

# **THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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



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**The Washington State Board of Education:  
Accountability Index Update  
January 2010**

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## What is happening with the State Board of Education's Accountability Index?

The State Board approved a provisional State Board of Education (SBE) Accountability Index and proposed recognition system in May 2009. The provisional SBE Accountability Index provides ways to examine all schools and districts based on a variety of different outcomes and indicators. Schools and districts can use the index visually to determine where they have made significant improvements as well as where achievement gaps exist for their students based on reading, writing, math, science and for high schools on extended graduation rates. An updated version that includes a matrix to analyze subgroup performance was approved by the SBE in January 2010.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the SBE plan to recognize schools for high achievement and improvement in May 2010, using the SBE Provisional Accountability Index with some OSPI additions. However, the new SBE Accountability Index will not be used for identifying low achieving schools unless the SBE and OSPI are successful in obtaining a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education or making changes in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Reauthorization. The SBE staff will work with OSPI and the Governor in 2010 to request that the federal government (both the Department of Education and Congress) consider our SBE Accountability Index.

For now, we are following the new federal school improvement rules to identify the 5 percent of lowest achieving schools. These rules are better than what exists under NCLB to identify a school in improvement. However, the federal school improvement rules do not allow all districts and schools to look at their progress, or lack of progress over time, unless they are identified as part of the lowest five percent of persistently low achieving schools. Nor do the federal school improvement rules include subjects beyond math and reading.

The ultimate goal of the final SBE Accountability Index will be to replace the federal method of determining Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) as well as recognition and continuous improvement for all schools if the federal government permits Washington to use the Accountability Index. Staff sought feedback from stakeholders on additional improvements needed to the provisional SBE Accountability Index in the summer and fall of 2009. Most of the feedback centered on creating an easy to understand paper on the index and adding a way to address different groups of students' achievement.

Staff worked with writer, Jill Severn, and BERK & Associates graphics to develop a layperson's guide to the provisional SBE Accountability Index. See [Attachment A](#) "Creating A Better Accountability Quality Rating System" paper and [Attachment B](#) "Accountability Index: An Introduction" graphic.