CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION/ASSESSMENT

School Improvement and Accountability: A District-Wide Plan to Raise Student Achievement

The board resolves to implement a School Improvement and Accountability plan as a regular and ongoing practice in the Snohomish School District. This document develops the goals and expectations of the board of directors for improved performance and sets forth the guiding principles that will be used district-wide to institutionalize these practices.

The board is providing this direction in the spirit of mutual accountability, recognizing that to be successful we must create a climate in which people feel safe to take reasonable risks. We believe that schools must have the freedom to design plans of improvement that best meet the unique characteristics of the individual school community setting. It is the board’s hope and expectation that working together we can achieve continuous academic improvement.

Board Goals

The school board believes that improvement in the educational program of the Snohomish School District is a process that undergoes continual and constant change. To provide consistency and to foster higher student achievement throughout the district and in each of its schools, learning improvement efforts will be guided by the following broad goals:

1. It is the board’s goal that all Snohomish School District students graduate from high school. To do so, meaningful academic progress must occur at every grade level.

2. Passage of the tenth-grade WASL is part of the state requirement for graduation beginning in 2008. Schools will give priority to preparing students to meet this requirement.

3. The school board endorses the state’s Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) as desirable higher standards for students in the Snohomish School District. It is the board’s intent that these standards be used as the target goals for each school in our district. Curriculum, as a consequence, should be aligned in accordance with these standards.

4. Schools are encouraged to use a broad variety of assessments as measures of student success. The board recognizes that there are other measures of student success besides the WASL, including: teacher observation and judgment, standardized tests, classroom-based assessment, levels tests, and other district and building level assessments.

5. All school plans will address ways of improving linkage between grades and school levels in the learning continuum. Student performance in later years depends upon the continuity of successful learning across grade levels.

6. Each school in the district will work toward providing an educational experience where a common body of knowledge (as detailed in the EALRs) be made available on an equal basis to all students.
7. Measurements of progress will be most valuable if they are easily understood and communicated to the stakeholders of the community and widely embraced by the staff.

8. The regular reporting of progress toward improvement is an essential element of understanding the needs of our schools.

Adoption Date: March 12, 2003

Revision Date: March 25, 2009