

# Advisory Council Goals for July 2010 – June 2011

**Council Goal 1: Promote improved student learning / progress, including promoting inclusive educational services that meet the needs of all students, regardless of their abilities, and promote a sense of belonging and mutual respect for all students while affirming each student's individuality.**

*The Council proposes the following actions:*

- a. Monitor Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Reports of students with disabilities (SWD) and their progress in the areas of Language Arts and Math and level of involvement in the general education curriculum;
- b. Promote the inclusion of all SWD in the regular classroom to the degree possible and with appropriate support and accommodations;
- c. Request results of TN Department of Education (TDOE) monitoring of districts' EasyIEP to ensure SWD are being provided appropriate access to grade-level appropriate instruction and accommodations, based on individual student capabilities;
- d. Recognize systems that utilize best practices to promote inclusive environments; and
- e. Study results of the Response to Intervention (RTI) implementation to ensure effectiveness and appropriate identification of SWD.
- f. Request TDOE to provide increased training of professionals/paraprofessionals in inclusive practices and review TDOE's monitoring of implementation of practices.

**Council Goal 2: Promote expanded access to and quality of services to eligible students with disabilities (SWD) to better prepare them for transition into their future environments.**

*The Council proposes the following actions:*

- a. Encourage TDOE to monitor and review best practices for how school districts are preparing their SWD in elementary and middle school to meet the rigorous demands in the TN Diploma Project in order to receive a regular education diploma and be prepared for the workforce;
- b. Encourage incorporation of self-advocacy/self-determination skills within the curriculum for all levels of services in special education, specifically seeking to increase inclusion and opportunities with peer mentors;
- c. Promote College and University Services program initiatives with the TN Board of Regents, the Tech Prep Consortium and college administrators, and include utilization of the College and University Disability Services program at the earliest opportunity on the high school level; and
- d. Request regular updates from the TDOE on collaboration efforts by the TDOE, Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), Division of Intellectual Disabilities Services (DIDS), Higher Education Institutes and other appropriate agencies responsible for the success of each graduate.

**Council Goal 3: Promote development and implementation of formative assessments that evaluate students' knowledge in a manner that considers their individual needs and that provides appropriate accommodations.**

*The Council proposes the following actions:*

- a. Review available assessment data results at end of first year of implementation of TN Diploma Project.
- b. Monitor districts' use of appropriate accommodations of Performance-Based Assessments.
- c. Review information from TDOE regarding development and implementation of the Modified Alternative Assessment (MAAS).

**Council Goal 4: Promote increased quality and quantity of personnel serving eligible children and youth with disabilities.**

*The Council proposes the following actions:*

- a. Encourage continuation of special programs by the TDOE/Division of Special Education, such as TEACH TN and Base-TN, which have been successful in recruitment and training of special educators from other professions.
- b. Encourage school districts and TDOE to be proactive and assist special education teachers with the process of getting endorsed in core academics they teach.
- c. Encourage school districts to make rigorous use of TDOE training sessions on the new standards and content knowledge for professional development for their teachers.
- d. Request regular updates on professional development provided by TDOE in the area of reading, and review assessment results to determine efficacy.

**Council Goal 5: Promote adequate special education funding and improving procedures for allocation of funds.**

*The Council proposes the following actions:*

- a. Review reports from TDOE regarding distribution / use of federal and state funds.
- b. Review school districts' use of stimulus money.
- c. Encourage use of available grants for special areas of need

**Council Goal 6: Promote improved state and local information management related to special education.**

*The Council proposes the following actions:*

- a. Encourage continued use of state-wide student management system (SSMS and EIEP).
- b. Request update from TDOE regarding progress linking TN Early Intervention Data System (TEIDS) with EIEP/Easy Census to create a birth through age 22 data system.

**Council Goal 7: Promote enhanced communication among community, educators and stakeholders on special education services and policies.**

*The Council proposes the following actions:*

- a. Continue to utilize TDOE website as information source for training session dates, updates to state rules and regulations, and contact information.
- b. Continue to encourage participation in the Annual Special Education Conference.
- c. Facilitate increased opportunities for participation in Advisory Council Meetings through use of technology for those stakeholders unable to travel to Nashville.

**Council Goal 8: Encourage implementation of school-wide positive behavior supports (SWPBS) and training for best-practice methods to ensure safety of students and faculty.**

*The Council proposes the following actions:*

- a. Encourage continued collaboration between universities and TDOE to assist school districts with establishing and implementing SWPBS.
- b. Review academic gains and suspension rate data from school districts using SWPBS.
- c. Encourage TDOE to collect data on teacher and staff retention/attrition from school districts using SWPBS, if available;
- d. Encourage opportunities for parent and professional partnerships that inform and increase the understanding of programs such as SWPBS;
- e. Encourage continuation of regular training sessions and workshops to facilitate use of SWPBS, to facilitate change of faculty mind-sets, and to increase number of project locations.
- f. Encourage training sessions to address student / staff safety to ensure schools are complying with the new Seclusion/Restraint Law.