

Date: August 2016
To: District Administrators
From: Sheila Briggs, Assistant State Superintendent, Division for Academic Excellence
Subject: Academic and Career Planning Pre-implementation

Welcome back to school! It is Academic and Career Planning (ACP) pre-implementation year, so we would like to take a moment to reflect on the state's progress so far and what this means for you and your school district:

- Education for Employment, Wis. Admin. Code sec. PI 26, was repealed and recreated to include the requirements for ACP. The revised rule was effective December 1, 2015 and can be located at: http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/pi/26. Many of the components that are required of ACP, were already included as part of a district's overall Education for Employment plan required under PI 26. It is for that reason PI 26 was revised, rather than a new rule created for ACP. The rule is currently effective, with ACP service delivery to begin in fall 2017. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) created a guidance resource for developing the PI 26 plans on our webpage of <http://dpi.wi.gov/acp/rule>. This resource is intended to help districts align their overall district strategic plans to include career awareness, career exploration, career development and management, and ACP implementation planning.
- The final meeting with the 25 pilot school districts was held on June 16 in Madison. These districts have greatly impacted our work this past year and our continuing approach to ACP implementation support. See attached preliminary findings of ACP process pilot.
- Based on feedback from our pilot districts along with our partners at Wisconsin Center for Education Research, and the UW Center on Education and Work, we will be sharing an overview of the ACP guidance document and lessons for ACP staff professional development by fall 2016. These materials will be available in the coming weeks on our ACP webpage and useful as school districts ready themselves for the 2016-17 ACP pre-implementation year.
- The ACP software contract was finalized on April 25, 2016 with the vendor, Career Cruising. School districts may choose to use Career Cruising under the state contract or contract with any other platform they choose that provides "access to an academic and career planning software tool that allows pupils to engage in career exploration and career planning and preparation." Career Cruising has announced the training dates for this summer and fall at each Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA). This training is intended to provide designated trainers with the information necessary to train school staff on using Career Cruising with students. The training dates can be found on our ACP website at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/acp/events>.

- The 2016 ACP Leadership Conference will be held at the Monona Terrace in Madison on December 6-7, 2016. The theme this year is “ACP: Equipping Today’s Students for Tomorrow’s Opportunities.” Please consider presenting at the conference and/or sending your ACP team. We are excited to announce our Keynote Speaker, Richard Gerver, for this year’s conference. Recommended by Sir Ken Robinson, he will set the tone for an exciting conference that will focus on leading, networking, and sharing sample practice presentations in the breakout sessions. More information about the conference can be found at <http://dpi.wi.gov/acp/events/leadership-conference>
- In order to ensure that ACP technical assistance and professional development are moving districts forward in preparing college and career ready students, and that students are moving forward more prepared for their futures in an uncertain global economy, we will be partnering with education experts to review technical assistance, professional development, tools, materials, and implementation practices over the upcoming years to assess effectiveness of these resources. The first phase was focused on ACP preparation and planning in the pilot schools. The preliminary findings are attached. The second phase will assess changes made based on the results of phase one, and determine best practices for support for ACP implementation statewide. Post-implementation, we will examine program outcomes for ACP service delivery.

We sincerely appreciate the thinking and planning time you have already focused on ACP implementation in your district and schools and realize that so many of you are already bringing aspects of ACP to life right now. We are doing our best to keep you up to date on ACP happenings through our blog, webpages, upcoming article submissions in AWSA newsletters, and a focus on ACP throughout the state through the many professional development opportunities.

Continue to monitor our ACP communications page at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/acp/communication-tools> with handouts to talk to your stakeholders about ACP. Know that our goal is to tie learning together for students so that they are prepared to make informed contextual choices and able to gain transferable skills for whichever post-secondary path they travel.

For additional information or questions contact Robyn Kroyer-Kubicek at 608-266-2022 or robin.kroyer-kubicek@dpi.wi.gov