

THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Accountability | World-Class Math and Science Standards | Meaningful Diploma/CORE 24

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Board Addressed 2010 K-12 Education Reform / Honors Four of Washington's Top Teachers

Olympia, WA – The Washington State Board of Education's meeting this week will center on education reform and the importance of proposed legislation to make Washington a competitive recipient for the federal \$4 billion Race to the Top grant.

Race to the Top requires states to utilize and implement national standards and assessments, data systems to support instruction, and programs designed to increase teacher effectiveness and turn around struggling schools.

Though some states already have such programs and supporting legislation in place to make them competitive for the grant, most states have been scrambling to enact the required education reforms in the short time before the application is due.

States are using Race to the Top as a catalyst for change, instituting and implementing legislative education reforms with the greatest capacity to create lasting change in student achievement.

Governor Gregoire elected to apply for the grant in the second and final round (this spring), giving legislators and education leaders as much time as possible to enact the required reforms.

One such reform, the capacity of a state to 'turnaround' struggling schools, is the current focal point of the Board's work. Although Washington does not currently allow specific state intervention in struggling schools, the Board is proposing legislation that would allow for a state/local partnership in addressing our persistently low-achieving schools.

The Board will review this legislation and other reform efforts on Wednesday, January 13.

On Thursday, the State Board of Education will honor four of Washington's top teachers.

The four honorees, all public K-12 educators, will receive their awards and have an opportunity to share their experiences with the Board on Thursday, January 14.

Attending the ceremony will be Washington State Teacher of the Year - Jamie Yoos (Bellingham High School – Bellingham); 2009 Milken Educator Kymberly Larson (Shaw Middle School – Spokane); and two Presidential Award Winners for Excellence in Science and Math Teaching - Georgia Boatman (Education Service District 123 – Pasco) and Michele Brees (Madrona Elementary School – Seatac).

Information about the [Washington state educator award nominees](#), as well as a meeting [agenda](#) and other materials, are available on the [Washington State Board of Education Website](#).

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday.

Time for public comment will be provided.

The public and news media are invited to attend. For more information visit: www.sbe.wa.gov .

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