

Key Considerations In Education Reform

Increase financial accountability and transparency of public schools

- ✧ Create a standardized electronic financial recordkeeping system for school districts, including check register, that is published on district web sites
- ✧ Introduce standard cost accounting system for reporting district and campus expenditures
- ✧ Clearly identify direct instructional costs as classroom-related expenditures, including the teacher salary and instructional materials
- ✧ Separately report district lobbying, memberships and legal expenditures
- ✧ Establish campus-based reporting of actual expenditures
- ✧ Expand the district financial accountability system to evaluate administrative management and rate district financial performance

Raise academic standards for all students

- ✧ Introduce independent curriculum-based college readiness tests as diagnostic tools for middle and high school students
- ✧ Establish state funding for 12th grade college entrance tests
- ✧ Introduce high school end-of-course exams
- ✧ Set a two-year limit on extra state funding for bilingual education to improve student outcomes
- ✧ Use incremental academic growth as a measure of student performance

Direct more money to the classroom

- ✧ Devote 65 percent of total school spending on core classroom academics
- ✧ Establish financial incentives for highly effective teachers
- ✧ Award teacher pay increases on the basis of student success
- ✧ Equip teachers with professional liability insurance

Increase school accountability

- ✧ Establish a minimum standard for school accreditation – 60 percent passing rate on state assessments for schools to earn an Acceptable rating
- ✧ Intervene in low-performing schools after two years
- ✧ Authorize the commissioner to turn around failing schools by reconstitution or contracts with private-sector management
- ✧ Base Exemplary school ratings on measures of post-secondary readiness

Increase public involvement

- ✧ Establish a uniform November election date for school boards
- ✧ Provide taxpayers easy access to electronic school district financial records