

Achievement Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee

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Memorandum

Date: November 9, 2010

To: Quality Education Council

From: Achievement Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee

Subject: Recommendations

Recommendations to the Quality Education Council

Regarding the Washington Education System Operating Commitments, the Committee recognized the importance of:

- A mechanism for families, community members, and educators to collaborate and learn from each other. Collaborative environments and relationships are necessary for closing gaps.
- The development of cultural competencies for all teachers and administrators. The Professional Educator Standards Board staffed a work group that made recommendations for cultural competency standards for precertification. The Committee recommends that these standards be in place for all educators in the system, not just precertification teachers.
- Operating commitments that break down silos. The operating commitments are currently categorized in silos.
- Greater integration between the categories: Rigor and Alignment; Innovation, Transformation and Support; Engaged Communities and Families. Families and students do not always know what expectations and goals schools have for them.
- Intermediate measures in addition to high stakes testing at end of the school year so that timely interventions can be put into place.

Regarding strategies to close achievement gaps, the Committee recommended:

1. Recruit, develop, place and retain educators who are culturally competent and possess skills and competencies in language acquisition.
2. Invest in support for the engagement and partnerships among students, families and communities to deliver personal and differentiated instruction from early childhood through high school graduation.
3. Support districts and schools in implementing comprehensive and culturally responsive intervention systems in all content areas, inclusive of social and emotional development.
4. Invest in early intervention supports to enable all students from early childhood through high school to stay at grade level and on track to graduate from high school and be college or career ready.