

Redesigning Performance Indicators and Tasks for The National External Diploma Program



A Presentation for the NEDPC
Conference
October 2008

Agenda

- Present an Overview of the Competency Revalidation Process
- Present the Initial Alignment of 1992 Performance Indicators with 2008 Revalidated Competencies
- Explore Draft Plan For Revising, Piloting, And Revalidating New Assessments
- Conduct discussion with NEDPC Conference participants

THE COMPETENCY REVALIDATION PROCESS

Background

- NEDP competencies last validated in 1992
- Feasibility study (2005) suggested a need for alignment with rigorous high school completion standards
- Competencies should be revalidated every 5-7 years
- Competency revalidation is an essential first step before revision of NEDP Tasks (assessments)
- The process is detailed in “An Overview of the Revalidation Process for the NEDP Competencies”

Competency Revalidation Goals

- Ensure relevance to the demands of the 21st century
- Ensure NEDP competencies are aligned with more comprehensive high school graduation requirements
- Ensure that NEDP graduates are well prepared to enter post-secondary education and for the world of work

Sources for Competency Revalidation

- 1992 NEDP Competency List
- NEDP states' standards, including pilot states (e.g., California)
- Partnership for 21st Century Skills
- Manufacturing Skills Standards Council (MSSC) Standards
- National Governors Association (Achieve)
- International Society for Technology in Education Standards

Sources....continued

- National Councils of Teachers
 - English
 - Math
 - Science
 - Social Studies
- National Institute for Health
- National Standards for Arts in Education
- American Council of Education (Alignment of National and State Standards)

Sources....continued

- U. S. Department of Treasury (Financial Education)
- Media Professionals from Public Broadcasting
- CASAS Study - Meta-Analysis across Business and Industry Sectors
- CASAS National Consortium Content Standards

Competency Revalidation Process

- Fall 2007 - Introduced revalidation process at NEDPC Conference
- Spring/summer 2007 - Conducted focus group meetings for 6 states
- Spring/summer 2007 - Conducted mail-in surveys for remaining states
- June 2007 - Developed initial competency list
- September 2007 - formed ad hoc committee with representation from each NEDP state to assist with revalidation process

Competency Revalidation Process...Continued

- September – October 2007 – Developed online survey for all sites to complete based on ad hoc committee recommendations
- November 2007 - Held ad hoc committee meeting to review results of online survey
- December 2007 – February 2008 – Convened additional ad hoc conference calls and made additional refinements to competency list
- March 2008 – Developed revised list of 70 NEDP competencies

Validation Process

- Internal review and editing
- Field review and validation process
 - By practitioners
 - Content experts
 - Similar procedure to competency revalidation process
- After validation, existing NEDP Tasks (assessments) will be analyzed to inform the new Task development process

Competency Categories*

- Communication and Media Literacy (1-8)
- Applied Math/Numeracy (9-25)
 - Number Sense and Operations
 - Algebra
 - Geometry and Measurement
 - Statistics and Probability
- Information and Communication Technology (26-28)
- Cultural Literacy – Interpreting the Arts: Fine Arts, Music, Drama, and Film (29-31))
- Health Literacy (32-36)
- Civic Literacy and Community Participation (37-42)

* 2008 competency list in participant packets

Competency Categories...continued

- Geography and History (43-47)
- Consumer Awareness and Financial Literacy (48-52)
- Scientific Inquiry (53-58)
- Twenty-First Century Workplace (59-70)

Note:

More “academic” competencies have examples of life skill applications to underscore relevancy

Performance Indicators – Next Step

Performance indicators need to be developed that will specify the explicit outcomes needed to demonstrate each competency

Alignment of New Competencies to 1992 Performance Indicators

- As a first step aligned 1992 Performance Indicators to most relevant 2008 competencies (See Handout)
- This will serve as a baseline to determine:
 - Which PIs will remain unchanged
 - Which PIs will need revision or updating
 - Which competencies will need PIs to be developed

Draft Plan For Revising, Piloting, And Revalidating New Assessments

With assistance from the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), NEDP practitioners and Content Experts:

- Establish criteria and review process to review current performance indicators, linked to appropriate new competencies, and identify those that meet the criteria, need revision, or should be deleted
- Establish process for developing new performance indicators as needed

Draft Plan...Continued

- Establish a review process that includes the TAG, National Ad Hoc Field Team and state education and labor staff to review and align with state graduation standards, 21st Century skills, critical work skills, and post secondary education and training enrollment requirements
- Identify all current assessment items that align with validated performance indicators

Draft Plan...Continued

- Develop an assessment plan or blueprint that specifies the assessment content, methods (computer administered, interviews, demonstration, project, etc.) and strategy for substantiating the validity of the assessments, following specifications that include content alignment with performance indicators as well as depth of knowledge (Norman Webb model)
- Develop assessment tasks, as needed, that meet the blueprint specifications

Draft Plan...Continued

- Convene a bias, fairness and sensitivity panel to review all items to ensure that items are free of any bias and are fair to all candidates
- Begin field testing all new and revised assessment items and data collection and analysis process with existing NEDP candidates
- Establish a plan for incorporating the validated assessment items (tasks) into the NEDP process

DISCUSSION

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