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To whom it may concern,

The Washington State Bilingual Education Advisory Committee (BEAC) appreciates that the Washington State Board of Education has developed an Accountability Index which includes an approach that allows the Index to illustrate an accurate representation of the performance of English learners. The BEAC is supporting the Washington State Board of Education's Accountability Index which establishes a clear picture of English learners and the gains they attain.

The BEAC is supporting the Limited English group change to "Ever ELL (English Language Learners)." The "Ever ELL" group would consist of identified Limited English group and "exited" English learners, all those that have exited the State Transitional Bilingual Instructional Program. Having "Ever ELL" enables a fairer identification of the English Learners' progress towards English proficiency and academic competency.

With the current Limited English group identification, schools and districts are not given credit for their focused work. English learners' ability to read and do math is dependent on academics as well as their level of English proficiency. It is not fair to judge schools or districts based on reading and math scores of their non-English proficient students. Having "Ever ELL" would set an attainable goal and could more fairly identify schools and districts that serve English learners.

The BEAC strongly supports the Accountability Index developed by the Washington State Board of Education that will ensure a fair and clear identification of English learners' academic performance. We believe accepting this recommendation will help Washington State educators achieve the federal goal of effective accountability for the continuous improvement for all students.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Padilla Flynn

Bilingual Education Advisory Committee Chair

cc: Gil Mendoza
Helen Malagon

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