

SLD Eligibility Assessment Committee

Minutes of Meeting of October 13, 2008

Present: Janet Gibbs, Peggy Millgan, Phil Fast, Vickey Carleson, Tony Loveless, Fulvia Franco, Mary Griffin, Pam Plant, Dick Baer

Web-based Estimator

Dick introduced Brad Althouse, Estimator programmer. Brad provided a handout comparing a stand-alone Estimator with a web-based program and describing issues that need to be addressed in creating and implementing a web-based system.

1. The big advantage of the web-based system is that new tests can be added quickly after they are reviewed and approved.
2. The program could be accessed over the internet using any standard web browser, Explorer, Chrome, Firefox, etc.
3. In order to control access to the system users will have to create accounts. Best procedure seems to be that districts and charter schools will provide EIMS with a list of email servers. The EIMS server will recognize anyone contacting it from one of the approved servers and will allow people from those servers to set up a user account. This will likely involve entering one's email address as a user name and choosing a password. Procedures for how to help charter schools that may not have servers will need to be worked out. Fulvia will get Brad a list of Jordan servers and the account approval system will be beta tested in November.
4. The possibility of maintaining consultation data on the EIMS server was discussed. There seemed to be consensus that individual consultations with personally identifying information should not be kept for confidentiality reasons. Consultations without student names and dates of birth might be kept. This would allow for generating a variety of reports, e.g., number of consultations run, number of consultations where students showed a severe discrepancy, number of consultations by gender, number of consultations by ethnicity, number of consultations by LD achievement area, etc. The state office and districts will have to decide if they would like this capacity and what reports they would like generated.
5. Some committee members have reported that some district personnel have questions about the value of Estimator and the costs. Some cost figures that are not true are being quoted. If, where, how, and when to address these issues needs to be decided.
6. Janet and Peggy will be meeting with special education directors on Nov. 6th. They will update the directors on web-based Estimator program at that time.

7. Dick and Brad are invited to make a presentation and demonstrate the web-based Estimator program at a second meeting of district directors in Feb. Janet and Peggy will get back to Dick with specifics on what should be covered in the Feb. presentation.

WAIS-IV

Dick still needs to get a review copy of the WAIS-IV. He promised to contact Partick Moran. Fulvia reported that things had changed at Pearson and that test should be requested from Cheryl Neithercott [cheryl.neithercott@pearson.com].

Montgomery Assessment of Vocabulary Acquisition (MAVA)

Phil reviewed the MAVA. The receptive vocabulary test was standardized on 1373 children ages 3:0 – 12:11. The sample mirrored 2007 census data with regard to age, geographic region, gender, race/ethnicity socioeconomic status, and primary language spoken in the home. There were 100 or more subjects at each age level except 12 which had 78 subjects. The Expressive Vocabulary Test was standardized on 1255 children age 3:0 – 12:11 that also mirrored the 2007 census. There were 100 subjects at each age level except 11 which had 92 and 12 which had 84. Coefficient alphas were good being above .90 at all age levels for both tests.

Vickey moved and Tony seconded that the MAVA Expressive Standard Score be approved as a measure of oral expression for ages 3:0 to 10:11. The motion passed.

Pam moved and Vickey seconded that the MAVA Receptive Standard Score be approved as a measure of listening comprehension for ages 3:0 to 11:11. The motion passed.

Reynell Developmental Language Scales (RDLS)

Vickey reviewed the RDLS. The test was standardized in 1990 and the standardization sample mirrored the 1985 census.

Tony moved and Vickey seconded that the RSLs Verbal Comprehension score be approved as a measure of listening comprehension for ages 3:0 to 6:11. The motion failed.

Test of Adolescent and Adult Language: Fourth Edition (TOAL4)

Fulvia reviewed the TOAL-4. The TOAL-4 was standardized on a sample of 1671 persons ages 12:0 to 24:11 from 35 states. The sample reflected the 2004 census with regard to gender, region, ethnicity, Hispanic status, exceptionality status, family income and educational level of parents. There were 100 or more subjects at each age level from

ages 11 – 22 except for ages 19 (99), and 21 (85). Coefficients alpha were good for the Spoken Language and Written Language scores, being above .90 at all age levels.

Tony moved and Fulvia seconded that the TOAL-4 Spoken Language score be approved as a measure of oral expression for ages 12:0 to 22:11. The motion passed.

Fulvia moved and Pam seconded that the TOAL-4 Written Language score be approved as a measure of written expression for ages 12:0 to 22:11. Discussion raised the issue of whether word similarities were the “best” measure of written language. It was suggested that the committee check to see if the score was approved for the TOAL-3. Because time ran out the discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 21.