

Accountability and Recognition

Overview

**Edie Harding, Executive Director
Washington State Board of Education (SBE)
May 14, 2009**

Accountability Resolution

The Board adopted Accountability Resolution January 2009 to create an accountability framework which recognizes:

1. All students deserve an excellent and equitable education.
2. An urgent need to strengthen system of continuous improvement in student achievement.
3. State and local collaborative partnerships.

Accountability and ESHB 2261

The 2009 Legislature approved the Board's direction under its Accountability Resolution to create an accountability framework that:

1. Recognizes schools that are succeeding and those that are in need of assistance.
2. Targets state programs to assist districts.
3. Requires action if there are no improvements.

Board Action

At this meeting, the Board will be asked to:

1. Approve of the Provisional Accountability Index “Plan A.”
2. Approve Outstanding Overall Performance recognition program “Option 1” using the Accountability Index (and working with OSPI on details).

Why the New Accountability Index?

- The current Federal Accountability system under NCLB to allocate resources and sanctions is unfair, too complicated, and punitive.
- The new Accountability Index is founded on fair, consistent, transparent, and easily understood criteria.

A 21 Cell Matrix for Accountability Index

	OUTCOMES					
INDICATORS	Reading	Writing	Math	Science	Ext. Grad. Rate	Average
Achievement of non-low income						
Achievement of low income						
Achievement vs. peers						
Improvement from previous year						
<i>Average</i>						<i>INDEX</i>

Why New Recognition Programs?

- Positive way to use Accountability Index
- Opportunity with new superintendent to revise current recognition programs
- Recognize schools that have high level of achievement, close the achievement gap, and make improvements

Outstanding Overall Performance

INDICATORS	OUTCOMES					<i>Average</i>
	Reading	Writing	Math	Science	Ext. Grad. Rate	
Achievement of non-low income	Compare the two income-related cells to each other in each column, must have no more than a 1-point difference in each column					
Achievement of low income						
Achievement vs. peers						
Improvement from previous year						
<i>Average</i>	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.50

Noteworthy Recognition

INDICATORS	OUTCOMES					<i>Average</i>
	Reading	Writing	Math	Science	Ext. Grad. Rate	
Achievement of non-low income	5.50					
Achievement of low income						
Achievement vs. peers						
Improvement from previous year						
<i>Average</i>						5.00

Note: the low-income cell must have a 2-year average of at least 4.00

Recent Feedback from Stakeholders

The SBE staff and consultant have met with: 225 superintendents in the nine ESDs, WSSDA and principal's leadership groups, and OSPI staff January- April 2009.

Feedback from Stakeholders on the Accountability Index

- SBE has listened and made changes.
- We like the proposal for the index.
- The Feds may not support some of these changes – then what will you do?
- We should have one system (not federal and state systems).
- Deeper analysis after index makes sense.

Feedback from Stakeholders on Recognition Programs

- The index is a good way to recognize schools but...some want lots of schools recognized while others want a small number of schools.
- Many schools are recognized for writing and not many for science and math – do you want to revise the index numbers for some of them?

Feedback from Stakeholders on State Support Programs

- How do we get funding to help a few schools where kids are poor in a district that is considered well funded?
- A district-level focus for programs to build capacity is good.

Feedback from Stakeholders on Required Programs

- How will Academic Watch work with our school improvement programs?
- Districts should get planning grants to create Academic Watch plan.
- What happens if a district does not improve?

Follow Up Work

- A strategy for Federal agreement (working with OSPI) for a revised (and unified) system
- A “Plan B” if Feds disagree with Plan A
- Criteria for a deeper analysis of Struggling or “Challenged” schools
- Additional components – State programs of Assistance and Required Action (report due December 1, 2009 to legislature)

Huge Thanks to Pete Bylsma!