

January 12-13, 2011 Meeting Highlights

Note: all the materials listed below are available in the [online packet](#). You will find this in the meeting/materials section of our website. The online packet includes useful bookmarks and a search function to increase usability. **Page numbers are listed in parenthesis to further help in your navigation.** We recommend saving the online packet to your computer first rather than opening it up in the browser. Further instructions are provided at the link above.

On January 12-13, the [State Board of Education](#) (SBE) met in Tumwater, Washington, at the [New Market Skills Center](#), to:

- Review progress on SBE's [strategic plan](#) via the strategic plan dashboard (36).
- Hold a work session on SBE's [goal two of the strategic plan](#): provide leadership for closing the achievement gap, and advocate for high quality early learning experiences.
- Review the [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's](#) (OSPI) presentation on School Improvement Grants Guidelines and Requirements for Persistently Low Achieving Schools (222).
- Review OSPI recommendations for Required Action Districts (236).
- Honor the Washington State Teacher of the Year, the Milken Educator Award Winner, and two recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (68).
- Review the state fiscal situation and implications for K-12 (72).
- Receive an update on the Quality Education Council's January 2011 recommendations (81).
- Review OSPI recommendations for Washington State math and science graduation requirements (140).
- Discuss SBE's [2011 Legislative Session priorities](#).
- Preview SBE's future work on ensuring middle-level students advance ready for high school success (92).
- Receive an update on the latest draft of the Washington State Education Plan.
- Designate four districts as Required Action Districts (253).

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS

SBE approved the following:

- The designation, as Required Action Districts, of the following four school districts (236):
 1. Soap Lake School District
 2. Renton School District
 3. Morton School District
 4. Onalaska School District
- The certification of 295 public school districts as in compliance with the Basic Education approval requirements.
- The [2011 Legislative Policy Position](#)

WORK SESSION FOR CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

SBE's Goal Two - Provide Policy Leadership for Closing the Academic Achievement Gap - has two objectives:

1. Focus on joint strategies to close the achievement gap for students of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, students in poverty, and English language learners.

2. Advocate for high quality early learning experiences for all children in the K-3 educational continuum.

On January 12, SBE members held a work session focused on closing the achievement gaps through effective educational leadership and practice. On January 13, representatives from the [Department of Early Learning](#) briefed SBE on work related to the newly piloted kindergarten readiness assessment process (WaKIDS), as well as a one-year priority action plan developed with other early learning partners in the state (192).

OVERVIEW OF THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROCESS AND DESIGNATION OF REQUIRED ACTION DISTRICTS

Approximately \$7.3 million is available for School Improvement Grants in school year 2011-2012. Districts eligible to receive these grants must meet certain criteria (224). The School Improvement Grants will also fund districts recommended by OSPI for designation as Required Action Districts. The four districts recommended for Required Action designation are Soap Lake, Renton, Morton, and Onalaska (236).

HONORARY LUNCHEON FOR FOUR OF WASHINGTON'S TOP TEACHERS

Each January, SBE honors teachers who are the recipients of the following rewards:

1. The Washington State Teacher of the Year (Jay Maebori, Kentwood High School).
2. The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (Nicola Wethall, Oak Harbor High School, and Kareen Borders, Key Peninsula School District).
3. The Milken Educator Award (Kelly Aramaki, John Stanford International School).

The winning teachers were invited to join SBE during the January 12 morning work session and also had an opportunity to address SBE prior to the honorary luncheon (68).

UPDATES ON OSPI K-12 FISCAL IMPACT AND THE QUALITY EDUCATION COUNCIL (QEC)

OSPI briefed SBE on how the current state budget cuts and future forecast will impact the K-12 system, focusing on two primary issues:

1. Academic requirements and students' needs continue to increase, but state funding is declining (74).
2. The burden for K-12 funding is increasingly falling to local taxpayers (75).

OSPI also reviewed the January 2011 Quality Education Council draft recommendations (81).

SUPERINTENDENT DORN'S MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE GRADUATION RECOMMENDATIONS

OSPI provided an overview of Superintendent Dorn's recommendations for math and science graduation requirements (140). The suggestions for science are the following:

1. Implement biology End of Course (EOC) exams in 2012.
2. Phase in two additional EOC exams developed with other states and based on the new national standards (physical science in 2015, and integrated science in 2016).
3. Delay the science assessment graduation requirement until the class of 2017 (require students to pass biology EOC in 2017, and for the class of 2018, require students to pass biology, physical science, or integrated science EOC or alternative).

The recommendations for math are the following:

1. The classes of 2013-2014 must meet the standard on one high school EOC mathematics assessment (some exceptions and retake rules can be found on page 161).
2. The classes of 2015 and beyond must pass two mathematics EOCs.

MIDDLE LEVEL PREPARATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL SUCCESS

One of SBE's [strategic plan](#) goals is to examine the role of middle school preparation as it relates to high school success. SBE members proposed several potential areas of study, input that will guide staff work in the coming year (92).

SBE 2011 LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

SBE has approved several key [Legislative policy positions for the 2011 session](#). These policy positions include the following and more:

- High School Graduation Requirements – Strongly advocate for the policy direction reflected in SBE's Career and College-Ready High School Graduation Requirements Framework and oppose legislation that would undermine this policy direction.
- Mathematics Assessment Graduation Requirement – The Board supports requiring students in the graduating class of 2013 to pass one math EOC assessment, and students in the graduating class of 2014 and beyond to pass two math EOC assessments, providing for the continuation of the collection of evidence as an alternative assessment.
- Science Assessment Graduation Requirement – The Board supports keeping the science assessment graduation requirement to pass one science assessment beginning with the graduating class of 2013.

UPDATE ON THE EDUCATION REFORM PLAN

SBE reviewed the results of the Education Reform Plan survey (with over 1,309 respondents) (175). Feedback included the following recommendations, among others:

- Add one additional priority: Washington educators should demonstrate the highest levels of expertise, excellence, and professionalism.
- Create a theory of action: why, how, and toward what end – for Washington's approach to education reform.

The next State Board of Education meeting will be in Tumwater, Washington, on March 9-10, 2011, at the New Market Skills Center

For additional information and Board meeting materials, go to: www.sbe.wa.gov
or call the Board office at: 360-725-6025.