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March 10, 2016

TO: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Accountability System Workgroup Members
FROM: Ben Rarick, Executive Director and Team Leader of ESSA Accountability System Workgroup, Washington State Board of Education

Gil Mendoza, Deputy Superintendent and Team Leader of ESSA Accountability System Workgroup, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Input on the Statewide Accountability System for Washington's ESSA Consolidated Plan

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and The Washington State Board of Education (SBE) appreciate your willingness to devote your time and expertise to the ESSA Accountability System Workgroup. Many of you participated in the Achievement and Accountability Workgroup in the past, and there are additional members who are joining us for this focused work on the ESSA Consolidated Plan. Your feedback will be instrumental in developing a unified state and federal accountability system. There are a number of topics this group will need to discuss and make recommendations on in the coming months and there is an aggressive timeline. There are six broad topic areas to be discussed and conversations about them will be staggered across multiple meetings. At the April 14 meeting, the Workgroup will be provided the context and an overview of the scope of work.

We also plan to introduce two of the broad topics for discussion:

1. "Annual meaningful differentiation"—establish a system of meaningfully differentiating, on an annual basis, all public schools in the State. Review existing accountability index. Is there a consensus to continue with the core of the previous work done to align state and federal accountability systems?
2. ESSA requires inclusion of a "school quality of student success" measure. Which measures are in the range of possibility, and what are their pros and cons? What are other states considering? Does Washington already have some data available?





In subsequent meetings, we will introduce other topics for discussion:

3. Long term goals
4. English Learners – inclusion of new measure
5. Weighting scheme (“substantial”, “much greater”)
6. Identification of schools methods

Should you have any questions about the ESSA Accountability System Workgroup, please contact either one of us. We can be reached at 360-725-6024 or ben.rarick@k12.wa.us (Ben Rarick) or 360-725-6343 or gil.mendoza@k12.wa.us (Gil Mendoza).

Thank you.

