

Parent Communications Notes November 6, 2014

Dr. Kimmie Sucharski, CMCSS District Accountability and Data Analyst, presented a report on student achievement data recently released by the State. For elementary students, Dr. Sucharski noted that a letter grade of "C" means a student has done exactly what was expected. If a student exceeds the target, they would receive an A or B. If the student has done less than expected, their letter grade would be a D or F. High school students do not get a letter grade. Instead, schools receive one of three scores: "NDD" (no detectable difference)," Above", or "Below" in the subject areas scored. Value-added scores reflect growth. Value-added is a State score. Earlier in the year, parents had heard about "AMOs" (annual measureable objectives). AMOs are the federal requirements. Dr. Sucharski showed several power point slides including the report card snapshot which indicates the three-year rolling averages.

Additionally, Dr. Worthington and Dr. Sucharski commented on the fact that the standards being taught have changed from the Tennessee Diploma Project to the Common Core standards.

The graduation rate for CMCSS for the current year remains the same as last year at 94%. A chart showing the district graduation rates from 2003-2004 through the present year was shown. During 2003-2004, the graduation rate for CMCSS was 76%. There have been different methods used by the State over the years to calculate graduation rate. Also, graduation requirements have changed over the years. Students are now required to have 22 credits instead of 20, end of course assessments count as 25% of the student's final grade, and students must receive a regular high school diploma within four years to count in the district's graduation rate. Previously, ELL and special education students were allowed 5 years to complete. While a 94% graduation rate would appear to indicate that 6% of students dropped out, that is not an accurate picture. The 6% can be broken down as follows:

- 1.4% are 5th year students that may be ELL (English language learners), special education students, or students coming into the district that may be lacking in credits and need extra time or help to achieve the 22 credits required for graduation.
- 1.0% are students with significant disabilities that will receive a special education diploma.
- 1.6% can be defined as drop outs. These may be students that turn 18 and quit, move to another district where they are put in a program where they will not receive a regular diploma or not meet Tennessee standards.
- 2.5% are students that end up in other programs such as adult high school, Job Corp, or they choose to receive a GED.

Dr. Worthington explained that programs such as virtual high school and credit recovery have been put in place to try and help students get their diplomas on time.

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Dr. Worthington provided an update on Common Core and assessments. Governor Haslam is currently providing everyone with the opportunity to have input on common core standards. Access to the online information will be provided soon and CMCSS will be linking on our website. (It's now there on the front page of www.cmcss.net) The state has set aside the PARCC assessment implementation for the current year and is seeking an optional assessment to use. The new assessment will be given online. Dr. Worthington indicated it would probably be late spring before we know what standards will be implemented next year.

The Inclement Weather Plan for the 2014-2015 school year was discussed briefly. Dr. Worthington stated that calendar planning starts with student needs. Students unanimously want to have their semester exams before Christmas. The calendar is built around that request and State requirements. When asked to show by a raise of hands whether parents supported fall break or not, the overwhelming majority indicated they do want fall break. Dr. Worthington commented that the School Board has allowed for five student days to be missed for inclement weather without making up those days. In previous years, they have only allowed three days to be forgiven without being made up. A plan is in place for making up three additional days should they be missed beyond the five allowed.

Parents spent time discussing the question of the month at their tables. The next meeting will be in January. The next question for input is "Are schools adequately staffed to meet the system's mission and vision? If no, what are your concerns?" Parents or guardians may submit their input in the question box located in each school.