
AERA SIG on School Indicators and Profiles NEWSLETTER

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Tidings from the Chair

By Rolf Blank, SIG Chair

Many SIG School Indicators and Profiles members are involved with state accountability systems in some way--either developing one, collecting or analyzing data related to accountability, critiquing a system for their state, or dealing with the consequences locally from the state system. There are a variety of policy, educational, technical, and communication issues associated with the accountability trend in public education. One of the big issues for School Indicators and Profiles is how a broader set of educational indicators and data get reported and used in the era of accountability. That is, important contextual, program, demographic, and resource indicators need to find their way in the search for "bottom-line" assessment-driven scores for schools or teachers that focus the attention of the public and policymakers.

Hopefully our SIG can continue to be a resource for exchange of information about accountability issues and accountability systems, while also maintaining the broader view of the need for many other kinds of reliable indicators in our education systems. At CCSSO, we are working on some resources related to Accountability that SIG members should find useful.

First, we have placed on our website (www.ccsso.org) two web pages that provide access to a variety of other sources of information on accountability-related topics:

<http://www.ccsso.org/AccountabilityResources.html>

<http://www.ccsso.org/AccountabilityWorkshop.html>

The former provides links to web-based and print documents on accountability from several sources. The latter document provides direct links to state websites with useful accountability examples, and also to presentations on various aspects of accountability.

Second, we have started working with a group of states through an ongoing collaborative project on Accountability Systems and Reporting. Presently 10 states have committed to working together to share and discuss policy issues, strategies, technical discussions, methods of reporting, and systems designs. Our second meeting of the group was in December. We expect to share information via email and the web, and we will be meeting as a group three times per year. We will be bringing in experts to assist in the work. The work is focusing on three areas: Accountability System Design, Data Quality and Reporting Methods, and Professional Development based on Data. In particular, the second topic is likely to produce useful recommendations and suggestions for SIG: SIP members. We will keep you updated.

Finally, related to accountability, the U.S. Department of Education / Planning and Evaluation Service has just initiated several multi-year evaluation studies of implementation of accountability systems and studies of the impact of Title I, including an Evaluation of Title I Accountability Systems and School Improvement Efforts, National Study of Title I Schools, and Longitudinal Evaluation of the Effectiveness of School Interventions. For more information, check the USED/ PES website.

Please plan to share with the SIG: SIP your insights, questions, suggestions, and ideas about the relationship between good practice with school indicators and the drive for accountability in our education systems.

Also, use our SIG website as a resource. Please send me topics, items, and suggestions for the web page: <http://www.wcer.wisc.edu/sipsig/> You can also find your fellow SIG Members listed there.

Great big thanks to Barbara Clements, Newsletter Editor for putting this issue all together, particularly over the holidays and in the midst of the Florida re-count; and special thanks to Peter Prowda, our hard-working, but insightful Program Chair. Assuming new program chair candidates step forward, Peter will assume the SIG Chair at our meeting in April (early congratulations!)

I look forward to interacting with on-line and in person. See you on-line and in Seattle in April!

SIG: SIP Program at AERA 2001

Pete Prowda, our Program Chair, has announced the following two sessions of the SIG: School Indicators and Profiles at the AERA Annual Meeting in Seattle, April 10-14:

1. Paper Session: *Improving Schools Through Improved School Indicator Reports*

The SIG paper session is scheduled on Wednesday, April 11 at 2:15 in Rm 616 of the Convention Center.

Chair: Bobby Franklin, Louisiana Department of Education

Discussant: Margaret Goertz, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education

Papers

Beyond Achievement, Student/Staff/Parent Surveys Used for Edina District School Profiles and Accountability System. Yi Du, Edina Public School District.

How Comparable are Dropout Data? Measuring Deviations from Federal Reporting Guidelines on a State Dropout Rate. Susan Kochan (presenter), Louisiana Department of Education, Charles Teddlie, LSU College of Education, Bobby Franklin, Louisiana Department of Education.

Poverty and Social Status (Not SES) As Differential Predictors of School Achievement. Rich Hofmann, Miami University.

Redesign of the Student Assessment Reporting Systems in Connecticut. Ellen Forte Fast, AIR.

Urban School Key Indicators of Science and Mathematics Education for the National Science Foundation's Urban Systemic Initiative Program. Jason Kim (presenter), Hunhee Ken Lee, & Linda Crasco, Systemic Research Inc.

2. Business Meeting and Invited Panel

Business Meeting, Thursday, April 12, 6:15 to 7:45, Room 616, Convention Center.

Chair: Rolf Blank, CCSSO

Program Chair: Peter Prowda, Connecticut State Department of Education

Secretary/Treasurer: Leslie Lawrence, CTB

In addition to the business portion, Rolf, Leslie and Pete will have scoured Seattle for the best wine, soda, cheese, and crackers that the SIG can afford.

