

Compiled feedback from IBAMC Priorities Ask

- One priority should be making recommendations on changes to the ESSA plan. Those conversations would likely encompass several of your points below since they fall within the accountability system itself,
- We also think we should prioritize a new structure for the Statewide System of Support given its close connection to the ESSA plan. It provides IBAM as a committee to focus on the supports that schools and the folks who work with students and families within the schools really need.
- Based on the announcements that Rae made at our last meeting, I think we should keep our focus on the accountability system. It sounds like there will be opportunities to make some significant positive changes to the accountability system and this group should be the nexus for that work. This would include discussions about the current indicators (including chronic absenteeism) and the possible new realistic indicators.
- I'd love the committee to stick close to its purpose and address recognition standards for student performance and school improvement, so I'm voting:
 - new structure for Statewide System of Support
 - new state assessment measures
 - getting proficiency to a better place
- It seems to me that IBAM is primarily a system-level body, composed of generalists by design. Maybe I'm wrong, but that's been my experience. I would suggest some of those more specific topics (e.g., SEL, chronic absence, etc.) would be better served through specialization. That leaves the big picture topics you suggested, like the strategic plan of improving the statewide system of supports.
- As I listened to the conversations on Thursday, and have had time to reflect on what I heard, I think for me, the top priority would be building a new (or rather, improved) accountability system. I think that would encompass many of the initiatives that you listed below, and aligns with what I am hearing from my members across the state. There are pieces of the existing accountability system that have been identified that have been real challenges for districts across the state, and a lot of the things being discussed in that working group for Vision 2030 have centered around that. (That also seems to me to be where this particular group is statutorily charged with focusing, while there are many other groups that are charged with other items.)
- That being said, I do think it is worth mentioning that although the field often cries out for change/improvement, they are equally frustrated by a lack of consistency... for example, when I was a superintendent and the new accountability system was being rolled out, it was a regular occurrence for me to

hear “well this is what we will do for the next 5-10 years and then they’ll change it anyway...” from veteran ed leaders.

- This aligns with what I sent earlier but ***** would also like to investigate possible unintended consequences of how we have weighted different indicators.

Here is original email ask.

Greetings everyone!

At our February 1 meeting, we introduced the idea of establishing priorities for the IBAMC.

There are several initiatives in several different organizations that are related to our work:

- Vision 2030 (IASA) Including focus areas 1. Student Success 2. Educator Excellence 3. Accountability 4. Finance and Funding (IASA)
- ISBE - Building a new structure for the Statewide System of Support - related to School Improvement (ISBE)
- New State assessment measures at all levels (ISBE)
- A Fifth Designation - Intensive Support (ESSA)
- ISBE's New Strategic Plan (ISBE)
- Rae Clementz shared about future ~~new~~ writing teams for strands across ELA, Math and Science (ISBE)
- ISBE's New Literacy Plan (ISBE)
- Focus on SEL (ISBE, IARSS, SEL Hubs, others)
- Focus on Chronic Absenteeism (Everyone)
- Mental Health (Everyone)
- Behavioral Health (Everyone)

There are probably more...

Given this important work in many arenas, please **respond to Mark only** with a priority or two (or more) that you think should be at the forefront of our work in the IBAMC over the next 2-3 years. We are not asking for you to pick from the above list, but rather to suggest a priority, focus or work that would allow us to become the nexus of this work or contribute to it.

It would be great if you could respond by February 9, 2024. We will discuss IBAM priorities at our next scheduled meeting, April 29th.

All the Best,
Cathy and Mark