Minnesota Department of Education

Commissioner's Assessment and Accountability Work Group

Charge: To review and make recommendations regarding Minnesota's Assessment and Accountability system.

Detail: The Governor is interested in seeking solutions to our assessment system that provides better testing for instruction and accountability. To this end, he would also like to see "less" testing, especially at elementary if at all possible.

Work Group should consider and make recommendations related to the following:

- The GRAD and HS assessment. The Work Group should look at other states and what they use for graduation requirements and also look at college ready assessments that are aligned to the higher education system (MnScu) our measures are not redundant and misaligned.
- Consider the impact such as costs, time to develop, transition to new system, and feasibility of new assessments to give us what we need to measure accurately school and student performance.
- Consider how any "newly" proposed system will impact others things such as teacher and principal accountability and Minnesota's new accountability under the waiver.
- Explore state and federal laws for accountability and see how they are or are not aligned and make recommendations.
- Finally, the Work Group should specifically review high schools and determine graduation requirements. Should we still be using the old system of course taking, Carnegie units, and exit exams or should we replace it with something else.

Timeline: Recommendations by December 1, 2012 including any fiscal considerations.

Final Recommendations should include:

1. Kindergarten assessment
2. Elementary assessments
3. 8-12 Secondary assessments aligned to high ed admission requirements
4. Cost recommendations
5. Policy change recommendations (Carnegie units, course taking, exit, etc.)