

Accountability FAQ

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1. What is the State Board of Education's (SBE) role in school and district accountability?
2. What are the essential components of SBE's accountability framework?
3. How was the Accountability Framework built?

1. What is the State Board of Education's (SBE) role in school and district accountability?

"The State Board of Education is responsible for implementing a standards-based accountability framework that creates a unified system of increasing levels of support for schools in order to improve student achievement" ([RCW 28A.305.130](#)).

The 2010 legislative education reform package instituted a system of Required Action. The Required Action Process "provides a unified system of support for challenged schools that aligns with basic education, increases the level of support based upon the magnitude of need, and uses data decisions. For a specific group of challenged schools, defined as persistently lowest-achieving schools, and their districts, it is necessary to provide a required action process that creates a partnership between the state and local district to target funds and assistance to turn around the identified lowest-achieving schools" ([RCW 28A.657.005](#)). More information can be found through OSPI and the [District and School Improvement and Accountability site](#).

2. What are the essential components of SBE's accountability framework?

SBE advocates a system of accountability with clear, appropriate indicators and measurements to monitor progress of the educational system. The framework for this policy is outlined in the [2009 Accountability Resolution](#).

The Accountability Framework is designed to ensure all students receive an excellent and equitable education.

The Accountability Framework is structured around the following key elements:

1. An Achievement Index for identifying exemplary schools as well as struggling schools.
2. Targeted and intensive voluntary state programs to help districts build capacity.
3. Required Action if there is no improvement in student achievement for the schools identified by the state.

SBE also uses the Achievement Index to recognize successful schools through the Washington Achievement Awards.

3. How was the Accountability Framework built?

SBE formed an advisory Systems Performance Accountability group and commissioned several studies and reports that impacted the Accountability Framework:

1. [Accountability Report](#)

- As submitted to the Legislature, December 2009
2. State Accountability Index* – Executive Summary
Report by Pete Bylsma, SBE consultant, February 2010
 3. State Accountability Index*
Report by Pete Bylsma, SBE consultant, February 2010

* Now known as the Achievement Index

The reports, in addition to a variety of meetings with stakeholders, led SBE to its current proposed Accountability Framework.