AccelerateED Task Force
Building and Student Services
Wednesday, May 13, 2020
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Kathy Coleman, AccelerateED
Chair

Task Force	Advisory Group	SCDE Staff
Alan Walters, Chair	Margaret Merriweather	Sabrina Moore
Chanda Jefferson	Anna Duvall	Sherrie Beaver
Harrison Goodwin	Sharon Worley	Sarah Longshore
Chuck Saylors	Scott Powell	John Payne
Kathy Coleman	Angie Slatton	Beckie Davis
	Sabra Denny	Vickky Ladd
	Abby Duggins	Dan Ralyea
		Jasmeen Shaw
		Brian Pratt
		Marlene Sellars

Questions assigned to the group: Based on the discussion today, we would like for you to come up with recommendations for the following main issues and how they fit with the charge of your subcommittee:

1. Expand summer academic opportunities in ELA and math to include special populations of students who are in need of support
2. Provide social/emotional learning support as students and staff return to the school environment
3. Upfront c1osts for districts
4. Particular focus on K-3 and giving districts flexibility on these programs
5. Making sure safety protocols are in place in schools
6. Meeting the needs for students with disabilities.

AWalters: Opened the meeting with greetings. Update to mention some items that came up with the meeting with the subcommittee chairs, Kathy and Molly. Still awaiting more from the legislature; hard to get into hard definite hard planning regarding the $1.9B pot of money. Beginning of school year is still far out and so what may we come up with is submit to change and revision. From the SBE, parents are concerned about the opening of schools; they did not feel that the timing was right. This will have to be addressed not only state wide but locally and at the school level. Will it be safe to come back to school?

$1.9B
$48M – Governor
$216M – State Department of Education

$115.7m – Reading programs
$192m – For the 6 extra days at the start of the school year for instruction, remediation or intervention
$159,000 – Masks for teachers and staff
$15m – Upfront Cleaning costs
$12m – Foodservice (districts are not handling these costs)
$64m – Device shortage (pay for approximately 160,000 devices 1:1 ratio)
$XX Broadband

Align recommendations to the funding. Timelines 5/22/2020; mainly for the recommendations that will deal with summer programs and the 6 days at the start of the school. Then we will probably have a little more time beyond that to the beginning of the school year. Potential dates for the end of June as to what that will look like. At some time shortly, we will put an end date for the task force.

Key Points:

1. Infrastructure grants – small dollar grants for physical facilities (Plexiglas in front office, dividers, extra room space)
2. Cleaning schedules-recommendations based on the latest guidance from the DHEC or CDC
3. PPE, Masks, Sanitary supplies, Sanitizer (state order instead of individual districts)
4. Nurse in every school (need reoccurring dollars)
5. Policy for visitors, utilizing outdoor spaces as much as possible, communication plan in place prior to the start of school (Appendix A in Maryland plan)
6. Broadband is still a priority
7. Social Emotional Support-general recommendations as to what that will entail
8. School Counselors – Mental Health curriculum that could be used
9. Latest Guidance – Social distancing (Classroom desk placement, one way traffic in the halls and how will lunch be served.
10. HVAC systems? If someone tests positive, how do we contain it.

Will try to keep this meeting to 1hr–1 hr 15 minutes due to other meeting.

KColeman: Good general recommendations. Good starting point from the task force. Molly continues to work on the funding.

CSaylors:

1. HVAC system ask a professional regarding shutting down systems to eliminate contamination.
2. Safety grants – not a quick turnaround to make changes, so it has to be started quickly.
3. Purchasing equipment (PPE, masks) a great idea to purchase by one entity
4. The State Board concerns are a) funding (loss of revenue) b) general safety (building confidence that the schools are safe as well as transportation. School innovations information will be shared at a later time. Long term work needs to be done physically to our buildings and will be costly.

HGoodwin:

1. In reference to the pictures of the classrooms with social distancing, note that we don't have classrooms that look like that. The pictures are a very traditional setup for a classroom with the desks. However, it does not align with good instructional practices. Thoughts how to balance social distancing and instructional practices.
2. How do you sanitize a classroom daily or multiple times a day with lots of books, and lots of materials present that are shared by students? Should we remove these items until we get a handle on this?
3. What is the protocol when there is a positive student?

CSaylors: In reference to the pictures-Physical ability to put how many students in a classroom at 36sqft per student. Pictures were taken of a classroom as a visual. AWalters: Forwarded to Ryan to place in the folder for everyone's access.

HGoodwin:

4. How do we disinfect our buildings? In house custodian positions are hard to keep filled. Will have to look for a contracted service to meet the requirements.

AWalters: Great comments about the shared use of materials in the classroom.

CJefferson:

1. Classrooms are smaller and my classroom would probably accommodate 6-10 students at a time. How to space students in small classrooms?
2. Social Emotional Learning – Currently at the state department we have SCLead and also SCETV has been offering webinars to support teachers and any type of professional development. Train teachers to support students that have experience trauma during this process.
3. SREB Task force – a lot of documents that she will share with the group

AWalters: Perhaps discuss top priorities for things such as the summer camps the additional instructional days and adding days. Look like around July 4th.

JPayne: Ongoing conversation in the Instructional task force meeting. The proposal is perhaps for summer camps are a 4 week session and possibly of adding up to six days prior to school starting. Looking at the money that will be requested from the governor's office of the $1.9B for K-3, ELA/Math and how districts may be able to extend beyond that. Also looking at the calendar for around July 6 for the summer learning to start.

AWalters: Having building ready to occupy; Cleaning would have to take place before that time.

