



THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

A high-quality education system that prepares all students for college, career, and life.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 16, 2016

State Board of Education Welcomes New Member Ricardo Sanchez

OLYMPIA, Wash. – Gov. Inslee has appointed Seattle resident Ricardo Sanchez to the State Board of Education. Sanchez has worked in education in Washington for more than 30 years in non-profit organizations and state and local governments.

Over the years, Sanchez has served in many public service roles, including as associate director for the Higher Education Coordinating Board, as state director of GEAR UP, a federally funded project that helps low-income students prepare for college, and as director of communications for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Since 2009 he has been Vice President of Communications and Educational Services for Sea Mar Community Health Centers.

“Ricardo brings an important voice for education access for the underserved and minority communities across the state,” Gov. Jay Inslee said. “His extensive experience ranges from helping low income students prepare for college to improving academic achievement of Latino students. Ricardo will be a great asset to the State Board of Education and his contributions will benefit all students in Washington.”

In 1998, Sanchez founded the Latino/a Educational Achievement Project (LEAP), a statewide non-profit organization directed at improving academic achievement of Latino students in Washington state. He was also executive director of the Concilio for the Spanish Speaking, a Seattle-based nonprofit organization, and executive director of the Northeast Branch YMCA in Seattle.

“It is an honor to be appointed by Governor Inslee as a member of the State Board of Education. I look forward to working with other board members and educational stakeholders across our state in helping to craft policies that enhance teaching and learning in our state for all students,” Sanchez said.

Sanchez will be administered the oath of office at the Board of Education’s next meeting on Jan. 11, 2017. He fills a vacant position, and his appointment expires in January, 2021.

Sanchez earned a Bachelor’s degree in business administration at Montana State University – Billings, and did graduate work in public administration at Portland State University and Seattle University. He and his wife, Linda, have raised three daughters, and have two grandchildren. He enjoys writing, bicycling, golfing, and hiking and fishing.

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About the State Board of Education: The State Board of Education provides advocacy and strategic oversight of public education. The Board comprises 16 members: five are elected by school board directors, seven are appointed by the Governor, two serve as student representatives, and one serves as a private school representative. The Superintendent of Public Instruction is also a member.