

Basic Education Finance Joint Task Force

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Pat Sullivan
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M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: February 28, 2008
TO: Members, Task Force
FROM: Dan Grimm
SUBJECT: March 24/25 Meeting—WASL Questions

Attached is a second list of questions for the March 24/25 meeting, all related to the WASL and its funding implications.

As described in my January 08, 2008 memo, the March 24/25 meeting will be devoted to giving members an opportunity to make preliminary decisions on Task Force issues. No one is obligated to answer any specific question and all decisions will be preliminary. Everyone will retain the right to revise or reverse any decision based on subsequent findings and discussion, and no preliminary decision will preclude later consideration of issues proposed by members.

The purpose of the exercise is to identify issues of the greatest interest to members and allow staff time to conduct research and prepare options.

Please feel free to suggest additional questions, either to members directly or through me for inclusion in a revised list that I will distribute prior to the meeting.

WASL Questions

1. Should the state assume any responsibility for guaranteeing that students will achieve any specific standard of academic performance?
2. Should the state maintain the policy of requiring students to pass a standardized test to earn a high school Certificate of Academic Achievement?
3. Should the state maintain the WASL as the standardized test of student achievement?
4. Should the state award a single high school diploma (other than the Certificate of Individual Achievement) given only to students who pass a standardized test?
5. Should the state expand and formalize a program of instructional support for students in jeopardy of failing the WASL or similar test?