

OSPI SUMMIT DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE**SUMMARY OF POLICY ISSUE /STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (SBE) STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)'s School and District Improvement division initiated the "Summit District Improvement Initiative" last summer to build the capacity of school districts in greatest need of intensive assistance to work with their schools that have been identified as in need of improvement under the federal law No Child Left Behind (NCLB). This work relates to the Board's first goal to improve student achievement.

BACKGROUND

Currently, there are approximately 60 Washington school districts in district improvement status under NCLB. At the July 2008 Board meeting in Vancouver, OSPI briefed the Board on its new Summit District Improvement Initiative. The goal of the initiative is to increase the capacity of districts in improvement status where there is greatest need. OSPI selected five districts in 2008 (Mt Adams, Wapato, Mt Vernon, Renton, and Othello) to participate in their new initiative. Over a three year period, these districts will work with a group of consultants, along with OSPI on the following areas of emphasis:

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

During the 2008-2009 school year, these five districts received support to do the following work:

- Conduct needs assessment and action planning.
- Refine use of data for decision-making.
- Provide professional development for teachers and leaders in high yield instructional strategies.
- Provide tools and support for collaborative observation, planning and learning for improvement of instruction.

Vicki Bates, Coordinator of the Summit District Improvement Initiative, Becky Imler, Superintendent from Wapato Public Schools, and Rick Foss, Superintendent from Mount Adams will present their perspectives on how this initiative has built capacity in districts, to what extent the work is different from previous school and district improvement efforts, and how this work could benefit other districts.

POLICY CONSIDERATION

As part of the Board's accountability framework, the Board will work with OSPI on an array of voluntary state programs to help build district capacity to address schools and districts in need of improvement as they are identified by the Board's Accountability Index. The Board will report to the legislature on the types of programs to assist districts and schools with a timeline and proposal by December 1, 2009. The Summit District is an example of one program for districts. The Board is also examining with OSPI an Innovation Zone Program.

EXPECTED ACTION

None