

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
April 15, 2008

SUBJECT: Approval of Differentiated Accountability-Florida's Proposal

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

N/A

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On March 18, 2008, US Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings announced a pilot project that would provide states with flexibility to create a more nuanced way of distinguishing between schools in need of intensive intervention, and those that are closer to meeting their goals, under the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB), so that they can direct limited resources to the schools that need them the most. This project, known as *Differentiated Accountability*, will be open to up to 10 states. To participate in this pilot, states must commit to build their own capacity for school reform, take the most significant actions for the lowest-performing schools, and use data to determine the method of differentiation.

The US Department of Education has identified the following four key areas that states must address to be considered for approval:

1. **Accountability** – The state maintains its current practice for determining AYP and identifying schools as in need of improvement.
2. **Differentiation** – The state clearly defines its process for categorizing schools.
3. **Interventions** – The state clearly defines its system of interventions.
4. **Restructuring** – The state clearly defines the interventions for the lowest-performing schools.

Florida will be submitting a proposal by the federal submission deadline of May 2. If approved, Florida may implement the model based on results from tests administered in 2007-08.

Supporting Documentation Included: N/A

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