



# WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## **STRATEGIC TEACHING UPDATE ON THE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS REVIEW**

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2008**

### **BACKGROUND**

OSPI has been tasked by the legislature to recommend up to three mathematics programs<sup>1</sup> to the SBE within six months of the adoption of the new mathematics standards. To that end, OSPI retained Relevant Strategies.

After a great deal of work with advisory groups, Relevant Strategies convened and trained forty-two reviewers during the week of June 22-27, 2008 to evaluate twenty-seven different comprehensive programs for elementary and high school. It also provided a statistical analysis of the curriculum review results that resulted in a rank ordering of all reviewed programs.

The reviewers reconvened during the first week in September to review supplemental materials that align to specific programs.

The SBE has contracted with Strategic Teaching 1) to review the methods used by Relevant Strategies, 2) to examine the highest-ranking programs to be sure there is a clear content match to the standards, and 3) to make sure that those programs are mathematically sound.

- Strategic Teaching will judge the process used by OSPI against common practice and by having an educational statistician review the methodology used by OSPI.
- To complete the curriculum review validation, each program will be independently reviewed by two reviewers at the grade levels of 2, 4, and 7. After their independent work, reviewers will discuss their results, particular any score points where scorers do not agree. Reviewers do not have to find consensus. Program attributes, such as the amount of content that is present but does not match Washington standards, will also be noted.
- The mathematical soundness of a program will be judged by a mathematician, who will review every program to see how a few key ideas

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<sup>1</sup> 2008 Second Substitute House Bill 2598

(multiplication, area of a triangle, proportionality, linear equations) are developed, regardless of grade level.

Originally Strategic Teaching intended to examine three elementary programs and three middle-school programs. Relevant Strategies analysis uncovered a statistical tie at the elementary level for the third and fourth ranked programs and another statistical tie at the middle level for the programs in the second, third, and fourth places. To allow OSPI to have as much information as possible before making a decision, Strategic Teaching will review all four programs for both.

One of the Math Panel members, a statistician, applied some different, but quite sound, types of statistical analysis to the results of the curriculum review. He presented a compelling case to the Math Panel that the top six programs in both elementary and middle school should be considered because statistically there is no difference between the programs that ranked #3 and those that ranked #6. At this time, Strategic Teaching is reviewing just the top four.

Work is well underway and about one-third of the curriculum has been reviewed.

Linda Plattner shared draft instruments and methodology with the Math Panel on August 26, 2008 for feedback. All tools are now final and reviewers have been trained. Publishers have been extremely helpful in getting materials to Strategic Teaching reviewers so everyone has what they need to complete the work.

It is expected that the draft report will be delivered on time in early October and discussed at the Math Panel meeting on October 14, 2008. This allows time for revision before the report would go to SBE in time for its November meeting.

The curriculum alignment for high school standards will begin in the late fall. OSPI will make a recommendation to the SBE and the SBE will engage Strategic Teaching and its Math Panel for feedback on the OSPI recommendation.

**EXPECTED ACTION:**

None