BACKGROUND

In an effort to showcase relevant and interesting work in local school districts, we contacted the Vancouver School district about its work on data systems for student achievement. In light of our discussions on accountability and student achievement, it seemed valuable for the SBE members to learn how one district works from the classroom to the board room, utilizing data to improve teaching and guide policy focused on student achievement. The Vancouver School Board examined the following question: What evidence do we have from a whole system perspective that our decisions are making a positive difference in student achievement?

The Vancouver School district maintains that successful school systems can narrow the achievement gap by adopting a data-based, continuous improvement model. Such a model charts and guides individual student growth over time, requiring and using data systems that provide real-time information to students, teachers, parents, administrators, and board members. The representation of data should be tailored to the needs and purpose of each audience. Most importantly, the data must be actionable; a key ingredient to performance management. Members of the Vancouver School District staff will share with the Board how they are currently using their data and their plans for its continued future implementation.

POLICY CONSIDERATION

There may be some policy elements that the SBE wishes to incorporate into its upcoming work on performance report cards.

EXPECTED ACTION

None