Race to the Top/ Neighborhood Public Schools Comparison

State Senator

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Goals of Race to the Top

- Strong Standards and Assessments
- Improving Teacher Effectiveness
- Collection and Use of Data to Improve Student Performance
- Turning Around Struggling Schools
- Rigorous Courses in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)

Goals of Race to the Top

- Create a More Seamless P-20 Route for Students
- Increase School Autonomy and Provide a Setting Conducive to Reform
- A Charter School Law that does not Inhibit Increasing the Number of Charter Schools.

Neighborhood Public Schools

- The Neighborhood Public Schools package allows for the creation of independent schools that will better meet the needs of students.

- The schools would be sponsored by certain entities which would oversee compliance with state and federal law and enter into a performance contract with the school.
  - Possible sponsors include the State Board of Education or a large city mayor.

- An applicant for a contract could include a:
  - Neighborhood public school corporation formed by one or more teachers;
  - County, city, village or township;
  - School district or intermediate school district (ISD);
  - Community college;
  - State public university; or
  - Department or other agency of state government.

Neighborhood Public Schools

- Neighborhood public schools could not be organized by or affiliated with a church or religious organization.
- It also allows for current traditional public schools to be converted with a majority vote of teachers and parents of students in the building.
- Priority for contracts may be given to schools that have a certain percentage of at-risk students or that have not met AYP benchmarks for two or more years.
- Cyber schools would be allowed.

Neighborhood Public Schools

- A Neighborhood Public School could institute a merit pay system based on job performance, accomplishments and being assigned in a subject or area that is hard to fill.

- These schools would have to use a certified teacher in any function where a school district is required to use a certified teacher.

- Applications and contracts would have to contain information including, but not limited to: the governance structure, performance goals, curriculum, testing, admission policies, school improvement plans, accreditation, teacher certification requirements, graduation requirements and continuing education requirements.

Strong Standards and Assessments

- NPS outcomes must be consistent with state curriculum standards and the new high school graduation requirements.
- The standards must include at least the use of the MEAP test, attendance and graduation rate expectations, and the measurement of college and career preparedness.
- The performance contract must monitor compliance with law and the school's performance in meeting its proposed educational outcomes.
- All NPS students must take the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) for high school students.

Improving Teacher Effectiveness

- Job performance in a merit pay system could be based on how effective a teacher is in improving student achievement.
- The state superintendent would be required to establish alternative routes to certification.
- NPS will participate in the MEAP program which provides feedback on student performance so teachers can alter teaching methodology or content to improve student performance.

Improving Teacher Effectiveness

- Removing ineffective teachers and principals (more feasible in NPS due to not being tenured).
- The allowance for cyber schools will improve teacher effectiveness and help more students to succeed.
- These schools often target poor-performing students who may not perform well in the traditional setting.

