

## **Questions and Answers about the Florida Board of Education Strategic Plan for 2012-2018**

### **1. Why does Florida's education system need a strategic plan?**

- The strategic plan offers a roadmap for Florida's education community that shows where we are, where we want to be, and how we will get there.
- Section 1001.02(3)(a), Florida Statute, requires the State Board of Education to "adopt a strategic plan that specifies goals and objectives for the state's public schools and Florida College System institutions," every five years.

### **2. What are the mission and vision of Florida's education system (as outlined in the plan)?**

- The mission of Florida's education system is to increase the proficiency of all students within one seamless, efficient system, by allowing them the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills through learning opportunities and research valued by students, parents, and communities.
- Florida believes that every child can learn. The vision of the State Board of Education is that Florida will have an efficient world-class education system that engages and prepares all students to be globally competitive for college and careers.

### **3. How often does the SBOE approve the strategic plan?**

- The new strategic plan sets the mission, vision and goals for the next six-year period (2012-2018). The goals and performance indicators are not static and will continue to evolve as the strategic plan is refined. The board will be updated annually with current data on each performance indicator to help gauge the progress toward our goals.

### **4. Why does the department monitor student progress and performance by subgroup?**

- Florida education data show an unacceptable achievement gap exists among student demographic subgroups – a sobering reminder that too many students are being left behind. We have set goals with the intention of closing the achievement gap for every student.

### **5. How were the subgroups determined?**

- The official subgroup categories were established by the US DOE. As part of No Child Left Behind, states across the country report progress by subgroup.

### **6. How did the department calculate the growth by subgroup?**

- The department used the federal flexibility waiver received earlier this year as a guideline for setting the new strategic plan goals. The annual measurable objectives (AMOs) from the waiver were used to calculate the benchmarks for the strategic plan. Starting with the 2010-11 school year as a baseline, the percent of students not performing at or above grade level was identified. The goal is to reduce this percentage by one half for every subgroup within the strategic plan period. For example (numbers not actual)
  - i. Percent of X students proficient 2010-11: 60 percent
  - ii. Percent of X students non-proficient 2010-11: 40 percent
  - iii. Reduce percent of X students non-proficient by one half: 20 percent (targeted growth)
  - iv. Goal would be set by adding the current percent proficient plus targeted growth: 60 percent + 20 percent = 80 percent goal for 2016-17.

### **7. What do the goals mean?**

- The State Board of Education has set higher rates of growth in proficiency levels for those subgroups with the lowest percentages of students currently performing at grade level. The new goals do not set lower standards for any student or subgroup. It does, however, set higher expectations for moving those subgroups which are furthest behind toward 100 percent proficiency at an accelerated pace. These higher rates of growth for the lowest performing subgroups will close the achievement gap and bring all students to proficiency by 2022-23.