Documentation of AVATAR Technical Assistance Conversation

Participants: Ravae Shaeffer, ECS Region 20, and Mary Harris, AVATAR

Date: Wed. May 15, 2013 Time: 9:00-9:30 a.m.

**Status of documentation:**

1. Are some March notes missing?
2. The website was updated by the Region’s Career and College Readiness website which includes announcement of the April 17 forum and of guidelines for forming a collaborative. It was not clear to me how or whether the VAT was involved in the forum. but they will be in math “unwrapping” and vertical alignment sessions planned for May 21-22 and 24.
3. Are there minutes from the April 24 clecbration?

**Topics discussed:**

1. Harlandale teachers have not been released due to testing, and the district curriculum director is leaving, but she scheduled activities through August (2013 or 2014?).
2. The agenda of the April 17 CCR forum included CCR Modules on Project Share. (What is the source of these?) CCR events announced included the UTSA P-29 summit to be held June 14 and the Region 20 Keystone Conference, June 28. Vertical alignment is one topic featured in the forum.
3. The consensus of ESC leaders who observed AVATAR and Pathways is that teachers may lack deep understanding of the content of the TEKS. “Unwrapping the standards” addresses vertical alignment through examination of the TEKS with leadership from content specialists. This is the purpose of an event planned May 21-22 for grades K-8. (This is also linked, I think, to another grant of the ESC, but I’m not sure what this is. TIPS?)
4. A celebration of all stakeholders is scheduled for May 24.
5. Possible products associated with AVATAR are the training processes, the mix of participants with focus on K-12 and higher education collaboration, and the ability for teams to choose their own priorities. Desirable for AVATAR and Pathways to work together.
6. I noticed that the ESC is also promoting use of the College and Career Readiness Planning Profile as part of district training processes.
7. A rewarding aspect of the Region 20 work was the collaboration of math and ELAR. STAAR and EOC were the focus, which is much needed by Harlendale.
8. Higher education participants need to have a disposition for this sort of collaboration. A mutual action plan can be developed only when participants feel there is equity.
9. In Region 20, conversation for next year has started is but not far along. What is missing is a big picture that can empower the teachers, along with the face to face conversation. (Is the motivation of high school and higher education teachers the same for this work?)

**Follow-up actions:**

Notes from this conversation suggest key points for discussion on June 18.

We need to make sure that records of the meetings are up to date.