

2011 Proposed Rule Changes

During the 2009 Legislative Session, the Legislature and Governor amended the definition of Basic Education with Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 2261. The legislation made the definition of a school day¹ more specific and replaced the student-to-teacher ratio requirements² with the prototypical school model of funding. Although ESHB 2261 was made law in 2009, these changes do not go into effect until September 1, 2011.

The following sections of SBE's rules should be repealed due to statute changes:

1. WAC 180-16-210 (Kindergarten through grade three students to classroom teacher ratio requirement) will no longer be needed since the underlying statute will be repealed as of September 1. The proposed rule revision repeals this entire section of rule (Appendix A).
2. WAC 180-16-215 (Minimum one hundred eighty school day year) contains a subsection that quotes the current definition of a school day and will be incorrect as of September 1. The definition of a school day³ will change on September 1, 2011, in the following manner: "School day" means each day of the school year on which pupils enrolled in the common schools of a school district are engaged in educational activity academic and career and technical instruction planned by and under the direction of the school district staff, ~~as directed by the administration and board of directors of the district.~~ The proposed rule revision repeals this entire section of rule (Appendix B).

In addition, SBE staff recommends that the Board consider modernizing and streamlining the process used by school districts to report compliance. A streamlined process utilizing the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI) Web-based data reporting system would greatly reduce the time and effort spent by both school district and SBE staff in fulfilling this task.

The current process outlined in SBE's rules requires school districts to submit a paper form signed by both the district superintendent and the local board chair. This process is standalone because it is not associated with any other annual reporting conducted by the districts. The combination of the use of paper forms and a disconnection from other reporting has made the process overly time consuming for both school district and SBE staff. It is time to modernize the system.

SBE staff has worked closely with OSPI and the Washington State School Directors Association on potential revisions to the rules. The proposed revision to WAC 180-16-195 (Annual reporting and review process) (Appendix C) would change the signature requirements and submission date and require school districts to submit compliance forms electronically rather than mailing in paper forms.

¹ RCW 28A.150.030

² RCW 28A.150.250

³ RCW 28A.150.203(10)