

## Washington State Board of Education Meeting in Wenatchee

### Public Comment 9-10-14

Good afternoon and welcome to Wenatchee. My name is Jennifer Talbot. I serve as a director on the Wenatchee School Board. However, my comment today is reflective of my personal views as a Wenatchee School District parent and community member for the past sixteen years as well as an education advocate.

My comment is in regard to the exploration of discipline data as an Educational System Health indicator. Over the past several years, I have learned a great deal about the research and evidence on school wide behavior management formally titled Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports or PBIS. I am grateful that your board toured several Washington state schools implementing this multi-tiered systems approach focused on prevention and intervention. I am aware that you will be presenting a report to our state legislators and hope you will consider PBIS and the following:

- 1) Explore the possibility of utilizing the user friendly and research based data collection system called the School-Wide Information System or SWIS. SWIS can provide for data-driven decision making at the state level as well as benefit the state's districts and schools.
- 2) Encourage funding for professional development for teachers and school support staff. Our front line educators need tools and training to understand and interpret behavior data. This data allows staff to make timely and effective decisions when it comes to providing positive changes to district, school, and classroom cultures.
- 3) Increase our state's capacity to fund support and training for schools wishing to implement the PBIS framework, decrease suspensions/expulsions, and improve disproportionate discipline. Based on recent research by the *Washington State Institute for Public Policy*, the benefit-cost results for implementation of school-wide positive behavior programs are highly favorable.

Thank you so much for your time and talents on this important issue facing our schools statewide.