAs since the release of the 11th grade NECAP scores?
2. Which remediation supports/strategies have shown the most promise in helping students to meet the state assessment graduation requirement?

Informal Facilitated Discussion Group Protocol Development

The protocol was informed by questions generated by members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Assessments and the Diploma System. The protocol was reviewed and approved by members prior to its administration with group participants.

Group Summary

- March 4, 2014 – Teacher Group (15 participants)
- March 12, 2014
 - Superintendent Group (8 participants)
 - Principal Group (8 participants)
 - School Committee Group (3 participants)
- Due to lack of response, the Student Group was cancelled.

Final Report: To be delivered mid-April, 2014, by David Ruff to the Ad Hoc Committee on Assessments and the Diploma System.