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Subject: Here you go Kim
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My name is Kim Evans. Thank you for inviting me to speak before you today. I have taught [k-2] classes in Alaska for 19 years and I am passionate about my work.

I have three issues that I believe should be in legislation so that the benefit of these three changes lives on beyond my career, a principal, superintendent or commissioner's career or even your term as legislator.

First, I have personally experienced several curricula implementations. Beyond the normal learning curve to be expected with any change, the rollouts were fraught challenges which could have easily been avoided to ensure a success start up.

I would like to propose to this task force legislating basic, logical parameters for legislative changes which must be implemented to achieve better transition success. The 3 areas are: curriculum and its teacher training, Universal Screening and teacher training, and the administrative support using coaches with expertise.

Materials:

All curriculum materials must be on site during training. Not having materials in sufficient time to prepare lesson plans put teachers at a disadvantage from the start, adding distraction resulting in less effective in-class instruction.

Teacher training:

Training for the teachers on any new curriculum must be 5 full days long, at a minimum, and be dedicated to the new curriculum. Not clerical work in inventorying it. How long does it take you to learn all about the legislative handbook when you were new legislators. You didn't do it in half a day, I bet.

Other collateral subjects would require additional training. For example, Lexia, MindPlay, and Read Write Gold for Chrome are on-line tools which can increase the dose of reading instruction to the student but few teachers have the deep training to make them pay off for students. Wise consumers of the products we are buying for our schools means we must maximizing the value of our resources. If teachers are not trained effectively to use tools with fidelity they can't use them as the publishers intended.

Universal Screeners.

It is necessary for students to be assessed to determine their actual skill levels, strengths, and weaknesses. Teachers are required to administer universal screeners. For the data to be accurate, screeners must be administered with fidelity. If they are not used in the manner the publisher intended, the results are flawed, and subsequent placement and/or intervention of the students may not be appropriate. A two hour rehash from someone who received the full