Imagine…
Academic Success for All African-American Students

Presented by Mona H. Bailey and Erin Jones
At the
Washington Educational Research Association Conference
Thursday, December 4, 2008
Session agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Overview of HB 2722 and the work of the Advisory Committee
- Discussion of Draft Goals
- Closing comments

Addressing the Achievement Gap for African American Students in WA
The community rallied . . .

- Education is a top priority for the Commission of African-American Affairs
- The Black Education Strategy Roundtable is formed in 2006
- Rep. Pettigrew sponsors HB 2722 in the 2008 Legislative Session
- HB 2722 is signed into law on April 1, 2008

"We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends."

--Mary McLeod Bethune
Recognizes the specific needs of African-American students

Identifies families, schools and the community as key partners to develop and implement ideas

Authorizes a plan to eliminate the education gap
The numbers paint a picture

- 56,774 African-American students in WA, six percent of K-12 student enrollment

- African-American students:
  - 3.5 percent are in Spokane County
  - 6.7 percent are in Snohomish County
  - 26.5 percent are in Pierce County
  - 44.9 percent are in King County

- African-American students make up more than 20 percent of the students in Tukwila, Tacoma, Seattle and Clover Park School Districts
We face a growing crisis . . .

- Over 30 percent of African-American students in Washington state are not graduating on time.
- 23.6 percent of African-American students drop out of school between 9th and 12th grade.
- Although African American students are six percent of Washington’s student population:
  - Only two percent are in gifted programs.
  - Nearly 17 percent are in special education.
- Performance on the WASL has improved, but there are still gaps.
Washington Math Grade 4
Ethnic Group Percent Meeting Standard

1998: 22 point gap

2008: 35 point gap

+13
WASL Math Grade 7
Ethnic Group Percent Meeting Standard

1998: 20 point gap
2008: 37 point gap

+17

Testing: WASL
WASL Math Grade 10
Ethnic Group Percent Meeting Standard

1999
29 point gap

+12
2008
41 point gap

2007
2006
2005
2004
2003
2002
2001
2000
1999

10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%

White
American Indian
Asian
Black
Hispanic
The gaps persist

WASL READING: 18-23 points

WASL WRITING: 12-24 points

SAT READING: 85 points

SAT WRITING: 80 points

SAT MATH: 113 points
By 2014, 77 percent of jobs paying a livable family wage will require education beyond high school.

Yet, today’s high school graduates may not be prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

Source: “Improving the Odds” College & Work Ready Agenda
We need more progress

College Attendance in Washington State, 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percent Attending College</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White (N=31,563)</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian (N=3,458)</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic (N=2,605)</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian (N=843)</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American (N=1,547)</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WSU-SESRC Graduate Follow-up Study
We need better preparation

**Remediation in College, Washington State, 2005**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage Taking Remedial Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White (N=31,563)</td>
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Source: WSU-SESRC Graduate Follow-up Study.

NOTE: Percentages are based on those attending college.
We have a new opportunity

HB 2722 authorizes a strategic plan that contains:

• **Goals** that promote change
• Recommended state **policies** with funding needs
• **Strategies** for districts, schools and communities to consider
• **Benchmarks** to monitor progress over time
DRAFT Goal #1

Early Learning

By 2014, provide all three-to five-year old African-Americans with high quality and academically focused early education to prepare them for success in school.
DRAFT Goal #2

Teacher Quality

By 2014, ensure that all teachers in schools with 20 percent or more African-American students are highly qualified and trained to meet unique student needs.
| K-12 | Increase the on-time graduation rate for African-American students to close the gap by 2014, and ensure that all graduates are college-and career-ready. |
DRAFT Goal #4

Increase the number of African-American students entering and completing higher education without remediation, to close the gap by 2018.
Strategies

1. Family & Community Engagement
2. Student Support
3. Teaching & Learning
4. Teacher Quality
5. Leadership
Share your feedback

• This WERA conference session an opportunity to inform the strategic plan

• Your feedback will help the committee make recommendations that will make every school a great place for our children
## Goals guide systemic change

| Early Learning | 1. Provide all three- to five-year olds with high quality and academically focused early education. |
| Teacher Quality | 2. Ensure that all teachers are highly qualified and trained to meet unique student needs. |
| K-12 | 3. Increase the on-time graduation rate and ensure that all graduates are college-and career-ready. |
| Higher Education | 4. Increase the number of students entering and completing higher education without remediation. |
What’s next?

• Advisory committee will deliver its strategic plan December 30, 2008

• 2009 Legislature will consider these recommendations and related funding

Stay connected.

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