Collection and Use of Data

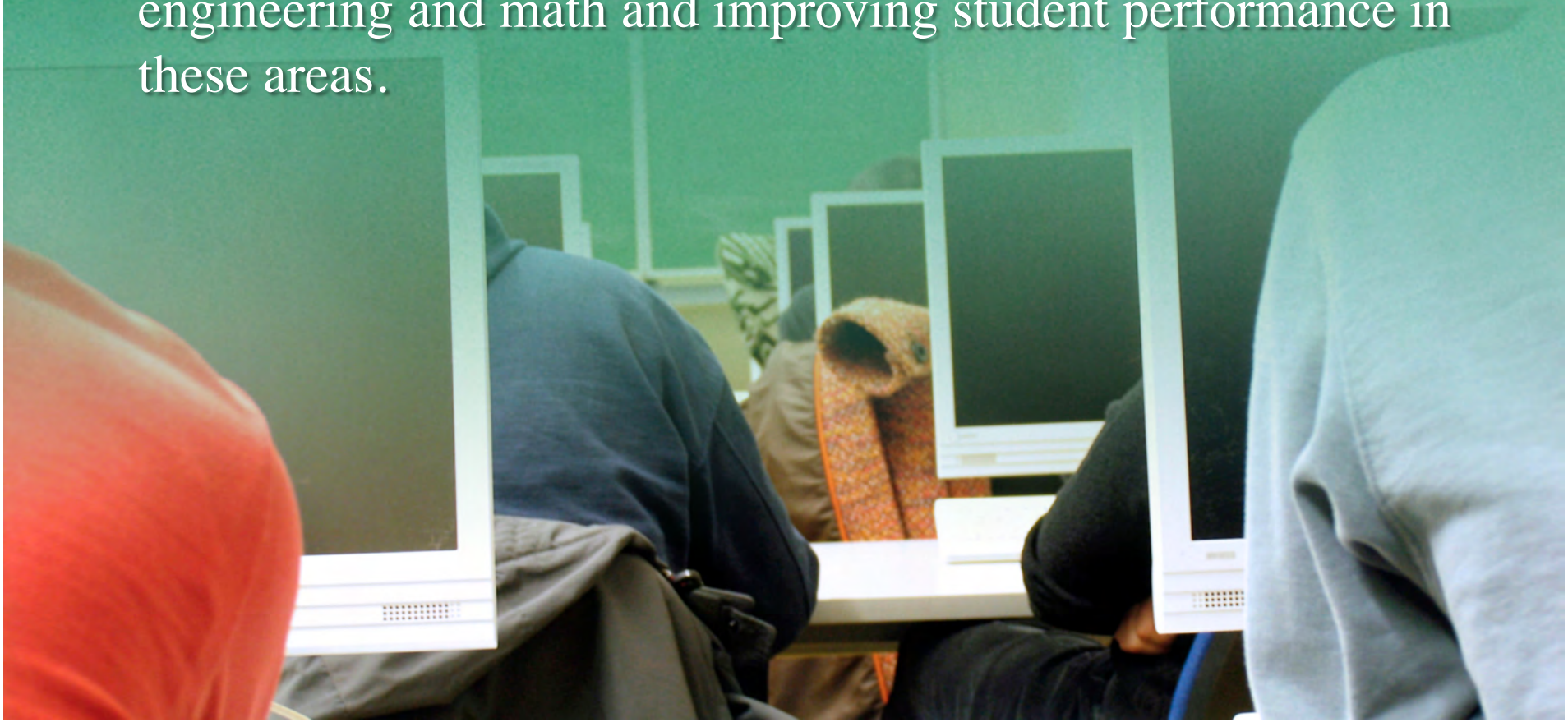
- The current accreditation process will apply to NPS.
- NPS must take into account student performance on the MEAP and MME.
- NPS must include school data collection and the determination of what performance data to use.

Turning around Struggling Schools

- A sponsoring body may give priority to schools that have not made AYP for two years or that would serve children in a school district where there is a high at-risk population.

Offer a rigorous course of study in math, science, engineering and technology.

- An NPS has the flexibility to focus on science, technology, engineering and math and improving student performance in these areas.

