



January 7-8, 2015 Board Meeting Highlights

The following is a review of topics discussed and actions taken during the meeting of the State Board of Education (SBE) held January 7-8, 2015, at Educational Service District 113 in Tumwater, Wash. You can find the materials associated with each topic by clicking on the title, or all of the meeting materials at: <http://www.sbe.wa.gov/materials.php>

1. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS

SBE approved/adopted the following:

- [Assessment position statement.](#)
- [Smarter Balanced Consortium threshold scores.](#)
- [Bylaw amendments.](#)
- [2015-2018 Strategic Plan.](#)
- [CR-102 for rules repeals and amendments.](#)
- [Letter to the Governor on the Governor's budget](#)
- Temporary waiver of high school graduation requirements [for the following districts](#):
 - Auburn School District
 - Battle Ground School District
 - Bethel School District
 - Concrete School District
 - Kennewick School District
 - Seattle Public Schools
 - Stanwood-Camano School District
 - Wellpinit School District

SBE tabled the [Shoreline School District request](#) for a 180-day waiver to the March board meeting.

2. [Strategic Plan](#)

Members reviewed the timelines and measures that staff added to the goals, strategies, and action steps that were presented during the November 2014 board meeting. Board members added an action step to address outreach to diverse communities, refined the wording in the vision statement and revised several action step measures. On January 8, the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan, as shown in [Exhibit D](#), was approved by the Board.

3. [Assessment Requirements](#)

Board discussion focused on considering an approach to setting a graduation cut score on the high school Smarter Balanced Assessment and transition exit exams and the Board position on high school assessments. A draft position statement on assessments was developed by a four-member workgroup before the meeting. The Board approved the position statement, as shown in [Exhibit A](#), which expresses the Board's position on high school assessments as well as the approach to setting a graduation cut score. The Board also discussed and approved the Smarter Balanced Consortium Achievement Level threshold scores, as shown in [Exhibit B](#).

4. [Educational Data Spotlight: Attendance and District Graduation Requirements](#) [Attendance Data](#)

Staff presented research showing that missing any school has a negative impact on learning and other measures of educational outcomes. Staff stated that, in Washington, as many as a quarter of a million students are identified as truants or chronic absentees. Staff concluded that poor attendance is more prevalent in areas and schools characterized by higher levels of poverty. Staff summarized successful interventions in other states and districts.

District Graduation Requirements

Staff presented on findings from data on the district graduation requirements for the Class of 2015 from the 2014 Basic Education Compliance Report. Staff updated the Board on how many districts have already met parts of the 24-credit graduation requirements framework, districts with local graduation requirements that go beyond the state minimum and districts that utilize flexible crediting options.

5. Governor's Proposed Budget

Staff provided an overview of Governor Inslee's proposed biennial budget, including the governor's proposal for K-12 education. The presentation addressed how closely the governor's budget meets legislative priorities adopted by SBE, the adequacy of the governor's budget in responding to *McCleary* requirements, and the sustainability of the governor's proposed solution to the 2015-2017 budget problem. Members identified concerns with the budget proposal. The Board approved a letter to the Governor on the Governor's budget, as shown in [Exhibit F](#).

6. BEA Waiver Request Shoreline School District

Members considered Shoreline School District's request for a waiver of the basic education requirement of a minimum 180-day school year. The request is for five days for the 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018 school years. Members discussed the waiver request and requested that staff provide more information on how the actions described by the district in the prior waiver request for a waiver of five days for the 2014-15 school year impacted student outcomes. The Board voted to table the waiver request to the March 11-12, 2015 board meeting.

7. Bylaws Review

Members considered amendments to bylaw sections concerning: board officer definitions, officer elections, Executive Committee meeting agenda and minutes, and the Executive Director, as well as minor technical and wording refinements. The Board amended its Bylaws, as shown in [Exhibit C](#).

8. Educational Data Spotlight: Performance Gaps

Staff presented performance gap analyses of 2013 NAEP data that show large performance gaps in reading and in math based on scaled scores and achievement level distribution. Staff stated that Washington's performance gaps on the NAEP among subgroups have increased more over time than many other states. Staff noted the following distinct differences among Washington and the other states:

- The Washington performance gaps based on poverty status are slightly smaller than the average U.S. gaps and the Washington gaps are mostly smaller than the gaps for the peer states.
- The Washington White-Black performance gaps are typically much smaller than the U.S. average and smaller than the peer state gaps.
- The Washington White-Hispanic performance gaps are among the highest in the U.S. but differ somewhat based on assessed grade level and content area.

9. **Executive Committee Elections**

Executive committee elections were held. Member Fletcher was elected to a Member At-Large position. Member Jennings was elected to the Immediate Past Chair position.

10. **Student Presentation**

Student Board Member Madaleine Osmun provided a student update on her education and extracurricular activities then presented on life skills as part of a High School and Beyond Plan.

11. **WAC Review**

Staff recommended rules for repeal or amendment. The Board considered their inclusion in a CR-102 for publication in the State Register and scheduling of a public hearing. The board approved the rules, as shown in [Exhibit E](#), for inclusion in the CR-102.

12. **Initiative 1351**

Staff summarized Initiative 1351, which reduces class sizes and increases other staffing. The presentation and discussion explored the implementation issues and questions raised by the passage of I-1351. The Board has not taken a position on I-1351, but has worked to understand what role, if any, the Board has in ensuring basic education compliance with the new requirements of I-1351.

13. **Executive Director Update**

Executive Director Ben Rarick updated the Board on implementation issues emerging out of the 24 credit high school diploma requirements, including the staff response to questions from the field that additional local subject area credit requirements can count as part of the four elective credits in the 24 credit requirements. Mr. Rarick summarized issues concerning the legislative session and implementation of the Board's strategic plan.

14. **Teacher of the Year Recognition**

Each January, the Board honors Washington's Teacher of the Year. Mr. Lyon Terry, Washington's 2015 Teacher of the Year, joined the Board for a luncheon, presentation, and receipt of a resolution acknowledging his educational leadership. Mr. Terry is a teacher at Lawton Elementary School and a leader within his school and district. Mr. Terry's [presentation](#) focused on character teaching and social-emotional learning that develops kids into good people who demonstrate character strengths such as courage, compassion, grit and the ability to solve problems. Mr. Terry is eligible for consideration for National Teacher of the Year.

15. **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

Board Meeting – March 11-12, 2015, at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash.