

**HB 2245-S - DIGEST**

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Requires the task force to: (1) Examine the rate of student academic improvement in Washington middle schools and high schools and state, national, and international research on redesign efforts;

(2) Identify successful models for middle school and high school organization, both within Washington and nationally, that have been shown to: (a) Reduce the dropout rate; (b) close the achievement gap; (c) accelerate academic improvement; (d) improve the teaching and learning of math; (e) provide more challenging opportunities for students who meet standards early and more flexible options after the sophomore year; and

(3) Identify steps to improve alignment between middle schools and high school, and between high schools and postsecondary education, job training, and the world of work.

Provides that, by December 15, 2005, the task force shall report to the governor, the superintendent of public instruction, and the fiscal and education policy committees of the legislature. The report shall include a plan for structural change and improvement in Washington middle schools and high schools. The plan shall identify the roles and responsibilities of state policymakers, local school districts, communities, businesses, principals, teachers, parents, and students in carrying out the plan.