

## **School Climate Meeting**

**September 11, 2012**

**Hilton Garden – Sioux Falls, SD**

Participants of the School Climate Work Group met for the first time, September 11, 2012, in Sioux Falls.

In attendance: Rebecca Cain, Amy Beshara, Marilyn Forst, Tim Mitchell, Jeff Simmons, Mary Lammers, Mary Sprecher, Sonja Ortman, Kevin Lein, Janet Ricketts, Tracy Bird, John Copenhaver, Penny McCormick-Gilles, Deeann Konrad, Sue Burgard, and Merle Doolittle.

### **Purpose of School Climate Work Group**

Stakeholders from throughout South Dakota meet to discuss and plan activities regarding conditions for learning (school climate) in public schools throughout the state.

### **Outcomes** - Stakeholders will:

- a) Receive information regarding accountability indicators
- b) Learn and receive background information from other states regarding school climate, bullying, and student health.
- c) Discuss and develop a statewide students, parents, teachers and administrators survey to get their perspective on the issues.
- d) Discuss strategies for “Conditions for Learning” professional development.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

#### **Group reviewed Accountability Indicators: New Accountability Waiver**

1. Better picture of schools.
2. Set goals that are ambitious and achievable.
3. Give schools targeted and meaningful support.
4. Promotes continuous school improvement

Indicator 1. Student Achievement

Indicator 2. High School Completion Academic Growth 2014-15

Indicator 3. Attendance /College and Career Readiness

Indicator 4. Teacher and Principal Effectiveness 2014-15

Indicator 5. School Climate 2014-15

## **Importance of School Climate**

All students are affected by the climate of the school.

All staff is affected by the climate of the school.

The school climate is affected by the students and staff.

Student's academic achievement is directly related to school climate.

Any strategy can flourish or fail depending on the school's climate.

## **Facilitation – John Copenhaver- TAESE**

### **Group was given an Overview of:**

“Conditions for Learning” initiatives and programs from across the country.

Conditions for Learning or School Climate from a national perspective.

- . General Information
- . General Research
- . Survey Tools
- . National Center

Participants discussed school surveys and how they could be used. Discussed actions schools are already using and that are successful in creating good school climate. Technical assistance will need to be available. Schools should be asked if they can live with what this group comes up with. Schools will not compete with each other. Each school will have a base line.

**Participants broke into 3 groups to come up with a general consensus and report to the group as a whole. Asked to come up with something that schools can live with, that is easy to understand by the public, and do-able.**

### **Important words and phrases the groups came up with:**

Mutually respectful, all staff, high expectations, quality, characters, patterns, experiences, cultural standards, sets the tone, established positive school climate, quality, healthy environments, sustainable, positive school climate, fosters sense of belonging, meaningful participation, physical, emotional and social wellness.

**A small group volunteered to participate in a meeting, via phone, to decide on the definition of School Climate.**

**Participants broke into two groups to discuss other things that schools do that would already be part of school climate:**

Wellness Policy, bullying policy, Character Education Curriculum, submission of SDFS Report, Tobacco Policy, harassment- discrimination, Grievance Policy – procedure, Discipline Rubric, Student Handbook, PTOs/PTAs, HSTW (High Schools That Work), Character Counts, after school programs, RTI ( Response to Intervention), PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports), Youth Risk Survey, office referrals/behavior reports, academic achievement/growth, counseling services, curriculum, parent surveys, attendance, community collaboration events/groups, focus groups, parent/teacher group, Special Education Data, complaints, communication, and youth development groups.

Participants will meet again to move forward to develop an action plan.

**The work group will meet again Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 10:00 – 4:00 CST. Meeting will be held in Chamberlain.**