



Washington State
Board of Education



Working to Raise Student Achievement Dramatically

BOARD'S SYSTEM PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY PROPOSALS

BACKGROUND:

The Board has focused on how to address system performance accountability issues over the last year and a half. Why has the Board engaged in this work aside from the fact that the legislature tasked the Board with the duty to create a system? The Board wants to recognize schools that are doing an outstanding job. Many of them are. It is also concerned about the 70,500 students¹ enrolled (1 out of 14 students in the K-12 system) in struggling schools (identified by our accountability index) where there has not been improvement looking at a variety of different indicators. There are no state incentives or consequences for making transformational changes in these schools and districts, thus the need for the Board's work to help students in those schools.

Staff has prepared a background memo, documenting the work over the last year and a half, which is enclosed. The Board is examining two key areas: 1) an accountability index to identify schools and districts to be recognized and those who are struggling and need a targeted strategy, and 2) the targeted strategy for a state/local partnership for struggling schools, called Priority Schools, which includes an Innovation Zone and a range of possible intervention options if all else fails. Two additional reports are enclosed. One by Pete Bylsma that presents his work on the accountability index and a second by Mass Insight on the state/local partnership strategies for struggling schools.

POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The Board will discuss these basic concepts at its September meeting. Some key questions will be prepared for the discussion and need for further clarification. On October 21 we will have another work session to go into further detail on these issues in preparation of our November Board meeting where the Board may take action on a proposed framework and budget to submit to the legislature.

EXPECTED ACTION:

None

¹ **If alternative education students are included, the number is 83,000 students.**