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SB 965: Blueprint Revisions: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. I am an independent education analyst and advocate and was a member of the Kirwan Commission.

These revisions to the Blueprint are helpful in making adjustments to the COVID-19 circumstances. I particularly commend the important provisions of SECTIONS 3 and 4 that seek to strengthen accountability for how the federal and state funds are spent. My amendments are intended to add to those requirements, especially on tutoring. I have been very active as a program developer and analyst pertaining to tutoring, including as a pro bono consultant to the Baltimore City school system in its development of tutoring.

Proposed Amendment #1

**p. 31, line 20** after the words “including a description of the amount “ add the following words so that the rest of the sentence is “, evidence-based-research, outcomes and effectiveness of funds spent directly on students instruction, including but not limited to the summer school and tutoring and supplemental instruction programs under SECTION 4.”

Purpose: Accountability will not be accomplished if the report is limited to a description of only “the amount of funding spent on student instruction.” The more basic question is: How was the money spent – on evidence-based programs and with what outcomes and effectiveness? The amendment will require this information to be reported.

Proposed Amendment #2

**p. 29, line 21:** revise (6) to read: “occurs during the school day and is aligned with frameworks for tiered interventions for struggling learners, to the extent practicable.”

Purpose: Research supports aligning and integrating tutoring and other supplemental instruction within the intervention frameworks – commonly known as Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and Response to Intervention (RTI) – that are already required by the state in some form and are commonly used by local districts.

Proposed Amendments #3

**p. 33, lines 26 and 28:** Delete (2) and revise (4) to read: “the models of tutoring provided to students, including the general guidelines and practices pertaining to identification and grouping of students; pupil to student ratio (group size); frequency of sessions, the amount of time per session and the number of sessions; and”

Purpose: Accountability (including evaluation of effectiveness) can only be achieved if the basic elements of the tutoring models are reported.

Proposed Amendments #4

**p. 33, line 29:** revise (5) to read: “data on student outcomes, disaggregated by the model used to provide the tutoring and by the grade of the students and subject areas.”

Purpose: Accountability for, and evaluation of, the outcomes require disaggregation of the data beyond just the tutoring model.

Thank you for your consideration of these amendments.

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