Accountability Guidelines

In November 1998, the State Board adopted a set of ten guidelines for accountability developed originally by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE).

1: Establishing Accountability Goals and Vision

- Vision encompasses all students and all supporting adults.
- Goals are clear and specific.
- Strategies focus on improving student performance.
- Standards define student achievement expectations.

2: Governing Accountability

- Delineate clear responsibilities for managing and governing accountability.
- Provide necessary authority.
- Data drives decisions.

3: Designating Responsible Agents

- Clearly identify agents primarily responsible for achieving student performance goals.
- Define clear responsibilities.

4: Collecting Performance Information

- Accountability is based on accurate and meaningful measures of performance.
- Performance measures are based on standards.
- Measures are valid and reliable.

5: Analyzing and Reporting Performance Information

- Student performance and contextual factors are continually reported to school communities and other stakeholders on a timely basis.
- Disaggregated data are reported both in absolute and comparative terms.
- Data drives progressive improvements.

1 Source: *Public Accountability for Student Success*, NASBE Study Group on Educational Accountability, October 1998
6: Incorporating Incentives and Consequences

- Incentives and rewards motivate and enhance high performance by responsible agents and students.
- Consequences and sanctions provide positive pressure as needed.

7: Building Agent Capacity

- Schools and agents receive support to enhance student performance.
- School improvement planning based on data analysis is the primary mechanism to improve agent capacity.
- Professional development is targeted to improving student achievement.

8: Assuring Policy Coherence

- Major education policies and laws are aligned to assure consistency of policies and incentives.

9: Gaining Sustained Public Support

- The accountability system has widespread support.
- Provides authority, responsiveness and sustainability.

10: Engaging Partners

- Education, other government services, and the private sector work together to help responsible agents achieve accountability goals.