



## Advisory Committee Telephone Conference Minutes January 21, 2009

**Present:** Jackie Fagan (Cedar Hill HS), Nora Sanchez (Lamar Academy), Karen Kahan (TEA), Deborah Littrell (Texas State Library), Susanna Garza and Richard Loeffler (ESC-20)

**Absent** (probably due to an incorrect phone number): Dale Gideon (Willis HS), Kimberly Mason (Taylor HS), Shon Joseph (Palestine HS) and Timothy Williams (North Houston HS for Business)

### Online tutor student usage

- Over the winter break general campus access changed to individual logins, therefore decreasing access. Also at the beginning of the second semester usage was impacted due to testing and a completion of the distribution of individual logins.
- It was reiterated that campuses do not need to wait for parent signatures to distribute the logins and get the students using the online tutor. Since the logins can be reassigned, campuses should move ahead immediately with identification of participating students and login distribution.
- ESC-20 is contacting all campuses to discuss implementation. The scenarios to discuss may include:
  - Campus has begun regular student usage and will use all of the login slots
  - Campus has begun usage but only plan to use *some* of the slots
  - Campus is not planning to use the OTP – too many other things going on
  - Campus plans to use but would like a visit to meet with coordinator and students
- Success of the pilot will require continuous and relentless promotion to increase and sustain usage. Various means of promotion were considered including posters in the classrooms and libraries, bookmarks and newsletters for students. The limited scope of the pilot plays a role in the types of efforts. It was agreed that communication with students must increase.
- Some ways in which the online tutor is being used include credit recovery, students getting help when teacher is not available and test preparation. Some students are concerned about the 1-hour session limit. It was suggested that students end the session and get online right after with another tutor. It was pointed out that the intent of the sessions is to help with a problem or two, not to replace a complete teaching session.

### Incentives for students

- Ideas for incentives for students to use the service and sustain their usage were discussed. These included stick-ons for the computer monitor, bookmarks, certificates (most improved, most sessions, homework completion), iPod raffle and an onscreen



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shortcut to remind the students to use the tutoring service.

- Campus and state usage competitions were discussed. In order to promote usage at the campus level and campus competitions, periodic usage reports will be sent to each facilitator. In order to create a state competition, a usage report showing all participating campuses would have to be published on the website, however, it is unclear at this point if this would turn out to be a disincentive.
- It was discussed that for competitions or contests, attention needs to be paid to evaluation points. For instance the number of session by an individual student, student improvement, tests passed, improved attendance are not equal measures. We will continue to come up with ideas.
- Bookmarks will be sent to each campus within a week.

### **Criteria for showing effectiveness**

- Improved attendance, improved grades, passing TAKS or other test, discipline referrals, and completed credit recovery may be ways to show evidence of success of the pilot.
- Student surveys and rating of the tutoring sessions will be monitored.

### **Anecdotes, Success Stories and Lessons Learned**

- ESC-20 will create an online form for teachers and facilitators to submit anecdotes and comments regarding progress.
- Student comments after each tutoring session are captured.
- In addition to success stories, it is important to recognize lessons learned as well as things that have worked in other pilots that can be applied to this one.

### **Just In Time Online Tutor brochures**

- Most brochures at some campuses have been distributed to students and parents, but we don't have a way to know how they were received. Also, we don't have a way to know whether or not the brochures have been distributed to all users at other campuses.



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### What can ESC-20 do to improve introduction and use?

- It was discussed that more time spent at the campuses at the front end may help in getting the students online in a faster timeframe.
- Note: A webinar including all participating campuses will be scheduled in the near future. The purpose of this webinar is to share challenges and success stories, and generate enthusiasm for the pilot.