

6/1/11

Commissioner Smith:

On behalf of the entire Student Growth Implementation Committee, thank you for providing a diverse set of Florida public school stakeholders with the opportunity to formulate a thoughtful recommendation for Florida's value added model. I believe your confidence in a transparent and inclusive committee process has resulted in a recommendation that, if selected, will bring even-handed objectivity to Florida's teacher evaluation process while honoring the extraordinary challenges met by our teachers.

As is evidenced by records of the committee's work, all decisions regarding model type, covariates and business rules were thoughtfully deliberated and carefully considered. In nearly all cases, final recommendations were made with near-unanimous consent.

On the single point of apportionment of school component to the teacher value added score, the committee was more evenly split. Given this atypical failure to arrive at general consensus, and given the testimony from the conference call of 5/25/11 during which this recommendation was finalized, I believe some committee members may still be uncertain of the ramifications of the 25% recommendation.

The choice of school component apportionment is enormously consequential in terms of how teacher performances will compare to one another across schools and across the state. I would appreciate one more opportunity to build stronger consensus among committee members on this important topic.

Will you please allow me the opportunity to reconvene the committee, either by webinar or in person, to revisit this single issue of apportionment of school component prior to your final selection of Florida's value added model?

Sincerely,



Samuel F. Foerster

Chairman

Florida Student Growth Implementation Committee