

Accountability Committee of the State Board of Education

February 27, 2013

The members of the Accountability Committee met to finish discussions on the Gap Closing measure, Safe Harbor and the required indicators for Dropout Prevention and Recovery schools.

Gap Closing Measure

Ms. Dodd and staff from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) spoke with representatives at the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Gap Closing measure. It was concluded that the committee could designate grade ranges for this measure that are different from those that were proposed in Ohio's ESEA flexibility waiver. After reviewing simulations and engaging in a detailed discussion, the committee decided to keep the same grade ranges for the Gap Closing measure that were outlined in the waiver. The final grade scales for this measure are:

- A = 90% - 100%
- B = 80% - 89.9%
- C = 70% - 79.9%
- D = 60% - 69.9%
- F = Less than 60%

Safe Harbor

At the previous meeting of the Accountability Committee, the committee discussed proposals for the board to consider when creating legislative recommendations on a "Safe Harbor" from sanctions triggered by a decrease in performance index score caused by the switch to new, harder state assessments. ODE staff conducted further research on the proposal the committee indicated, which would exempt nearly all schools and districts from all sanctions. After a review of the implications of the initial proposal, the committee voted to pursue another option that would offer some leniency for a drop in test scores, but still allow sanctions for districts and schools that require attention.

Dropout Prevention and Recovery Report Card

Building on last week's discussion, the committee considered the definition of Dropout Prevention and Recovery schools and rating benchmarks for those schools' report cards. After reviewing several options, including rating benchmarks from another state, members of the committee expressed concern about selecting benchmarks for the indicators at this time. The committee was concerned that there were not enough data to make informed decisions on rating benchmarks and that the benchmarks should be designated at a future date when such data are available. The committee voted to table the decisions until next week and charged ODE staff to clarify the intent of the law regarding the deadline to adopt rules.

The committee discussed the tasks for the next meeting (March 6, 2013) where they will return to the Dropout Prevention and Recovery discussion and prepare the rules for the report cards and the presentation to the full State Board.