

Joint Subcommittee on Accountability and Transparency

Summary of Recommendations

Key concepts

Academic Return on Investment (AROI): a component of smart budgeting wherein districts evaluate their programs based on cost and student outcomes

Data Warehouse: a centralized data storage system that would allow for more efficiencies in the Oregon Department of Education's (ODE) data collection processes

Smart budgeting: a budget process wherein school districts link budget items to strategic plans

Student Information Systems: the databases that collect all information that school districts keep on students; only certain data points are transmitted to ODE

Transparency Recommendations

SHORT TERM

Statewide contract with a financial data analytics tools provider and a new section on ODE's website that allows the public to compare budgets across districts.

ODE report to legislature on which districts were identified as eligible for student success teams, what the teams recommended to those districts, and progress toward implementation.

To be determined:

- Mechanism for public reporting on spending new resources?
- Role of local school boards?

LONG TERM

ODE Dashboard (e.g., using Willamette ESD system or contract with third party) to compare school and district performance. Possible replacement for At-a-Glance profiles.

Accountability Recommendations

SHORT TERM

A portion of new funds will be issued as non-competitive grants, similar to M98. Before receiving these funds, districts must:

- Meet certain readiness factors (e.g., use of Smart Budgeting/Academic Return on Investment, use of data to inform decision-making)
- Complete a needs assessment
- Complete a spending plan (how funds will be spent within a set of defined categories in a way that aligns with improving student outcomes and closing measurable opportunity gaps)
- Commit to meeting specific outcomes, goals and/or growth targets (i.e., how will success be measured)

For persistently low-performing districts (criteria TBD), ODE issues contract to a Student Success Team made up of high-performing professionals (experts, administrators, principals, teachers, ODE staff, etc.) to work with the district to complete their needs assessment and spending plan (i.e., to develop recommendations on how school investments and programs could better serve students and improve student outcomes). These districts must implement the Student Success Team's recommendations in order to receive new funds.

For other districts, a portion of new funds (e.g., 2-10%) are "held back", with full or partial award contingent on achieving specified outcomes – similar to the CCO model. Potentially this could be applied only to districts identified by ODE as high-resource (high per pupil funding) or instituted after 2-4 years of additional funding.

An auditor (e.g., the SOS) will conduct biennial financial & program audits, including closing the opportunity gap, of the new investment dollars (similar to M98). Check with SOS?

To be determined:

- Who sets metrics/goals/growth targets (e.g., local districts, state-level standards/approach, district chooses from a set of metrics established by ODE)?
- Measurement timeframe for growth targets?
- What are the criteria for identifying districts eligible for student success teams?
- Role for State Board of Education? Safeguards?
- How to address underperforming schools in districts that may not qualify as low-performing overall?
- Quality or existence of strategic plans?
- To what extent the system would make use of the expectations outlined in the Quality Education Model

LONG TERM

Study the adoption of a statewide Student Information System or statewide data warehouse which could:

- (1) give ODE more complete data and information about district/school performance, and
- (2) reduce the need for districts to submit data collections/reports to ODE

Establish Advisory Committee or Task Force to work on aligning all accountability systems (e.g., ESSA, Division 22 standards, others), including potential new tools at the local level (e.g., local accountability committees). Contract with a third-party expert to support and facilitate this work.

Examine current accountability systems for Early Learning providers.

Examine current accountability systems for alternative schools.

Overall strategic plan for education in Oregon