

System Performance Accountability Charter

April 2008

Project Purpose:

To develop a statewide accountability system with state and local policy makers, educators, parents, and citizens working together to ensure no student falls through the cracks and that no school fails its students.

Background:

When the legislature reconstituted the State Board in 2005, it transferred the responsibilities for creating a statewide accountability system from the A+ Commission to the State Board of Education. The requirements¹ for an accountability system include:

- » Setting performance improvement goals;
- » Setting cut scores on state assessments;
- » Identifying criteria for successful schools and districts in need of assistance and those where students persistently fail;
- » Identifying criteria for schools and districts where intervention and appropriate strategies are needed;
- » Creating performance incentives;
- » Reviewing the assessment reporting system to ensure fairness, accuracy, timeliness, and equity of opportunity;
- » Providing biennial report on progress; and
- » Determining when school districts should choose from a curricular and instructional materials menu (2SHB 1906 from the 2007 Legislative Session).

Connection to Board's Mission, Goals, and Work Plan

The Board adopted two overall goals to frame its work with accountability and the review of high school graduation requirements. The goals are:

- » Improve student performance dramatically; and
- » Provide all Washington students the opportunity to succeed in post-secondary education, the 21st century world of work, and citizenship.

¹ RCW 28A.305.130 (4)

A focus on system performance accountability is one of the top priorities for the Board's work plan in 2007-08.

Board Role

Kris Mayer will serve as the Board lead. Board members will participate in work sessions as well as regular Board meetings. The Board will adopt a final package of system performance accountability measures by September 2008 to prepare for the 2009 Legislative Session.

Scope of Work

The Board adopted a preamble to its motions on key concepts for the system performance accountability work to provide direction to staff as they develop proposals for the State Board of Education's future review. The Board wants to be clear that these are preliminary, draft concepts that will receive extensive and formative public input and refinement. The Board, in advancing these concepts, is not endorsing specific details at this point. In addition, the Board acknowledges the magnitude of the implementation challenges that these proposals may present and asks our staff to be especially sensitive to identifying potential implementation barriers as well as strategies for dealing with them as they bring forward proposals for our review.

The three draft concepts are:

1. Performance Improvement Goals and Indicators to Measure System Progress
2. A Tiered System of Continuous Improvement for All Schools
3. Targeted Strategies for Chronically Underperforming Schools

Deliverables

- Revisions to school and district improvement plans through SBE rules and guidelines
- Proposed accountability index to identify schools and districts
- Barriers study
- Student voices video
- Development of tiers with detail for continuous school and district improvement with OSPI
- Proposal on when school districts must adopt a state curricular menu
- Proposal on strategies for state/local partnerships for chronically underperforming schools
- Legislative package on final proposals for school and district support
- Proposals on revision and adoption of performance goals
- SBE report card

Draft Timeline for Input Process and Board Deliverables

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| October 22, 2007 | Board work session with advisors on school and district improvement plans |
| November 1, 2007 | SPA Charter and discussion of teacher distribution study |
| November-December 2007 | Consultant expert review of accountability index |
| January 9-10, 2008 | Board meeting to discuss staff recommendations on WAC rule revisions and other changes for school improvement plans |
| January-March 2008 | Student voices video produced Selection of consultants to assist with policy barriers study and state/local partnership for chronically underperforming schools |
| February 26, 2008 | Board work session with advisors on tiers for continuous school and district improvement, accountability index for tiers and ESD accreditation |
| March-June 2008 | Consultants to assist with policy barriers study (final report due June 2008) and state/local partnership for chronically underperforming schools (final report due September 2008) |
| March 26-27, 2008 | Board meeting to discuss staff recommendations on tiers and accountability index. Note: NWREL selected for policy barriers study and Mass Insight for state/local partnerships options |
| Spring 2008 | Engage with stakeholders on suggestions for system performance accountability concepts |
| May 14-15, 2008 | Board meeting to discuss outreach |
| June 19, 2008 | Board work session with advisors on results of barriers study, update on state/local partnership for chronically underperforming schools, and performance indicators |
| July 23-24, 2008 | Board meeting to review barriers study, proposed rule changes for School Improvement Rule, and update on state/local partnerships |
| September 24-25, 2008 | Board meeting to adopt full proposal package for 2009 session on accountability |
| September 30, 2008 | Submit legislative and budget proposals to the Governor |
| Fall 2008 | Continued Board outreach to key stakeholders and community on proposed legislative and budget package Board work session and meetings on performance improvement goals SBE Symposium with PESB and others |
| Fall 2009 | First SBE Report Card produced |

Communication Plan

The communication plan includes work sessions and public outreach meetings to be held periodically throughout the year (see Timeline) with relevant stakeholders such as educators, legislators, parents, and business representatives.

Staff Project Manager

Edie Harding, Executive Director