

SUBJECT

PCSC Discussion: Opportunities for Increasing Commissioner Engagement with Schools, Including 2020 Regular PCSC Meeting Calendar

APPLICABLE STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

N/A

BACKGROUND

Commissioners and schools within the PCSC portfolio have expressed interest in increased engagement between individual commissioners and schools, particularly opportunities for commissioners to visit schools.

DISCUSSION

PCSC staff will present a regular PCSC 2020 meeting calendar designed to provide extended opportunities for commissioners to engage with schools, both during PCSC meetings and through school visits. The purpose of these visits would be for commissioners to develop their familiarity with individual schools' unique missions, leadership, successes, and challenges.

The PCSC holds regular meetings on the second Thursday of every other month. Historically, all meetings have been held in Boise. Staff will propose that the PCSC's 2020 meeting calendar include meetings in other parts of the state, and that commissioners plan to spend an extra day to visit area schools.

IMPACT

If the PCSC approves the proposed 2020 meeting calendar and proposal for increased commissioner engagement, it will be posted on the PCSC's website and staff will work to coordinate visits to schools that would like to participate.

STAFF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the PCSC:

- Approve the proposed 2020 meeting calendar;
- Change the location of its regularly scheduled December 12, 2019, meeting to Twin Falls, Idaho, if appropriate facilities can be secured; and
- Make every effort to be available for local school visits on dates adjacent to regular meetings.

COMMISSION ACTION

A motion to approve the following dates and locations for the PCSC's 2020 regularly scheduled meetings:

- February 13, 2020, in Boise, Idaho;
- April 9, 2020, in Idaho Falls, Idaho;
- June 11, 2020, in Boise, Idaho;
- August 13, 2020, in Boise, Idaho;

October 10, 2019

- October 8, 2020, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; and
- December 10, 2020, in Twin Falls, Idaho.

AND

A motion to change the location of the PCSC's December 12, 2019, regularly scheduled meeting to Twin Falls, Idaho, if appropriate facilities can be secured.

SUBJECT

PCSC Discussion: Exploration of Additional Performance Framework Flexibilities

APPLICABLE STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

33-5209A

BACKGROUND

Commissioners and schools within the PCSC portfolio have expressed interest in increased flexibility of academic accountability measures within individual schools' performance frameworks.

DISCUSSION

The PCSC's current performance framework contains standard academic measures that are designed to recognize the outcomes of schools with a range of missions and student demographics. In addition, it provides the opportunity for schools to include mission-specific measures to reflect successes that are not evidenced through the standard measures.

Some schools report that the standard academic measures are not sufficiently flexible to reflect their positive outcomes in the context of their unique challenges. These challenges are often associated with student demographics, such as at-risk, highly mobile, and low-income populations. They may also be related to the schools' educational models. However, few schools have opted to include mission-specific measures.

Idaho statute requires that performance frameworks include certain elements, but authorizers have discretion with regard to how those elements are reflected. Discussion of increased framework flexibility raises complex questions such as:

- How can schools be encouraged to utilize the option of mission-specific measures?
- Should certain schools be exempt from standard measures and instead be evaluated with measures more appropriate to their situations?
- What constitutes a "rigorous, valid and reliable indicator" of school outcomes?
- What data does the PCSC need in order to make informed, appropriate renewal decisions in accordance with Idaho statute?
- What resources are available to support the implementation of additional flexibilities?

The PCSC's Renewal Committee, charged with assuring the quality of the PCSC's renewal process, is well positioned to explore these issues and make recommendations to the PCSC.

IMPACT

If the PCSC tasks the Renewal Committee with exploration of opportunities for increasing performance framework flexibility, staff is prepared to facilitate engagement of schools and committee members across the state.

STAFF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the PCSC task its Renewal Committee with the exploration of opportunities for increasing performance framework flexibility. Staff further recommends that the PCSC request that the committee form recommendations to be presented no later than the PCSC's April 2020 regular meeting.

COMMISSION ACTION

A motion to task the Renewal Committee with the exploration of opportunities for increasing performance framework flexibility and request that the committee present recommendations to the PCSC at or before the PCSC's April 2020 regular meeting.