The Board recognized several special guests and successful initiatives in August.

Good News and Special Recognitions

The Division of Accountability Services and the Division of Human Resources presented an update on the implementation of the Board’s recent decision to hire contractor positions to full-time staff. In an organization chart presented during the recent presentation, the new positions will be filled by contractors, starting in the academic year 2006-07.

In an effort to improve the accountability system, the Division of Accountability Services also presented recommendations stemming from the Office of State Budget and Management. The recommendations focused on improving the calculation of student proficiency and teacher turnover, as well as providing a minimum funding level of $250 per average daily attendance for each LEA.

The Board also discussed the implementation of the senior project, a requirement for all high school graduates. The Board considered two options for calculating the required grade: Option I, which requires a preference for Option I, but some groups also indicated an interest in having a composite of the performance on the five required end-of-course assessments.

The Board also considered a policy that would address teacher licensure, better learning experiences for students, and stronger parent involvement. Board members considered a policy that would address teacher licensure, better learning experiences for students, and stronger parent involvement.

The Board approved a policy that would provide the focused interventions for students described in any personal education and on how improvements are being made in curricula, state standards, and federal and state reporting requirements. Board members received a presentation on the development of a Preschool Course of Study to enhance learning experiences for young children.

The Board approved curriculum revisions for the English Language Arts and Mathematics programs. The revisions were based on the National Assessments of Educational Progress standards and were designed to provide a more comprehensive and challenging curriculum.

The Board also approved a plan to distribute the $12 million in state funding committed for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. The funding will be distributed to local educational agencies (LEAs) that have developed plans to provide high-quality after-school programs to students.

The Board also approved the eighth annual ABCs/AYP Report, which includes information on student proficiency, teacher turnover, teacher experience and students, and student proficiency.

The Board also approved the ABCs Accountability Program (including new achievement level standards set), and considered two sets of achievement level standards (one for ABCs and one for AYP). The Board also approved the ABCs Accountability Program (including new achievement level standards set (i.e. don’t set standards based on a single year)).

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