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**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
STRENGTHENING K-12 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT – ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK
PROMOTING CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

November 14, 2008

Guiding Principles:

The Board is creating an accountability framework that:

- Affirms that the call for stronger accountability must be accompanied by comprehensive funding reform.
- Recognizes the sense of urgency to address the needs of all our students
- Works toward a unified system of federal and state accountability
- Recognizes the critical role of local school districts in addressing continuous improvement in student achievement.
- Recognizes schools and districts that have demonstrated significant learning and or improvement by their students by identifying and rewarding best practices and exemplary work
- Advocates for the state to provide proactive support for districts to make improvement in student achievement.
- Creates a new collaborative mechanism to require certain school district actions if student achievement does not improve
- Recognizes the need for support from the local community, parents, staff in the schools and districts, regional and business partners, and state officials to improve our education system for all students
- Demonstrates “your money at work” in a new basic education funding system with its focus on student achievement

Key Components of the Proposed System:

1. An Accountability Index that:

- a. Uses criteria that are fair, consistent, transparent and easily understood
- b. Provides feedback to schools and districts to self-assess their progress,
- c. Identifies schools with exemplary performance as well as those that are experiencing problems

2. Proactive, Targeted and Intensive Voluntary Programs that:

- a. Build the capacity of districts to help their schools improve student achievement. Programs offered will be tailored to the magnitude of need. As part of this system of assistance the Board will ensure that all efforts are administered as part of one

unified system of state assistance including the Innovation Zone – a new effort to help districts dramatically improve achievement levels by implementing exemplary leadership and instructional practices.

3. **A Timeline for Improvement** that:
 - a. Defines what student achievement improvement would be expected by a district
4. **Required Action:** After the allotted time period, if there is inadequate improvement, the state will require action be taken by the relevant district(s). The collaborative process the Board envisions includes:
 - a. The State Board of Education (SBE) will task the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) with conducting an academic performance audit using a peer review team
 - b. The local district, in collaboration with OSPI, developing an improvement plan for implementation based on that review
 - c. SBE reviewing and approving the local district plan which, once approved, becomes a binding performance contract between the State and District
 - d. Local districts will remain responsible for implementation
 - e. OSPI monitoring the implementation of the plan and providing SBE updates
 - f. SBE and the local school board reporting to the community on progress in improving student achievement

The Board will continue to seek input from all interested parties. In January 2009 the Board plans to adopt a resolution to the legislature that states the guiding principles and key components for a new statewide accountability system that it believes needs to be a part of the revisions made to the basic education funding system. The Legislature will need to provide the Board and OSPI with the appropriate authority and resources to implement the new system. The Board will continue to refine the details of the accountability system by working with its education, parent, business and community partners.