

Implementing Recommendations from Achievement Gap Studies, AS

Agency: 350 Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Budget Period: 2009-11

Recommendation Summary Text (Short Description):

In 2007, the Legislature and Governor enacted HB 2722 to convene an advisory committee that will propose a statewide implementation and monitoring plan to address the achievement gap for African American students. In addition, under budget provisos, four additional achievement gap studies were funded to address the needs of: Hispanic students, Native American students, Asian American students and Pacific Island American students. All achievement gap studies and their recommendations are due to the State Superintendent, the State Board of Education, the Governor, the P-20 Council and education committees of the Legislature on December 30, 2008.

The achievement gap study groups have made tremendous progress in conducting/reviewing research and analyzing data in order to develop their recommendations. As a convener of the HB 2722 advisory committee (focus on African American students), the Superintendent of Public Instruction looks forward to working with the committee to refine the specifics of proposals to meet the December timeline. All of the achievement gap study groups will meet in early December to compare and contrast their findings and recommendations. It is anticipated that the recommendations will be far-reaching and will require a long-term phase-in plan. Once the recommendations are finalized by each group, the Superintendent will evaluate the specific requests to make for the upcoming biennium.

Recommendations by the HB 2722 Advisory Committee will also be informed by legislative work on the Basic Education Funding Task Force, drop-out prevention and retrieval committees, and many other important work committees.

Based on achievement gap study work groups progress to date, areas of interest across groups include:

- Data collection: including high school course enrollment
- Educator preparation and professional development
- Teaching and learning practices that promote success for students of color
- Family and community engagement
- Leverage current initiatives and programs to enhance the success rate of underserved students

As the year progresses, and the Superintendent and other policymakers can benefit from more dialogue, planning, and research, budget requests related to addressing the achievement gap will be better informed and developed in December.

Contact person

Janet Hayakawa, Special Projects, Center for the Improvement of Student Learning, 360-725-6503, janet.hayakawa@k12.wa.us

Erin Jones, Director, Center for the Improvement of Student Learning, 360-725-6164, erin.jones@k12.wa.us