



# **The Big Picture on Education Reform**

**A presentation to the Washington  
State Board of Education**

**Ms. Edie Harding, Executive Director**

**Ms. Mary Jean Ryan, Chair**

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# Making the connection. . .

- There is a direct correlation between our work and the priorities of the new federal programs and HB 2261.
- We must emphasize those connections to the feds as we continue on the path to reform.



# Three Federal Initiatives

1. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
2. Race to the Top
3. Draft revised guidelines for school improvement

# **Education Priorities of RTTT and ARRA**

- 1. Standards and assessments.**
- 2. Data systems to support instruction and measure student success.**
- 3. Effective teachers and principals, and equitable distribution of teachers.**
- 4. Remedy for turning around struggling schools.**

# Current Developments in RTTT and ARRA

- Chief State School Officers and National Governor's Association Core Standards
- OSPI review plan
- RTTT timelines
  - \$4 billion RTTT
  - \$350 million core assessment
  - \$650 million innovations fund
- Local school district participation
- Budget range

# Draft Federal School Improvement Priorities

- Focus on overall student achievement that is low in reading and math and look at growth in schools and districts compared to state average.
- Four models for districts to choose from to obtain funding and state assistance. Some are more realistic than others in our state.

**SBE voluntary action and required action components now reflect this new language.**

# Federal Initiatives

	Federal Stimulus Funding Phase 2	Race to the Top Competitive Grant	School Improvement Proposed Guidelines for Funding
<b>Funding</b>	\$1 billion. State has received two thirds of those funds to date. Washington will need to apply for a second round of stabilization funding this October and must demonstrate its progress on the four assurances.	\$4.35 billion total (state allocations vary). State will allocate at least 50% to school districts.	\$45 million. Up to \$500,000 for each school, per year, for three years allocated to districts with Title I or Title I eligible schools
<b>Timing</b>	Submit request by October 2009. (Must be approved before RTTT application submitted)	Phase I applications due December 2009. Phase II applications due May 2010.	Finalized guidelines November/December 2009 Funding available summer 2010

# State Efforts to Reform Basic Education

## 1. ESHB 2261

- ESHB 2261 is a reflection of Washington's commitment to education reform.
  - Increased instructional hours for secondary education from 1000 to 1080.
  - Opportunity to complete 24 high school credits.
  - All day kindergarten (phase in highest poverty schools first).
  - SBE Accountability Report: 12/09
  - Full funding target: 2018

# Washington State and Education Reform



## 2. The Quality Education Council

- Purpose: develop strategic recommendations for implementation of a new definition of Basic Education and the financing necessary to support it.
- Additional tasks:
  - Develop strategic recommendations and update those every four years.
  - Identify measurable goals and priorities for a 10-year period for the educational system, including ongoing strategies to eliminate the achievement gap and reduce dropout rates.
  - Consider the OSPI system capacity report.



# Washington State and Education Reform

## 3. Basic Education Funding Lawsuit (McCleary v. State)

- The plaintiffs argue that the state has not met its constitutional duty of prioritizing education (through sufficient funding).
- In many ways, this trial is an extension of the 1977 court case *Seattle School District v. State*, litigation centering on the argument that the state was not meeting its constitutional duty to adequately fund basic education.
- The non jury trial is scheduled to last six weeks.

# Next steps

1. Complete the applications for federal stimulus funds and for RTTT (October 2009 – May 2010).
2. Examine any changes and implications in final new school improvement guidelines.
3. Fulfill Board duties in relation to HB 2261 and the QEC.
4. Continue to refine the Accountability Framework, incorporating guidance from the RTTT application, the new proposed federal school improvement rules, and stakeholder feedback for 12/1 report.