

THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Accountability | World-Class Math and Science Standards | Meaningful Diploma/CORE 24

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Board of Education Considers New Intervention Strategies for Persistently Low Achieving Schools

Renton, WA - The State Board of Education (SBE), during its September 17-18 meeting at the Puget Sound Educational Service District, will examine a proposed accountability framework designed to identify and address persistently low achieving schools.

The accountability framework, in development for the last few months, has gone through a recent transformation in light of last week's U.S. Department of Education's announcement of revised school improvement guidelines.

The State Board will discuss these new guidelines and consider their incorporation into the provisional accountability framework.

States adhering to these proposed federal guidelines are better suited to compete for the \$5 billion Race to the Top education grant, a U.S. Department of Education program designed to reward states who are making significant improvements in education reform and student achievement.

To best compete for the grant, Washington must make several systematic adjustments to its K-12 system, including adopting intervention strategies to work with persistently low achieving schools.

On Thursday, the Board will explore how these new guidelines should be incorporated into its current system of both voluntary and required action for school improvement.

Districts with schools that are not meeting AYP will be encouraged to take voluntary action to turnaround their persistently low achieving schools. Districts have the prerogative to decide the best course of corrective action, but the Board and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) will likely encourage districts to follow the draft U.S. Department of Education school improvement guidelines.

The measurement of school success has been the Washington State Assessment of Student Learning, but 2009 represents the end of that era. On Friday, OSPI representatives will present on the statewide results of this year's assessment and preview what next year's assessments will entail.

Time for public comment will be provided on both days.

A complete agenda and other meeting materials are available [here.](#)

The public and news media are invited to attend. [For](#) more information visit: www.sbe.wa.gov .

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