



STATE OF WASHINGTON
GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE POLICY OFFICE
100 Insurance Building, PO Box 43113 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3113

To: Chair Grimm, Basic Education Funding Task Force
Task Force Members

From: Judy Hartmann

Date: October 20, 2008

Re: Update on Washington Learns: Presentation Notes

Background

- * Linked the philosophy of standards-based education to an examination of what our students need – not only for today, but for the future as well.
- * Incorporated what we know about our changing world and assessments of the role education plays and examination of where we are now.
- * Acknowledged that the opportunity exists to create a world class education system by -
 - Acting on and reinforcing our beliefs for high expectations
 - Viewing our systems from the lens of the student (no matter how young, how old)
 - Sharpening our skills at focusing on the tasks that need to be accomplished
 - Examining our practices to inform our work (change what isn't working)
 - Matching our funding to the outcomes we seek

Bottom line: to compete in the global economy, we must educate more people to achieve at higher levels.

Five principles for change:

1. Share accountability for continuous improvement. (monitoring progress to meeting goals, using proven techniques, build in systems to match expectations with implemented program)
2. Tailor education to fit the needs of individuals. (personalize our schools – from “one size fits all” to “one size fits one;” rigor, relevance, relationships)
3. Bring creativity into the classroom. (students not only knowing the what, but making connections, developing thinking and application skills, project-based, tools to develop creativity and imagination)
4. Engage parents, communities and private partners. (schools cannot “do it alone;” parents and caregivers; public-private partnerships; bringing together organizations with shared goals)



5. Commit the necessary human and financial resources. (80% of the education dollar pays for people; be diligent about redirecting current dollars into proven strategies; try new strategies and evaluate their effectiveness; acknowledge that relying only on current resources will not accomplish the vision)

Finally: need for a ten-year plan to direct the human and financial resources necessary to produce a world-class, learner-focused, seamless education system.

The Washington Learns report is organized into five strategies to focus activities for implementation. Those five strategies are:

- Early Learning: A smart investment
- Math and Science: A competitive edge
- Personalized Learning: Helping every student succeed
- College and Workforce Training: Increasing Opportunities
- Quality and Accountability: Keeping the Promise

Early Learning:

- Kindergarten readiness
- Voluntary all-day kindergarten
- I-728 funding targeted to K-3 class size*
- Redesigned K-3 classrooms

Math and Science

- Math and science standards
- Aligned math and science curricula
- Provide training programs related to the curricula*
- Increased high school graduation requirements
- More math and science content required for new teachers
- Provide math and science content training for current teachers
- Continue LASER partnership (Leadership and Assistance for Science Education)
- Expand alternative routes for math and science teachers
- Retool current teachers
- Partnerships with e3 Washington, Washington Aerospace Scholars
- Public/private partnership for middle school math and science pathways – Project Lead the Way, middle school career and tech education grants
- Continue to provide pre-apprenticeship programs
- Partner with after school programs to provide to support math learning

Personalized learning

- Provide additional learning time
- Implement best practices in educating English Language Learners
- Specialized programs for dropouts (Washington Youth Academy, Building Bridges)
- Technology applications to support learning (ELL)
- Serve more students through long distance learning
- Career pathways

Career academies

Develop instructional coaching programs

Redesign novice teaching assistance program

PESB to review teacher standards related to knowledge of cultural diversity

Education ombudsman to provide assistance related to cultural diversity issues

Collect data on Response to Intervention strategy implementation

Launch a public/private campaign to promote creativity and innovation

College and workforce training

Expand Navigation 101

Develop statewide web-based advising system

Develop single college readiness assessment

3rd math credit for high school graduation

Quality and accountability

P-20 Council created to track progress toward goals, develop benchmarks

Benchmark competitive compensation, per-pupil funding

Develop new teacher compensation reporting structure

Develop budgeting system with assistance from ESDs

Review long-term financial health of districts

SBE to develop recommendations for an accountability system

OSPI to review academic standards at least once every ten years

PESB to develop and pilot procert assessment based on demonstrated teaching skill

PESB to revise teacher preparation program requirements related to knowledge and skill performance

Design and pilot a professional development delivery system to address state identified areas

Develop teacher salary allocation model to pay for performance, knowledge and skill (NBPTS recognition)

Quality professional development opportunities focused on math and science

Develop public/private partnership to establish a school and district leadership academy

Path forward includes these items:

1. A system of shared accountability that is transparent, incentive-based and built on the principles of shared responsibility and continuous improvement.
2. A redefinition of basic education; designing a funding structure to support the new definition; make a significant down payment toward the goals.
3. Design a ten-year implementation strategy