

# School Board Action Report

*“Every student achieving, everyone accountable”*



**DATE:** November 14, 2007

**FROM:** **Dr. Maria Goodloe-Johnson, Superintendent**

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**FOCUS AREA:** **Reform Actions/Legal Compliance**

## TITLE AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION

**Annual School Board Approval of Schools Pursuant to WAC 180-16-22:** Administrative regulations require that each school in a school district “be approved annually by the school district board of directors...” prior to the State’s release of basic education allocation funds.

For Introduction:  
And Action: November 14, 2007

## TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION/EVALUATION

- Review by Student Learning Committee October 23, 2007
- Introduction at School Board meeting November 14, 2007
- Scheduled for Board approval November 14, 2007

This motion is scheduled for Introduction and Action on the same night as the School Board only has one meeting scheduled for the month of November. Given that School Board approval of school is a precursor to the release of basic education allocation funds, and that the first request for funds must be made in November, immediate action is in the best interest of the District.

## RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the Seattle School Board approve the method of review of school transformation plans outlined by the Chief Academic Officer, accept the Chief Academic Officer’s certification that each school in the District has complied with WAC 180-16-220, and approve the schools within the District.

## ISSUE

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Section 180-16-220 requires that each school in the school district “be approved annually by the school district board of directors ....” A school board’s failure to approve schools, and to communicate that approval to the State, would result in a district not receiving basic education allocation funds. A school board’s annual approval of schools certifies to the State that each school has a “school improvement plan” in place. School improvement plans must be data driven, promote a positive impact on student learning, and include a continuous improvement process for monitoring, adjusting, and updating the plan.

In this District, school improvement plans are called “transformation plans.” These plans are created in conjunction with school staff, central administrators, and community members, including parents. The Chief Academic Officer and Instructional Directors monitor the ongoing revisions and implementation of these plans.

This year, the following process was used to review transformation plans and determining whether each transformation plan met the required criteria of WAC 180-16-220.

Each Instructional Director worked with principals to define expectations regarding the review and refinement of the transformation plans. Retired principals reviewed each plan for the State required criteria. Instructional directors followed up with their principals. All Title I principals have annotated binders available to the public that contain required components.

We will work with the superintendent to develop a single format for transformation plans this year and to develop external web site access to the plans.

There is no requirement that the School Board approve each school’s transformation plan. Instead, the requirement is only that the School Board ensure that the plans are in existence. Since the adoption of this regulation in 2002, the School Board has asked that the Chief Academic Officer certify that transformation plans compliant with WAC 180-16-220 exist for each school. Chief Academic Officer Carla Santorno certifies to the School Board that each school within the District has a transformation plan that meets the terms of WAC 180-16-220.

### **BEST PRACTICES**

It is best practice for the District to be in full compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, and in this case, compliance is necessary for the release of basic education allocation funds. Further, it is best practice for each school to have a data-driven plan to promote student learning.

### **POLICY IMPLICATION**

Annual approval is necessary to ensure compliance with State laws and regulations. The annual approval process also ensures that each school has a data-driven plan to promote student learning.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE**

Failure to approve the schools at this time will mean the District will forfeit our basic education allocation funds for the 2007-08 academic year. Based on past allocations, the District stands to lose at least \$206,087,493.00 if these funds are forfeited.

### **CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION**

School Board approval of schools within the District is a precursor to the release of basic education allocation funds. The Chief Academic Officer created an acceptable process for the review of each school’s transformation plan, and has certified that each school does have a transformation plan that meets the terms of WAC 180-16-220. It is in the best interests of the District for the Board to approve the method of review created by the Chief Academic Officer, accept her certification, and approve each school.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

[Transformation Plan Template](#)