

## **TISA Steering Committee Meeting**

August 28, 2023, 4:00 PM CST, Microsoft Teams

### Meeting Notes

#### **Attendees**

Bo Griffin, Director of Schools, Millington Municipal Schools  
Steve Barnett, Director of Schools, Johnson City Schools  
Nancy Dishner, Executive Director, Niswonger Foundation  
Justin Robertson, Director of Schools, Hamilton County Schools  
Christy Carroll Highfill, Parent  
Cat Stephens, Director of Schools, Tullahoma City Schools  
Dewayne Tucker, CEO, Lead Public Schools  
Jen Aprea, Parent, The Arc Tennessee  
Guy Respass, Data Management Director, Knox County Schools  
Teresa Winter, CFO, Bartlett City Schools  
Victor Evans, Executive Director, Tennessee CAN  
Jack Powers, Regional Legislative Director, ExcelinEd  
Gini Pupo Walker, Executive Director, EdTrust

#### **TDOE Staff Attendees**

Lizzette Reynolds, Commissioner of Education  
Chelsea Crawford, Chief of Staff  
Sam Percy, Deputy Commissioner of Operations  
Kristy Brown, Chief Academic Officer  
Shannon Gordon, Chief Operating Officer  
Maryanne Durski, Chief Financial Officer  
Aimee LaGrone, Senior Director of Engagement  
Grace Shelton, Asst. Commissioner of Program & Financial Performance & Evaluation  
Nia Perry, Engagement Specialist

#### **Greetings and Opening Comments**

Chelsea Crawford welcomed all committee members and staff to the meeting. After the welcome, Chelsea gave an overview of the meeting discussion items:

- TISA Implementation Update
- Feedback on Messaging for Legislative Session
- Feedback on Continued Engagement with Committee Members

#### **Priority 1: TISA Implementation Update**

- The department engages with various stakeholders to receive input and feedback on the language used for TISA reporting. Feedback included:
  - Communicating information in a way that is understandable to parents and families. Reminder that parents and families may know little about TISA.
  - The department is using the feedback given by the focus groups to work with a vendor on a final publication in the future.
  - The department will continue to engage in small group conversations including non-focus groups.
  - Chelsea Crawford reiterated that the department is open to having additional small groups for the committee if they would like to participate in providing additional feedback over the shared items.
- There are a few months of TISA allocations as the new school year is underway.
- The department has released professional development modules for districts and their staff to access.
- The department will be sharing more information about TISA with superintendents at the Annual SSC Conference in September. Additional discussion will cover the following:
  - Input from their district and school-level staff for other professional development needs and opportunities.
  - Support needed for the implementation of district accountability reports for TISA.
  - Components for financial reporting, budgeting, and storytelling for how funding is invested to support student learning and success.

## **Priority 2: Feedback on Messaging for Legislative Session**

- In January 2024, the Tennessee General Assembly will begin a new legislative session. The committee members were asked for feedback on what components of TISA and TISA implementation, including key messaging, critical spotlights, and/or improvements they would recommend carrying into the legislative session.
  - A committee member shared that TN PULSE is not working well yet. The kinks in the system are creating anxiety within the schools around TISA funding and by creating extra work on faculty and finance directors.
  - A committee member emphasized the importance of improving the TN PULSE system as it connects to how schools' and districts' information is documented correctly.
  - A committee member highlighted the benefits of the early start of the monthly projections because it gives a sense of what is happening and provides a guide to any needed changes.

- A committee member expressed that TISA was a good fit for the schools in their district. The state must continue to reiterate the purpose of the funding and how it creates positive outcomes for students. Some districts may or may not budget the way TISA indicates, so additional district support is also beneficial.
- A committee member shared that they have a small school district who is moving to school site budgeting, which will be helpful with TISA because it provides more autonomy for what is best for their students. The department and every stakeholder should keep in mind the importance of explaining TISA as a funding formula to their stakeholders.
- Sam Percy emphasized that within this next year it is important to look at accounting work and what it looks like to pivot from focusing on revenue and allocations to messaging about the budget and the reporting against the budget. That is the next phase and there is an opportunity for support.

### **Priority 3: Feedback on Continued Engagement with Committee Members**

- As the department moves forward with the implementation of TISA, Chelsea asked how the committee members would like to engage in the TISA implementation timeline.
  - A committee member expressed their desire for reconvening every couple of months as a touchpoint to revisit specific topics and to discuss the successes and improvements as TISA implementation continues.
  - A committee member highlighted their desire to see continued conversations around topics related to TISA, such as accountability reporting and safety grants.
  - A committee member expressed an interest in seeing professional development and learning opportunities for county commissioners and other local politicians.
  - A committee member shared that communicating emerging themes, changes in practices, challenges, and successes, how districts are working together to identify solutions and different approaches to TISA would be helpful for stakeholders who do not work in a district.

### **Wrap Up/Announcements**

Chelsea highlighted that committee members are welcome to continue to send feedback and insights as they arise.

## **Adjourn**

Next meeting: September 25, 2023, at 4:00-5:00 PM CT, via Microsoft Teams