

WERAC Members,

Thanks again for such a great meeting on March 1st. We made a lot of progress in discussing major items of interest and future topics to explore, as well as understanding the role WERAC can play in the research and policy communities. Thanks to everyone who braved the snow, and for those of you who couldn't make it, we'll hope to fill you in.

A key discussion item was the focus of our next few meetings. We have proposed that we organize the meetings around exploring educational data and indicators in topic areas that meet the criterion of "relevance" (responsive to pressing needs identified by state and local decision makers, including Superintendent's priorities) and usefulness for potential collaboration within or outside of WERAC.

Meetings would be organized around a particular set of topics and aimed at identifying:

- current data and indicators available in schools and at the state level
- existing research
- gaps in policy
- alignment/ misalignment of research and policy
- potential funding streams

Some topics might include:

1. Soft skills
 - a. (What are they? How do we measure them?)
2. Health and Social Emotional Outcomes
 - a. (What are they? How do we measure them? Why?)
 - b. Suspension expulsion and violence outcomes. How to meet nutrition and social needs.
 - c. Robert Dixon, Paul Moberg, and Jim Nelson
3. Wage and employment
 - a. (Linkages, challenges, usefulness?)
4. Higher education pathways and career education
 - a. (Linkages, challenges? Key questions?)
5. Grade 6 -12 leading indicators. High school feedback reports.
 - a. ACT Suite including ACT Engage.
 - b. Academic Career Plans (ACP) and how to connect to practice
6. Early childhood. PALS.
 - a. How to use this data?
 - b. Social emotional screeners and trauma informed care. Applications in education?
 - c. Cross system connections between DPI/DCF/DHS and practitioners
7. Health
 - a. Nutrition. Medicine. Special needs.
8. Culturally responsive practice.
 - a. Social justice. Equity. Refugees and immigrants. ELL students.
9. Teacher practice. School organizations.
 - a. Training and professional development. Measures. Policy implications.

b. Staff well being and attitudes.

We hope to send out a member survey shortly to help identify the priorities for these topics and then arrange a schedule of next meetings with the topics and agendas. As mentioned, we will try for 3-4 meetings annually, and we will try to align the topics to current issues in policy and/or opportunities for funding.

At the meeting we also discussed adding members to the group. Due to retirements and job changes, we have had some turnover and have room for a few more members. We're actively soliciting suggestions from the membership – so if you think of someone who would be a good WERAC member please let us know!

Attached to this e-mail you will also find an up to date membership roster for WERAC, a copy of the DPI/WCER partnership grant (WIPARE) and a copy of the slides explaining that grant presented at the meeting. Also, a link to our website—which still needs some updating!

<https://sites.google.com/a/dpi.wi.gov/werac/>

We look forward to talking more with you in the future!

Best,
Jared and Bill