Panel: *School Profiles from Districts' Perspectives*

Moderator: Peter Prowda, Connecticut State Department of Education

Discussant: Richard Hill, National Center for Improving Education

Panelists: Kevin Matter, Cherry Creek (CO) School District

Sally Bennett, San Diego (CA) City Unified School District

Sid Vaughn, Virginia Beach (VA) City Public Schools

Chuck Delaney, Wake County (NC) Public School System

Synopsis: Each of the panelists will present the features of their local profiles. The Cherry Creek and San Diego Profiles are now done according to state-mandated specifications. The presenters will discuss how the state mandates changed their profiles. The Virginia Beach and Wake County profiles are produced in addition to state published profiles. These presenters will contrast the local and state profiles. Rich Hill will tie the whole session together and point out strengths and weaknesses in both models and the balance between information and accountability in the profiles.

A Special Thanks to Reviewers

Pete Prowda, Program chair would like to thank the following people who served as reviewers for the papers submitted to our SIG: Stephen Bland, Alice Evans, John Freeman, Nancy Law, Arie Van der Ploeg and Sid Vaughn. They each reviewed three papers, provided professional critiques, and, most importantly to me, got the reviews in on time. We received six papers and accepted five. Thanks for a job well done.

Nominations for New Officers

It's time to elect new officers for the SIG. Peter Prowda, current Program Chair, will be the nominee to serve as Chair for the next two years. Rolf Blank, our current Chair, is entertaining nominations for the other two officer positions to serve for the next two years: Program Chair (who is nominated for Chair at the end of two years) and Secretary/Treasurer. Please feel free to nominate yourself or another SIG member. In addition, if anyone is interested in becoming the newsletter editor, please contact Rolf at Rolfb@ccsso.org.

Leslie Lawrence Mugan has served as Secretary/Treasurer and Barbara Clements has served

as newsletter editor for the past two years. If you have questions about those positions, contact them at Lmugan@ctb.com or Bclements@evalsoft.com. If you have questions about the Program Chair, Pete can be reached at peter.prowda@po.state.ct.us.

New Publications

The National Center for Educational Statistics just released a new report, Monitoring School Quality: An Indicators Report. Their indicator model includes: 1) The academic skills of teachers; 2) Teacher assignment; 3) Teacher experience; 4) Professional Development; 5) Course Content; 6) Pedagogy; 7) Technology; 8) Class size; 9) School leadership; 10) Goals; 11) Professional community 12) Discipline; and 13) Academic environment. It is available at:

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2001030>

New from CCSSO are 2000 versions of two popular serial publications. Both are available on the CCSSO website:

1. [State Education Accountability Reports and Indicator Reports: Status of Reports across the States--2000](#)
2. [Key State Education Policies on K-12 Education: 2000: Time & Attendance, Graduation, Content Standards, Teacher & School Leader Licensure, Student Assessment](#)

OCIO Work on Education Decision Support Systems

During the months of July-September, 2000, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of the Chief Information Officer sponsored a set of activities related to education information management. The work was facilitated by Barbara Clements and Glynn Ligon of Evaluation Software Publishing, Inc., under a subcontract to the Council of Chief State School Officers. One particular set of meetings focused on education decision support systems. Representatives of state and local education agencies and other organizations made presentations about well-designed systems, followed by discussant comments and general discussion. Information from these meetings has been summarized and posted on the web at www.educationadvisor.com. A new series of activities is expected to begin soon, and information about future meetings will be distributed to the SIG:SIP at a later time.

New NCEs Handbook on Education Institutions to be Developed

The Administrative Records Development Project at CCSSO is beginning work on an Education Institution Handbook this winter. The contents of the new NCEs handbook will be coordinated with the contents of the other NCEs handbooks, including the Student Data Handbook for Elementary, Secondary, and Early Childhood Education, the Staff Data Handbook for Elementary, Secondary, and Early Childhood Education, and Financial Accounting for Local and State School Systems. Barbara Clements will be working on this project with Oona Cheung at CCSSO. This handbook is expected to include many of the data elements used as school and district indicators and profiles. A task group will be developed to assist with this handbook, and will include representatives from state education agencies, school districts, the U.S. Department of Education, and other education organizations. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Barbara Clements at Bclements@evalsoft.com.

Presentations on Data Quality at SERA

Barbara Clements and Glynn Ligon will be making a series of presentations on Data Quality at the Southwest Educational Research Association meeting in New Orleans on February 1-2, 2001. The focus of these presentations will be on ensuring that the data used in accountability and profile reports is appropriate and high quality. These presentations build on work done with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Planning and Evaluation Services on performance indicators. For more information, contact Glynn at gligon@evalsoft.com or Barbara at bcllements@evalsoft.com.

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