

Update on System Performance Accountability



Status of SPA Contracts and Accountability Index

State Board of Education

May 15, 2008



SPA Contracts: Policy Barriers Study by Northwest Regional Educational Lab

- ▣ Examination of policy barriers:
 - *Literature review*
 - *Interviews with personnel (central office, principals, and teachers) in 7 school districts:*
 - ▣ *Seattle, Everett, Moses Lake, Vancouver, Yakima, Shelton, and Sedro Wooley*
 - *Interviews with key 40 key stakeholders:*
 - ▣ *Legislators, WEA, WSSDA, WASA, AWSP, PTA, ESDs, grassroots and business organizations, and higher education*



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- ▣ Areas of policy barriers:
 - *School and district improvement planning*
 - *Structure/organization for assistance*
 - *Financial and data resource issues*
 - *Human resource issues*
 - *Time issues*
 - *State and/or local barriers to achievement*



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- ▣ Policy barriers will be prioritized by respondents in terms of:
 - *State v. local responsibilities*
 - *State's ability to eliminate identified barriers*

- ▣ Identification of changes needed in SBE School Improvement Plan Rule



SPA Contracts: State and Local Partnerships by Mass Insight

- ▣ Place Turnaround in Broader Accountability Context
- ▣ Establish Elements of Comprehensive State/Local Turnaround System
- ▣ Create Partnerships and Develop Capacity Throughout System



SPA Contracts: State and Local Partnerships by Mass Insight

- ▣ Place Turnaround in Broader Accountability Context
 - *Need for state turnaround*
 - *Challenges facing schools trying to improve in terms of:*
 - ▣ *operating conditions and capacity*
 - *Assessing current strategies for turnaround*
 - *Organizing change (leaders and advocates)*



SPA Contracts: State and Local Partnerships by Mass Insight

- ▣ Establish Elements of Comprehensive State/Local Turnaround System and Create Partnerships:
 - *Stakeholder outreach interviews (similar groups as NWREL)*
 - *Teacher and Principal Surveys on how to help schools improve and reactions to specific ideas*
 - *Union focus groups*
 - *Design team of 10-12 Washington educators to craft and respond to proposals*



SPA Contracts: Work Session

- ▣ June 19th (Thursday) at Puget Sound ESD from 10-4
 - *Contractors will provide draft findings on policy barriers study and update on state/local partnerships*

The Process: Classifying schools into tiers of assistance and identifying Priority Schools





Performance of Low Income Students

- Staff's Charge: investigate the inclusion of academic performance of low income students in the accountability index used to assign schools to tiers of assistance.
- Several measures investigated:
 - *Improvement in Learning Index overtime for low income students.*
 - *Achievement gap between non-low income and low income students: based on the Learning Index and percent met standards measures.*
 - *Reduction of achievement gap overtime.*



Findings and Recommendation

- The impact of these measure taken individually on the initial tier sorting outcome is minimal.
- The information these measures provide, however, is valuable.
- Therefore, staff recommends using one or more of these measures in the further-analyses step, instead of initial tier assignment step.



Options for School Awards Examination

- OSPI's Schools of Distinction: based on NCLB AYP performance and improvement in the Learning Index overtime in reading and mathematics WASL.
- Achievement-despite-challenges.
- Sustained high performance with minimal achievement gaps between subgroups of students.



Next Steps:

Hire Temporary Expert to Assist Board:

- *Refine accountability index for the initial sorting into tiers of assistance.*
 - *Propose criteria for an award program.*
 - *Establish criteria for the further-analyses step in determining priority schools.*
 - *Use work groups to inform results.*
- ▣ Complete Accountability Index Revisions by September 15th