ODE ITC Conference Call – 5/17/2021
Notes provided by Naja Bailey (META) and Catherine Wright (NEONET)

FY21D CTE March Follow-up Appeal request window closes this Friday, May 21, 2021.

FY21A Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Appeal request window is May 24-June 18, 2021.

FY21P Five Year Forecast - Required Spring Update collection for Traditional Districts and JVSD's will be closing May 31, 2021. We encourage districts to get those submitted as soon as they can.

ODE EMIS training sessions – next round begins June 1, 2021. Please register for these virtual sessions via STARS.

FY22 EMIS processing schedule should be published later this week.

ITC note about database technology – EMIS Rewrite software was installed at ITC's 11-12 years ago, but Microsoft no longer supports that original version (Microsoft SQL Server 2008). If your ITC has not done so already, please update to a more current version.

Graduation Requirements – ODE reviewed FY20G graduation data and diploma-recipient reporting issues, as an exercise in making sure the data is correct for both the current students (in the new FY21S Grad Credit Progress collection) and for this year's graduates (FY21G). They compared the number of students reported as FY20G graduates against graduation requirements in these areas: State Course Requirements (every *category* of credit types, not just if they met the *minimum 20 required* credits), Science Requirements, Fine Arts Requirements, Economic/Financial Literacy Requirements, Math Requirements, Physical Education Requirements. They found large numbers of students in some districts who were determined to have Not Met some of these requirements, indicating that districts may not be correctly reporting Courses and/or FN Graduate information. When ODE looked at different course credit requirements, Science was the biggest area with issues. Some reminders:
- Report FN Graduation elements correctly, e.g., Economic/Financial Literacy Requirement Met, Fine Arts Requirement Met, Phys Ed Exemption, etc.
- Students might be reported as meeting the minimum number of overall Credits, but make sure those credits are in the correct categories (course "EMIS Subject Area for Credit").
- Science - students are required to have 3 Science credits with at least 1 Advanced Science credit. "Advanced" Science is a local determination, and districts can refer to ODE's Grad Requirements page for more information on all course requirements. EMIS Subject Area for Credit for a Science course is either SCA (Advanced), SCL (Life), SCO (Other), or SCP (Physical).

Q: For Science, I thought they were to code courses as specifically as possible, and even if it is a Physical or Life Science, they could code it as Advanced.
A: Yes, that is part of the confusion, the manual doesn't have that level of detail. They should use Advanced if it applies and more generic codes if that applies. Kids usually get Life and Physical Science in their Freshman and Sophomore years, and most Advanced Sciences in their Junior or Senior years. They don't typically start with Advanced as their first Science credit.

Q: Could we get these as Gen Issues reports as we're processing FY21G collection?

A: ODE needs to do something, but in the end, kids will count as a Graduate regardless. We don't use this data to say this kid shouldn't be a graduate. We need to do some kind of report, maybe separate from Progress Towards Graduation reports. The challenge is separating kids who are having issues with progress, e.g., is this a kid falling behind on credits or is this a data reporting issue and the kid is really ok on credits? If we published reports based on the data we got for 20G, it will look like no Junior or Senior is on track because they had already met some of these requirements in their Freshman or Sophomore years.

Q: Should districts be reporting FN Graduation elements as students meet them instead of waiting until they're a Senior and then doing mass updates?
A: Yes, it has never been a requirement to wait until they're a Senior to report them.

Q: Can we get Grade Level added to the new GC reporting collection?
A: That's a good suggestion, the challenge with a Level 1 report is getting Grade Level which is not a record type in that collection, and potentially their grad cohort too.

Q: Will this be communicated to guidance counselors since they are the ones who create new courses and sometimes struggle for which field to choose for courses?
A: I think we will do something along those lines in the training for Progress Towards Graduation reports to let them know it is based on their data and what might not be right. Right now, we're focusing on EMIS Coordinators because we don't know if that is the responsibility of individual Guidance Counselors, based on individual SIS, etc. so that will be more down the road.

Q: Is there already a report out there? It would be nice to see something starting at the Freshman level to see current Grad CORE GC for counselors to know where they are.
A: Yes, something like that will be part of the Progress Towards Graduation reports

Q: The whole goal is to have this in SLDS right?
A: Yes, the goal is to have it in ODDEX for one place to look at it. Part of the growing pains will be dealing with data quality issues like this.

Q: For the Phys Ed requirement, if they don't have a course then it looks for the FN attribute?
A: If they have either a course or FN then that flag gets set showing they met the requirement, there is no hierarchy.

Q: Does anyone ever have Science Other? Would Geology be considered Advanced?
A: There could be Other if there are interesting options a district offers, but most kids won't have Science Other. Requirements for Advanced is not subject matter, but what happens in the course, I think Geology is part of Physical Science. There should be a fair amount of documentation on ODE's webpage, if you search for graduation requirements, you'll find FAQs on course requirements. Districts need to figure out their own requirements and make sure students took the course and they are marked correctly.

Q: For WebXams where Juniors and Seniors can use grade substitutions in place of scores, if they want to just update their Juniors and Seniors with the grade substitution record, is that OK even though their grade on the course might not be as high as the WebXam? In other words, would you take the higher of the two?

A: Yes, our process takes the highest score for any particular WebXam. If they say they are Proficient based on using the course grade, we look at the score they report and the average proficient score for FY19, and whichever is higher is what we will use.

Q: Is it still ok for JVS and Contract Vocational programs to report grads with either WD41 or WD99?
A: Yes, that is fine for both types.

Next Call:
2 weeks from today will be Memorial Day so that call will be moved to Tuesday, June 1, 2021.