

SOME SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RE: HB 3232 AND HB 3233

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1. What are the projected annual costs of each of these four strategic investments over the next five years?
2. Are there other "strategic investments" besides these four that will also be proposed (such as the OEIB's projected "longitudinal data base" that one OEIB consultant estimated at \$50 million to develop)?
3. If these investment costs were applied to the basic school funding instead, how many additional teachers could be hired?
4. What evidence is there that providing more grant money to districts that are already "successful" will result in "spread of best practices" to create statewide improvement?
5. House Bill 3232
 - a. What led the OEIB to establish the recommended priority of "materials and curriculum that promote the early reading program"? Is this simply a marketing effort?
 - b. What is the "National Network" for early learning referred to in this bill? What value does participating in this network add to any local school district's efforts?
 - c. Subsection (3a) of Section 3 of this bill (Guidance and Support for Post-Secondary Aspirations Program) calls for supporting expansion of the ASPIRE program for middle school, high school and community based sites. Is the intent to provide support so that all school districts have the resources to implement this program? Why was ASPIRE selected as the only program targeted for expansion? What other ones were considered?
 - d. Subsection (3 b) of Section 3 of this bill promises that the Guidance and Support for Post-Secondary Aspirations Program to implement "*comprehensive systems for monitoring progress and providing individualized support to students in grades 6 through 12 who are not making adequate progress.*" Is the bill's intent to provide support to every school district to accomplish this?
 - e. Section 4 of this bill calls for regional STEM centers. How much will these cost annually to implement?
6. House Bill 3233
 - a. The initial OEIB recommendation adopted on October 9, 2012 called for "regional achievement centers" to accomplish this. Now this bill proposes something called a "Network of Quality Teaching and Learning." Specifically, how will such a vague "network" accomplish the overly ambitious goals outlined in this bill?
 - b. Section 1, (subsection 3) calls for "*distributing funding to public and private entities that have demonstrated success*" in several areas. Would these few grantees also be expected to have expertise in "networking" and "spreading best practices"? Is there any evidence anywhere where this has been tried and succeeded in spreading best practices? Was there any serious analysis of why previous experiments (like the "National Diffusion Network") failed to broadly "spread best practices"? Shouldn't the OEIB first just "pilot test" this approach?
 - c. Section 1, (subsection 5) promises that this "Network" will deliver services for the benefit of all regions of the state" What is the timeline and projected costs for accomplishing this statewide coverage of services?