

SLD Eligibility Assessment Committee

Minutes of Meeting of November 21, 2008

Present: Janet Gibbs, Vickey Carleson, Tony Loveless, Fulvia Franco, Mary Griffin, Pam Plant, Dick Baer (by phone)

Web-based Estimator

Janet and Peggy Milligan did not get to discuss the web based Estimator with district directors. Time did not allow for it in their meeting. The second meeting is still scheduled for February 6, 2009, and Janet would like Dick and Brad to present at that meeting.

There was a little confusion regarding the time frame for beta testing the web based Estimator. Some committee members thought it was to be tested in November but Brad's notes indicated December. In any event, Brad will have the program up and running the first week in December. Fulvia reported she had not heard from Brad with regard to the Jordan server information he needs. However, she had been having trouble with her email and was some 200 behind. If he tried to contact her via email she may not have caught up to it yet. The best way for Brad to get hold of her is on her cell phone, 801 230-6254. Dick promised to check with Brad and give him Fulvia's number. It was also agreed that Dick should also talk to Brad about a one page set of instructions Fulvia can give to Jordan personnel that will guide them through contacting the Estimator server and setting up an account. If the beta test goes well in December, hopefully any bugs in the system can be worked out in January and the system will be ready to go statewide in February.

Web Page

It was suggested it might be useful to develop a list of tests incorporated into Estimator. Such a list might be added to the project web page. It was decided that what should be on the web page should be a topic for our next meeting. [Since our meeting I have learned that USU has taken down our web page. Brad saved the day by keeping a copy of the content from the main page. Kudos to Brad.]

Teleconference

Janet reported there will be a teleconference with Joe Martin on January 14, 2008. She'll get committee members information on how they can participate.

Test of Adolescent and Adult Language: Fourth Edition (TOAL-4)

Discussion regarding the TOAL-4 written language score was tabled at the last meeting because time ran out. Dick was assigned to check the manual and see what

scores were approved for the TOAL-3. He reported that listening, speaking, and writing quotients were approved.

Fulvia moved and Pam seconded that the TOAL-4 Written Language Composite be approved as a measure of written expression for ages 12:0 – 22:11. The motion passed.

Battelle Developmental Inventory: Second Edition (Battelle-2)

Tony & Mary reviewed the Battelle-2. The test was standardized on a sample of children that had 125 or more subjects per age level. The sample reflected recent U.S. Census data. Alpha's were reported to be good at all age levels. The test yields a cognitive score as well as a communication score consisting of a listening comprehension subtest and an oral expression subtest. The test manual states that the test is not intended for making specific diagnoses such as mental retardation or learning disabilities.

Mary moved and Fulvia seconded that the Battelle-2 cognitive score be approved as a measure of aptitude for ages 3:0 – 5:11. The motion failed.

Tony moved and Vickey seconded that the Battelle-2 receptive language score be approved as a measure of listening comprehension for ages 3:0 – 5:11. The motion failed.

Mary moved and Pam seconded that the Battelle-2 expressive language score be approved as a measure of oral expression for ages 3:0 – 5:11. The motion failed.

Test of Auditory Processing Skills: Third Edition (TAPS-3)

Vickey reviewed the TAPS-3. The test was standardized on a sample that included 93 subjects at age four and 200+ at each age level after that. Four composite scores are yielded; Phonologic Index, Memory Index, Cohesion Index, and Overall Index. Cohesion subtest items involve making a statement, "John eats lunch every day.", and asking questions, "What does John eat?", "When does he eat it?" Alpha coefficients for the Cohesion Index were poor, ranging from .58 - .61. Alpha coefficients for the Phonologic Index varied being: 4 years - .91, 5 years - .92, 6 years - .90, 7 years - .86, 8 years .82, 9 years - .85, and 10 years .75.

Vickey moved and Mary seconded that the TAPS-3 Phonologic Index be approved as a measure of basic reading skills for 4:0 – 9:11. The motion passed.

Mary moved and Pam seconded that the Cohesion Index be approved as a measure of listening comprehension for ages 4:0 – 18:11. The motion failed.

The committee directed that the record show other subtests were considered but deemed not appropriate for LD qualification.

Spelling as Written Expression

Mary asked if spelling was approved as part of the Written Expression score on the WIAT-II. Other committee members pointed out that the same questions could be raised for the KTEA-II and the WJ-III and WJ-III NU. Mary will check the WIAT-II and KTEA-II and come prepared to report at the next meeting. Dick will check the WJ-III and WJ-III NU.