

# 2007 – 2008 State Board Priorities

The State Board of Education's priorities are derived from the ODE strategic plan, with the vision of higher achievement for all students and the mission of raising expectations, building capacity and improving results. The priorities below support an aligned, seamless pre-kindergarten through post-secondary educational system to ensure that Ohio educates world-class students for success in a globally competitive economy. For each priority, the State Board will measure progress and outcomes.

## Higher Achievement for All Students

Implement initiatives to build the capacity of low performing schools and districts to close achievement gaps and raise achievement for all students through the following strategies:

- Research and disseminate effective intervention initiatives
- Take steps toward supporting districts in creating personalized education plans for all students
- Ensure that parents/families are empowered and have the necessary resources to support their children's success
- Implement tools to diagnose root causes of academic and non-academic low performance in districts and develop a means for providing the accompanying technical support

This priority is the overarching vision of the State Board of Education, and the priorities below represent strategies in reaching this vision.

## Educator Quality and Effectiveness

Improve teacher and administrator quality and capacity The focus of this priority should go beyond ensuring qualified educators to one of ensuring effective educators through the following initiatives:

- Work with the educator preparation programs to ensure better candidates
- Ensure recruitment of candidates through alternative routes
- Pilot alternative teacher compensation models including differentiated career roles
- Provide professional development based on student, teacher and administrator needs
- Ensure that teachers know how to use data and technology to improve instruction

## Early Childhood Education

Take a leadership role in the implementation of the recommendations and strategies outlined in the School Readiness Solutions Group report and implementation plan. These strategies include:

- Create a high quality, results-driven early learning system to promote children’s development and readiness for school
- Improve the quality, health and safety of all early education settings
- Expand the pool of highly qualified early childhood professionals
- Encourage families to become more involved in the education of their children
- Create a reliable financing mechanism for early learning services
- Strengthen accountability for public and private investments in early education

### **High Achieving Middle and High Schools**

Implement and assess progress against priority strategies from the high school task force report and implementation plan, including the following strategies:

- Participate in the American Diploma Project with the Governor’s office and the Ohio Board of Regents
- Focus on aligned and seamless transitions between middle and high school and between high school and post-secondary institutions, ensuring that students always are prepared to succeed at the next level
- Address the promotion and support of students engaging in a relevant curriculum and programs preparing them for post-secondary education and workplace readiness
- Develop and implement adolescent mathematics and literacy strategies
- Support districts in creating learning environments help students persist in and graduate from high school
- Implement programs designed to provide intervention for students at-risk of dropping out
- Implement strategies to reconnect with students who have previously dropped out of school
- Support districts in the implementation of the Ohio Core
- Rethink assessment at the high school level
- Take steps to implement a campaign to ensure a culture of aspiration

### **Modernization of School Funding and Resource Management**

Continue efforts aimed at promoting improved student achievement through the following:

- Develop a comprehensive funding system recommendation that support student achievement
- Define and advocate for needed financial resources and funding-related policy changes
- Promote strategies and tools to promote effective and efficient resource management practices by schools and districts

## **Education in the New Global Economy**

- Engage stakeholders in strategic conversations about the changing role of education in the new global economy and what all students should know and be able to do in that economy. Stakeholders include:
  - Business community
  - Political leaders
  - Parents and families
  - Higher Education
  - Community leaders
  - Religious leaders
- Ensure that Ohio's academic content standards and assessments reflect high expectations for all students so that they can compete globally
- Benchmark student achievement against international standards to ensure Ohio students can compete globally

## **“Creating a World-Class Education System”**

Consistent with the State Board of Education's support of the seven Achieve report best practice implications for Ohio, the State Superintendent is charged with developing a set of interconnected and comprehensive strategies to implement those best practices while connecting them to the priorities above to accelerate the rate of change to a fully aligned education system. The best practice implications include:

- World-class standards – Ensure readiness for life in the new global economy by raising expectations and standards and by improving assessments.
- Great leaders – Empower principals to function as instructional leaders.
- Great teachers – Align clear expectations for teachers with professional development, respect, evaluation and rewards and consequences.
- Excellent student support – Motivate and provide comprehensive support for students to meet high expectations by addressing their unique needs.
- Fair funding – Ensure that funding is fairly raised and allocated and linked to accountability.
- Effective intervention – Better align school and district ratings with consequences, and increase diagnostic capacity and effectiveness of interventions.
- Flexible competition – Provide all students with access to high-quality, publicly funded school options.