

Systems Performance Accountability (SPA) Notes February 17, 2009 Meeting

Attendees: Kris Mayer, Steve Dal Porto, Jack Schuster, Bunker Frank, Lorilyn Roller, Janell Newman, Arcella Hall, Vicki Bates, Mack Armstrong, Don Rash, Karen Davis, Roger Erskine, Martha Rice, Caroline King, Phil Brockman, Pete Bylsma and Edie Harding

Overview of Work For 2009

Edie Harding presented the work plan for the SPA work group for 2009. The major work will center on the following objectives and time frame:

- Approve the draft state Accountability Index draft at the May Board meeting 2009.
- Finalize the joint OSPI – SBE recognition program by July 2009 for 2010-11 school year, using new Accountability Index (may be able to do earlier, if strong OSPI support).
- Work with OSPI and stakeholders to refine continuous improvement model processes, which include OSPI programs plus Innovation Zone and Academic Watch, by July 2009.
- Develop further indicators for SBE accountability system by July 2009.
- Develop proposed new rule on school improvement planning by November 2009.
- Work with OSPI to request U.S. Department of Education to substitute our state Accountability Index in place of current federal AYP system for 2011-12 school year.

There will be three additional SPA work group meetings this year: April 21, June 16, and October 14. Edie and Pete Bylsma, SBE Consultant, are meeting with superintendents across the state January – April to discuss the accountability framework and get feedback.

Presentation on OSPI Summit District Initiative

Currently there are 62 districts in improvement status with another 60 expected for next year under No Child Left Behind. OSPI has worked with five districts this year (Mt Vernon, Renton, Wapato, Mount Adams, and Othello) on its Summit District Initiative. A group of consultants, along with OSPI, are supporting this work. The areas of focus for these Summit Districts include:

- Effective Leadership
- Quality Instruction
- Access and Use of Data
- Assessing, Intervention, and Monitoring
- System Alignment and Coherence

Janell Newman and Vicki Bates, from OSPI, presented some of the tools they are using with those districts. The tools include a needs assessment analysis of district data, a tracker system to monitor implementation of the Summit Districts three key areas it is focusing on as well as the tool to examine classroom teaching.

Some of the lessons learned from this initiative include the need to build in:

- Time with school board members
- Implementation drivers
- Professional development as follow up (not just stand alone)
- District capacity to sustain efforts

Presentation on Update to Rules for No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

JoLynn Berge, from OSPI, provided the update on NCLB. The U.S. Department of Education issued new rules under the Bush administration, which will go into effect this year. These include:

- States and districts must include the results of NAEP for 4th and 8th grade in their report cards.
- States will have to report disaggregated data including participation rates for students with disabilities and limited English proficiency.
- States will have to report new uniform high school graduation rates using a four year cohort analysis.

The Federal Stimulus Package

JoLynn Berge provided information on the new federal stimulus package. Washington will receive \$835.6 million for education (both K-12 and higher education). It will be another four to six weeks before the details are known. The funding will cover a two year period, starting July 1, 2009. The break out is as follows:

Fiscal stabilization	\$181 million
Title I	175 million
Special Ed	232 million
School Improvement	44.6 million
Education Technology	8.6 million
School Construction	0 (but can use general fiscal stabilization category)

Revisions to the Accountability Index

Pete Bylsma shared eight changes to the Accountability Index, which included:

1. Change the first indicator, achievement by all students, to be achievement by non-low income students.
2. Change the scale from 5 points (0-4) to 7 points (1-7).

3. Change from four initial tiers to five initial tiers (before deeper analysis identifies those that should enter the Priority tier) and adjust the tier ranges accordingly.
4. Change the recognition criteria to align with the 7-point rating scale and reduce the number of recognition areas. (See separate document for more information about the proposed recognition system.)
5. Propose exempting English Language Learners (ELL) results in the first three years of enrollment or until acquiring advanced proficiency in English, whichever comes first.
6. Propose using other means for holding alternative schools accountable.
7. Propose giving schools and districts the option to exclude the improvement indicator when they are performing at the highest achievement levels.
8. Propose counting the highest grade 10 results through August of grade 10.

The work group thought that additional work needs to be done on ELL (e.g., the issue of testing in third year) and alternative education (e.g., where are alternative schools located, who is responsible for the kids, and how are resources driven), which will be discussed at the April 21 work group meeting.

Recognition Program

Pete Bylsma presented ways to use the Accountability Index for recognition. He suggested using a two-year average. Recognition would be provided for an index number in 20 of the Accountability Index Cells. Pete also outlined some other options for potential recognition:

1. Require minimum criteria
2. Raise or lower score needed for recognition
3. Give recognition for other measures
4. Provide recognition in other content areas
5. Provide special awards based on certain criteria

The work group supported Pete proposing some minimum criteria as well as examining special awards for improvement in math and science.

Next Steps

The Board will receive an update on the work session at its March Board meeting, with an emphasis on the recognition piece to the accountability work. Pete will continue to follow up on issues identified, at the April 21 work session. Roger Erskine will share a “whole community” accountability model from Great Britain to the next work session. Edie and Pete will continue to work with OSPI on all aspects of the accountability framework.