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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **State Board of Education Welcomes New Student Board Member**

Olympia, WA – Matthew Spencer, a sophomore at Woodinville High School in Woodinville, Washington, is the new student representative to the Washington State Board of Education. Matthew will begin his two-year term with the Board during the May 11-12 Pasco Board meeting.

Matthew's selection to the Board was granted after a competitive application process that culminated with interviews of potential candidates.

Board membership calls for two student representatives, one from eastern and one from western Washington. Matthew is replacing outgoing western Washington student Board member Anna Laura Kastama, a senior at the Tacoma School of the Arts, who ends her two-year term with the Board this May. Matthew will join the current eastern Washington student representative Jared Costanzo, a junior at Chiawana High School in Pasco. Jared is completing his first year as a student member.

Matthew is hopeful that his insights will help the Board as they continue to work on behalf of K-12 students. "I will have the opportunity to provide the perspective of a student who experiences educational reform policies and requirements daily," said Matthew.

Matthew is an active and involved member at Woodinville High School. As an honors student, Matthew excels in the classroom, taking difficult classes such as Advanced Placement World History and honors math. He is also involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities, including Woodinville High School athletics, the National Honor Society, and volunteering through his church.

Matthew's interest in educational law is well-suited to his future duties as the Board's newest member. For Matthew, "Gaining firsthand experience in what will possibly become my career is an exciting prospect."

### *Information about the State Board of Education:*

The State Board of Education is comprised of five elected members, seven governor-appointed members, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and one private school representative. Two non-voting student representatives round out the Board's membership.

Please visit the [State Board of Education website](#) for more information about the Board members, highlights, Board messages, complete minutes of Board meetings, and other Board materials related to K-12 education in Washington State.

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