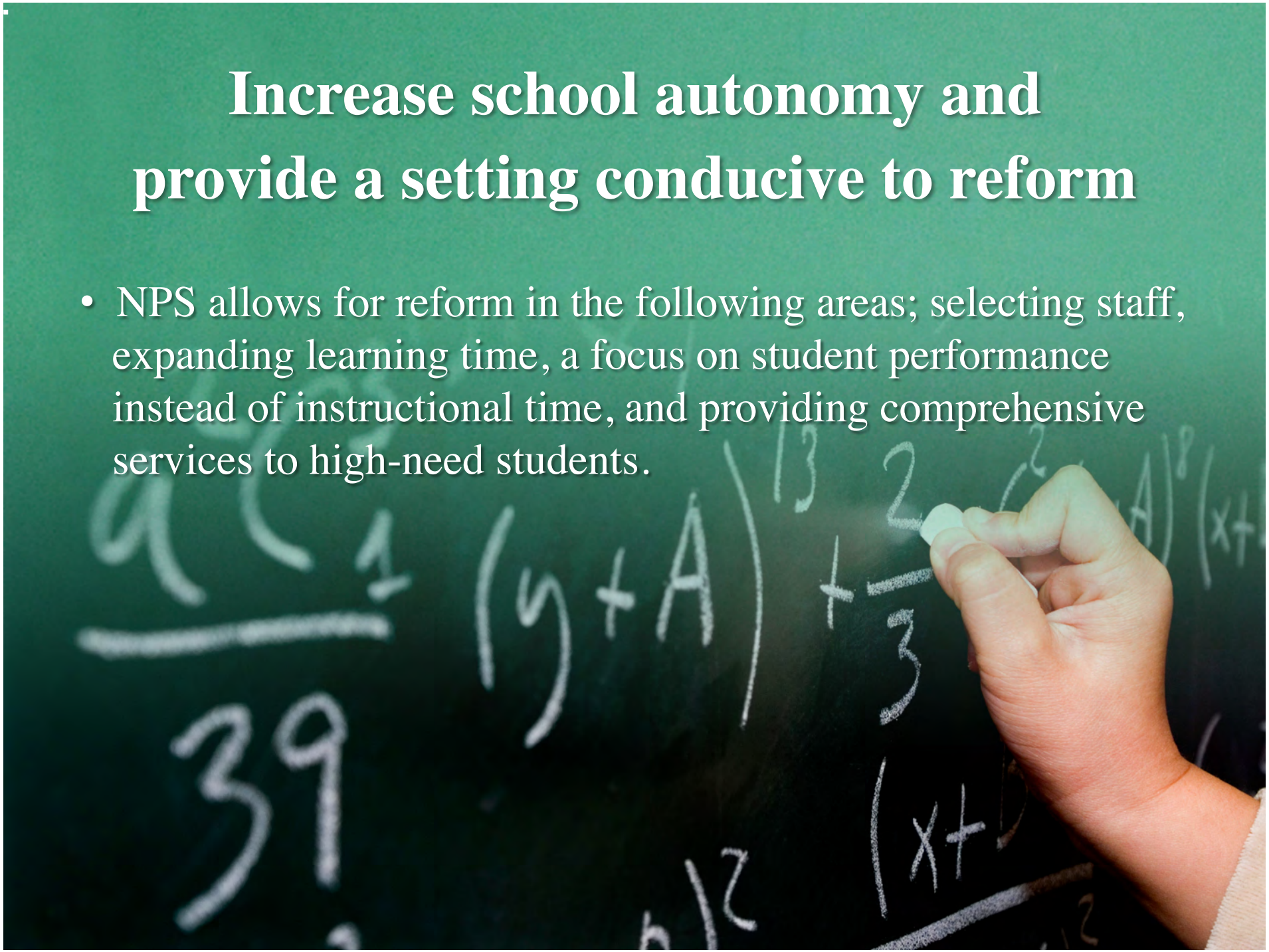


Create a more Seamless P-20 Route for Students.

- Several schools in the list of suggested types of NPS are geared toward transitioning students from one educational setting to another; early childhood learning centers, middle colleges, a career education high school, and a college prep high school.

Increase school autonomy and provide a setting conducive to reform

- NPS allows for reform in the following areas; selecting staff, expanding learning time, a focus on student performance instead of instructional time, and providing comprehensive services to high-need students.



A charter school law that does not inhibit increasing the number of charter schools.

- If we cannot remove the cap on university-authorized schools, NPS is the next best thing.
- NPS epitomized; no limit to the number of schools allowed.
- No czar, no district, no bureaucracy.
- Independent governing boards.
- Can select own staff, expand learning time, have control over budget, and award credit based on student performance versus seat time (cyber schools.)