

January 4, 2010 Meeting Highlights

On January 4, the [State Board of Education](#) met in Olympia, Washington to revise and approve its proposed legislation for required action.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS

The Board revised and approved its accountability legislation for the 2010 session. This legislation would require districts to partner with the state in turning around persistently low achieving schools. Currently Washington's school and district improvement assistance program is entirely voluntary.

SYSTEM PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY LEGISLATION

- The proposed required action legislation would:
 - Have the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction identify the bottom five percent of persistently low achieving schools – a criteria for federal school improvement funding (the schools receiving Title I funds and in a step of improvement or secondary schools that are eligible for Title I funds).
 - Have the State Board of Education designate required action school districts –those with at least one persistently low-achieving school not receiving school improvement funds.
 - Begin the SBE required action process in 2011 (annually thereafter). In 2010, districts may volunteer to participate.
 - Require an external academic performance audit of each required action district.
 - Require districts to develop required action plans in a collaborative process with administrators, teachers and staff, parents, unions, students, and community representatives. OSPI will provide technical assistance.
 - The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction must review the plan and confirm that it is consistent with federal guidelines for school improvement grants. The State Board of Education must also approve the plan.
 - The district required action plan must utilize one of the four federal intervention models.
 - The district required action plan must be designed to allow the district to improve within three years.
 - Collective bargaining agreements in every required action district must contain an agreement requiring an addendum to be negotiated if necessary to develop and implement a required action plan. The addendum must provide for mediation by the Public Employees Relation Commission and for binding arbitration if mediation is unsuccessful.
 - The State Board of Education must approve the required action plan. Implementation of the plan is subject to the availability of federal funds.
 - SBE may direct OSPI to redirect Title I funds in a required action district if a local district required action plan is not submitted or if it is not approved by the SBE.
 - The OSPI shall report twice a year to the SBE on the required action districts' progress.

The next [State Board of Education](#) meeting will be at the Tumwater New Market Skills Center in Tumwater, Washington, on January 13-14, 2010.

For more information please see the SBE Web site: www.sbe.wa.gov