

## March 9-10, 2011 Meeting Highlights

Note: all the materials listed below are available in the [online packet](#). The online packet now comes in two forms. The regular packet is assembled as a pdf portfolio. This is a larger packet, but preserves all the meeting documents in their native file formats, allowing users to easily print, copy, or amend documents as needed. The alternative packet is one pdf file containing all Board materials in pdf format. 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 March 9 -10, 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.
- Hold a work session on SBE's goal one of the strategic plan: advocate for an effective and accountable governance structure in Washington.
- Receive an update on the Common Core Standards.
- Review the progress of education-related bills in the 2011 Legislative Session.
- Receive an update on the 2011 Required Action Districts.
- Review district waiver applications and the implications of waivers for innovation.
- Consider potential rule revisions to the oversight process of Basic Education Act compliance.
- Acknowledge the beginning of the [2011 student video contest](#).
- Preview SBE's next steps on high school to college connections.
- Review the Standard Setting Plans for High School Math End of Course exams and science Measurement of Student Progress (MSP).
- Acknowledge the [Washington Achievement Award-winning schools](#) and review the features of the [Achievement Index](#).
- Review education data systems.

### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS

SBE approved the following:

- Election of new Executive Committee Members At-Large.
- The 180-day waiver requests for the Edmonds, Shoreline, Bethel, Methow Valley, Monroe, Newport, Northshore, Seattle, and Sedro-Woolley School Districts.
- Additional legislative positions for the 2011 Legislative session.

### WORK SESSION FOR STATE EDUCATION GOVERNANCE

SBE's Goal One - advocate for an effective and accountable governance structure in Washington - has two objectives:

1. Catalyze education governance reform in Washington.
2. Use the State Education Plan to foster stronger relationships.

On March 9, SBE members held a work session designed to explore education governance, including a historical record of our states' educational governance evolution, the definition and ultimate outcomes of effective governance, and a comparison of Washington's current and potential future structures to that of other states' and nations'.

SBE then reviewed the Governor's proposal and the other education governance bills.

## **THE COMMON CORE STANDARDS**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) has the authority to adopt standards, and adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) provisionally in 2010 with the understanding that the 2011 Legislature would have the opportunity to review the decision. As of this writing, there is currently no legislation that would impact the SPI's intent to finalize adoption of the CCSS. SBE has expressed its support for the CCSS. OSPI provided a summary of the CCSS, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, reasons to adopt the CCSS, and the primary concerns. OSPI also briefed SBE on the bias and fairness review of the CCSS, as well as the plans and timetables for implementation.

## **SBE 2011 LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS**

SBE discussed several policy and fiscal bills relating to standards and assessment, education reforms, innovation and waivers, and education governance. SBE also discussed the implication of the biennium budget (when released), and the importance of SBE's strong voice in defense of basic education funding and protecting the 180-day requirement.

## **REQUIRED ACTION PLANS APPROVAL PROCESS UPDATE**

SBE's work for a new statewide accountability system includes a new Required Action process adopted by the state Legislature in the 2010 session<sup>1</sup> to address the needs for dramatic turnaround in our persistently lowest-achieving schools. OSPI will use federal school improvement grants to support these schools. SBE will consider, for approval, four districts' Required Action Plans (Renton, Morton, Onalaska, Soap Lake) during a March 31, 2011, SBE special meeting. A workgroup of SBE Board members has agreed to read the four Required Action Districts' Plans and will recommend approval or non-approval to SBE in advance of the March 31, 2011 special meeting.

## **BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS WAIVERS**

SBE may grant waivers to schools and districts from the requirements of the Basic Education Act (RCW 28A.150.200 through 28A.150.220). The waivers allow schools and districts to implement a local plan to enhance the educational program for each student (RCW 28A.305.140). At the March meeting, SBE approved applications for waivers from nine school districts: Edmonds, Shoreline, Bethel, Methow Valley, Monroe, Newport, Northshore, Seattle, and Sedro-Woolley School Districts

## **STUDENT VIDEO CONTEST**

Student Board members provided an overview of the second annual student video contest. This year's contest focuses on the important role of math, science, technology, and/or Career and Technical Education courses. The contest due date is Monday, May 2. More information on the student video contest is available on the front page of the [SBE website](#).

## **CONNECTIONS: HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE**

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<sup>1</sup> RCW 28A.657 (2ESSB 6696)

SBE's [strategic plan](#) Goal 2 is to provide policy leadership to increase Washington's student enrollment and success in secondary and postsecondary education. On Thursday, SBE reviewed current state strategies to improve students' participation and success in postsecondary education. Staff from the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) joined SBE staff to provide details about initiatives in their sectors.

## **MEASUREMENT OF STUDENT PROGRESS STANDARD SETTING**

The 2009 Science Learning Standards will be assessed for the first time on the Measurements of Student Progress in grades 5 and 8 in May 2011. The 2008 Mathematics Learning Standards will be assessed on the 2011 End-of-Course exams. Standard-setting panels will be convened to make a recommendation for the cut scores on these tests.

OSPI presented the plan for conducting the standard setting process in 2011 for the Board's approval. Standard setting panels were convened in the summer of 2010 to make recommendations to the Board on the cut scores for the Mathematics Measurement of Student Progress in grades 3 through 8. OSPI is planning to follow a similar process in 2011 as was followed for the standard setting that occurred in 2010. Board members requested more information on the differences between the standard setting process used previously, and the one planned for this summer.

Later this year, SBE will approve the scores students must achieve in order to meet performance standards.

## **2010 WASHINGTON ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS AND INDEX**

SBE and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction will recognize 186 schools through the 2010 Washington Achievement Awards. There are eight possible awards: one for Overall Excellence (as well as a separate category for schools with high percentages of gifted populations), as well as six special recognition awards: Language Arts (reading and writing combined), Math, Science, Extended Graduation Rate, Improvement, and Closing Achievement Gaps.

The Washington Achievement Awards are based on the 2010 Achievement Index, which was published in December 2010. The updated database provides school level information and contains both the original view of the Index and an additional matrix, which displays the degree to which schools are closing racial and ethnic gaps, as well as two-year averages.

## **DATA SYSTEM UPDATE**

Board members received an overview of the current developments in statewide longitudinal data systems, how the early learning, K-12, and postsecondary education systems are working together, and what data developments are coming in the next year.

**The next State Board of Education meeting will be in Pasco, Washington on May 11-12, 2011 at the Columbia Basin Community College.**

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