JPayne: Made request to instructional staff as they engage with children that they be responsible for maybe taking the child's temperature, asking questions before the child comes in or be responsible for

cleaning their own classrooms. They voiced their concerns, not being qualified to take on the cleaning. This will not be the same type of the cleaning that the custodian staff is accustomed to daily.

AWalters: Training similar to training for blood borne pathogen; same protocol for cleaning. Guidance on what that will look like. Teachers have enough placed on them already without getting into nursing and custodial work.

JPayne: Districts can use the flow through funds that they will be received to have training on infectious diseases and cleaning. Have the CDC put out any tutorials or guidelines on cleaning?

AWalters: The information that he has seen has been broad and vague. Everyone is in the wait and see mode. Some things that are being discussed are UV lights to disinfect. There are the Clorox 360 machines but hard to find now and also the cleaner to go in them.

CSaylor: UV Lighting: It depends on the type of structure where there are being installed; they could create exposure if they are not installed correctly.

JShaw: UV Light was an item discussed. Also, air purification systems in the classrooms; Company that shows air being filtered into the classroom. They suggest placing them in every classroom or in certain areas that would push the air through several rooms at one time. It will be up to the districts to decide which product they use.

AWalters: Our recommendations are providing guidance to the districts not mandates. Decisions will have to be made locally.

JPayne: Students with disabilities that can't possibly wear masks; some have breathing tubes; some have feeding tubes. When you look at typical classrooms, the students aren't out of hands reach of a teacher or a paraprofessional in the room for the safety and the wellness of the children. How do you balance the social distancing? Does that mean that the teacher would have to wear head to toe PPE? We're talking about our children that have more significant kind of disabilities and health impairments for which you do have closer contact. It's amazing how these students can move.

ASlatton: Related services providers-Speech pathologists who deal with children not in a traditional classroom in groups. There is no way to keep students in that one classroom all day and provide services to them. Students 3-4 or 4-5 are not going to social distance. There may be students that will have to go on homebound for their own safety. What are the virtual options for them so that they can continue to engage with students in their classroom? Graduation is now being discussed and students that will need assistance to cross the stage; there is no way to social distance with them and help them across the stage.

AWalters: Students that may have to be homebound may also be a funding concern. Special Education teachers wearing PPE in classrooms may traumatize the students.

ASlatton: Another thing that we have not talked about are the sensory items that are used for the children with disabilities. They have things in their mouths all the time. How can we safely sanitize

them all times? What does snack time look like in a preschool classroom? All things will have to be thought through by grade level and by disability needs as well

AWalters: Items need to be addressed broadly; if not a recommendation, an area of concern. Districts will have to follow the best practices as stated by the CDC or DHEC.

JPayne: As we are discussing, we are thinking of so many things. We should recognize the issue and then making sure that districts are aware so that they can think of their immediate situation, whether it is the setup of their classroom or the students that they serve.

BDavis: Students with disabilities and children without disabilities as well. Currently allowing 1 on 1 and the type of services. As a school psychologist, a lot of what we do cannot be done through social distancing. There are rules to follow and if they aren't the results are not valid. How do we do this? How do we continue to get the information we need to provide instruction or make instructional decisions? Screening and cleaning are more of the immediate decisions that some of the others.

KColeman: Recommendation should include training and professional development; have training before summer and certainly before the fall. Also, have a recommendation of long term plan as to what we're learning and how we can have some long term sustainable plans for other situations. Listing of concerns will provide something for the state department or districts to work on in the future.

AWalters: Possibly get $1M to use as seed money and partner with one of the universities for a school health and safety center.

SDenny: Something needs to be sent out as to who are responsible for the different things and are there currently enough desks for social distancing? The majority of classrooms have tables and other furniture. There are exercise balls and all types of other things in the classrooms. What does that look like in the newer schools that don't have desks? How do you accommodate that with tables?

AWalters: These recommendations are going to create a lot of conversation around issues that have to be addressed.

CJefferson: Huge push for flexible seating across the nation. Schools are purchasing seats that are made to go together, there are balls, rolling chairs, etc.

SPowell: Still concerned regarding dining; how can this be safely done? Is it feasible to serve students in the classroom?

AWalters: Restrooms and how are you going to control their usage? The 6' social distancing may phase out over the next couple of months unless there is another outbreak. Recommendation to include how to social distance in lunch rooms, rest rooms, etc.

JShaw: Regarding students or teachers or anyone coming into building during summer school or in August, for the districts that are building new buildings or renovations going on, what are the safety

precautions that are going to be in place? What will the general contractor being used as far as safety protocol?

AWalters: We are not going to have the answer for all contingencies and we are working on a short time line and broad parameters. There will be lots of questions to be answered; we will not be able to do all of that considering the charge the task force was given. A lot will be contingent on the money. The deadlines must be met and broad recommendations given from the group.

KColeman: Checklist for Maryland Your report will hopefully lead to finding some of these answers and will be different throughout the state and how to handle them. Perhaps they can be handled deeper once the framework has been completed.

AWalters: A recommendation may be that some group or task force that continue the work for the next phase. Next full task force meeting will be on 5/14/2020 and then we will draft up something like the Maryland or Missouri documents. Perhaps have another subcommittee meeting.

ASlatton: Does it make sense to have summer camps this year considering how fast it will be put together? Do we have the best practices/research in place?

AWalters: Agrees on both points; concerns how productive the summer camps will be and being too late to cancel. Some people are looking forward to what happens this summer and that it will be the prelude to the beginning of the new school year. A laboratory for us to try some of these things in a smaller more controlled environment.

Thank you for your time and we are closing in on what we trying to do but also laying the foundation for a lot of work to take place beyond what we're doing. The Full Task force meeting is Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. Then we will look at scheduling the next meeting maybe the first of next week.