

**PILOT PROGRAM FOR WAIVERS FROM THE 180-SCHOOL DAY REQUIREMENT
FOR THE PURPOSES OF ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY**

BACKGROUND

The pilot program established by SHB 1292 provides the State Board of Education (SBE) authority to provide waivers from the 180-school day requirement for the purposes of economy and efficiency. This is an additional waiver authority the SBE has to grant waivers from the Basic Education Act requirements for the purposes of restructuring to enhance the educational program for each student (RCW 28A.305.140).

For the pilot program, SBE will adopt criteria to evaluate waiver requests, which will include criteria outlined in the legislation and can include other criteria determined by SBE. In addition, SBE will analyze evidence annually, to determine whether a waiver affects student learning.

The Waivers Committee prepared recommendations incorporating feedback from the July Board meeting, the public, legal counsel, and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction staff.

POLICY CONSIDERATION

The Waivers Committee recommends the following:

- A. Districts will meet the criteria for a first-time waiver by:
 1. Conducting one or more public hearings on the proposal.
 2. Providing a proposed calendar.
 3. Providing a resolution signed by the district board of directors with assurances that the district will:
 - Meet the annual average 1,000 hours of instructional hour offerings.
 - Discontinue the flexible calendar as soon as possible if the State Board of Education determines that student learning is adversely affected.
 - Collect and provide at the end of each year data on:
 - Attendance rates of students and teachers.
 - Satisfaction surveys of parents, students, and teachers with a target of 60% or greater participation rate for each group.
 4. Completing the application which contains items required by legislation and the following items established by SBE:
 - Explain the effect a waiver will have on the district's financial position.
 - Show how content is being accommodated from the waived days to the remaining days for elementary and secondary grades levels.
 - Identify assessments and observations the district will use to analyze student achievement.
 - Provide a base-line of student achievement data.

- B. If more than the allowable number of districts meets the criteria to receive a waiver at any given meeting then a lottery will determine which districts will receive waivers.
- C. Acceptable indicators for determining effects on student learning can include results of Washington State assessments, attendance rates, dropout rates, and graduation rates. SBE will determine the suitability of other assessments used by school districts on a case-by-case basis.
- D. Due to the difficulty of assessing an effect on student learning after only one year, SBE will make a determination at the end of the second and third years of a waiver, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

EXPECTED ACTION

Adoption of the recommendations from the Waiver Committee on the application, criteria, selection of districts, and determining affect on student learning. If adopted, SBE can consider the first applications at the November Board Meeting.