

Status of High School Reform

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Overview

- # Need for High School Reform
- # Current Status of High School Reform
- # Impetus for Change
- # Work of MDE Action Teams
 - Potential Reform in Graduation Requirements
 - Changes to High School Assessment
- # Next Steps

Need for High School Reform

- # Too many students drop out of high school and face a poor financial future
- # While almost 50% of the students enroll in college, many students dropout
- # Many students require remedial courses in ELA or mathematics in college
- # The percentage of Michigan high school graduates who subsequently graduate from college is low (26%)

Need for High School Reform

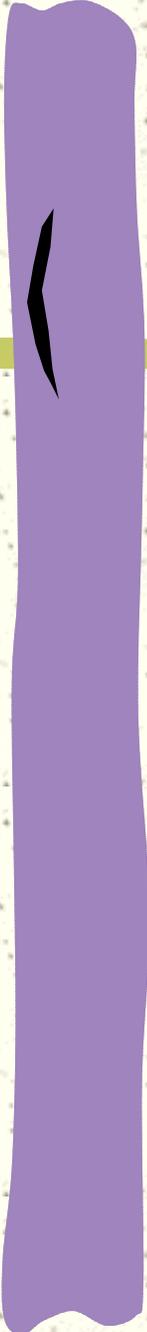
- # The skill level of jobs has been increasing - college-level skills are needed for more jobs
- # Low skill level manufacturing jobs are moving out of Michigan and the U.S.
- # High skill jobs are also moving out of the U.S. because of low numbers of technically-trained college graduates
- # The economic future of this state and the country relies heavily on the educational status of our high school graduates

Status of High School Reform

- # MSU has conducted two statewide conferences on the need for high school reform
- # State Board of Education has held two special meetings thus far on this topic
- # Governor has spoken out in favor of a mandated rigorous program of studies to graduate from high school
- # On-going discussions about this topic

Impetus for Change

- # Governor Granholm
- # Cherry Commission
- # MDE Committee on High School Reform
- # MDE High School Redesign Team
- # NGA Grant Leadership Team



Work Under Way

- # Grant from National Governors Association
- # Develop High School Initiative plans in action teams:
 - Content expectations
 - Professional Development
 - Assessment
 - Best Practices
 - Student Support and Intervention
 - Outreach and Communications
 - Secondary/Post-Secondary Transitions

Content Expectations

- # Content expectations are being drafted by expert panels, then field reviewed by Michigan educators
- # Content expectations are being created currently in English language arts and mathematics
- # Have been drafted in Social Studies - now under review
- # Will be drafted in Science
- # Will be formatted for use in multiple ways - end of grade, end of course, throughout and at the end of high school

Potential Reforms in Graduation Requirements

- # Currently: one semester of Michigan civics
- # Potential proposals
 - Specific number of course credits in each discipline (ELA, M, S, SS)
 - Two or three pathways comprised of rigorous courses - student choice
 - A pathway comprised of rigorous courses, with parental opt-out provision

Professional Development

- # Identify and promote meaningful PD activities
 - schools
 - teachers
 - administrators
- # Initiate workshops and learning opportunities
 - Use of classroom-based, data-driven curriculum and instruction
- # Analyze current teacher preparation requirements and certification
 - Make recommendations to higher education

Best Practices

- # Identify and disseminate high school redesign best practices
- # Research various high school reform models and benchmark others' practices
- # Create a resource network for schools, districts, businesses, and communities

Assessment

- # Assist in developing and implementing the Michigan Merit Examination
- # Develop other types of assessments that will support secondary students learning as well as post-secondary success
 - End-of-course exams
 - Vocational assessments
 - Classroom-based assessments
 - Employability skills portfolios
 - Senior or capstone projects

Changes in High School Assessment

During 2005-2006

- MEAP HST continues to be administered for dual enrollment and NCLB AYP purposes at grades 10, 11, and 12 - Fall and Spring
- ACT is statistically linked to the MEAP HST

In 2006-2007

- Dual enrollment testing - PLAN and PSAT
- Spring 2007 - Michigan Merit Exam given - comprised of ACT, WorkKeys, and Michigan-developed assessments (ELA, M, S, SS)

Student Support and Intervention

- # Research, review, report, and promote research-based interventions and supports for students
 - Students with disabilities
 - Dropouts
 - Those in danger of dropping out
 - English language learners
- # Promote the principles of universal education opportunities and programming for all students

Outreach and Communication

- # Develop a dissemination plan targeting schools, higher education, businesses and the community
 - Need for high school reform
 - Various ways that high school reform can occur
- # Hold conferences, meetings and summits
- # Create print materials
- # Create and maintain an MDE web page on high school reform

Secondary and Post-Secondary Transitions

- # Research articulation agreements with Michigan colleges and universities
- # Develop model articulation policies
- # Research/develop middle college designs
- # Explore/develop learn to earn programs
- # Assist in the development of the preK-20 tracking system
- # Research/develop entrepreneurship curricula

Next Steps

- # Presentation of draft high school content expectations to State Board in November
- # Recommendation on high school graduation requirements to State Board in November
- # Web review of high school content expectations (November - December); national review January - February

For Questions and Comments

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