

## **MATH AND SCIENCE SYSTEMS APPROACH**

### **SUMMARY OF POLICY ISSUE /STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (SBE) STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL**

The State Board of Education believes that a systems approach with its state and local partners is critical to ensuring that all students have the opportunity to learn the new math and science standards. This work is related to the Board's goal of improving achievement for all students.

### **BACKGROUND**

Over two years ago, the Board worked with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) on a joint math action plan. Since that time the new math standards have been adopted and teachers have received professional development around them; and math curricular programs have been reviewed to determine how closely they align to the new standards. The new science standards will be adopted shortly and a review of the curriculum alignment is expected later this spring.

At the January 2009 Board meeting, the PESB shared its latest report on the supply of math and science teachers along with some recommendations for how to attract and retain math and science teachers.

With a new administration at OSPI, we want to continue our partnership to ensure a systems approach with clear priorities and targets about how to proceed with helping teachers and students learn the new standards. There are significant budget cuts the agency and school districts are undergoing that will make this work more difficult. However, there is a new public partnership called the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) initiative that is being planned.

OSPI will talk about some of their plans for continuing this work with the Board and there will also be a briefing on the new STEM initiative by the Partnership for Learning.

### **EXPECTED ACTION**

None