



The Washington State Board of Education

Governance | Achievement | High School and College Preparation | Math & Science | Effective Workforce

2014 SESSION:

Updated: 12-27-2013

SBE Legislative Priorities

Ample Provision

Make ample provision for K-12 education programs

Legislative Action: Identify a reliable and dependable revenue funding source for K-12 education to support a robust response to the McCleary Court Order, and to fully implement the provisions of ESHB 2261 and SHB 2776.

Career & College Ready

Authorization of a 24-credit career and college-ready graduation requirement framework

Legislative Action: The Board urges the Legislature to authorize implementation of the 24-credit career and college-ready graduation requirement framework that supports multiple pathways to post-secondary education and training, and living wage employment options. Changes should take effect for students who will be seniors during the 2018-19 school year (current 7th graders).

Summer Learning Loss

Support efforts to combat summer learning loss

Legislative Action: Summer learning loss is a real problem for many students, and can be detrimental to those already lagging behind. Most students lose about two months of grade level equivalency in math over the summer, and low-income students also lose more than two months in reading. More than half of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities. The Board urges the Legislature to work toward a balanced academic calendar to combat summer learning loss and close the educational opportunity gap.

Math & Science Equivalencies

Expansion of math and science course equivalencies for vocational programs.

Legislative Action: The Board urges the Legislature to direct the development of statewide model course modules and frameworks that allow students to fulfill math and science credit requirements at skill centers and other high school programs across the state. The Board has an interest in ensuring that these credit equivalency opportunities are offered in an equitable manner across the state.

Professional Development

Support restoration of professional learning improvement days (3)

Legislative Action: The Board urges the Legislature to restore funding for three Learning Improvement Days (LID) to support the professional development needs of educators to implement new state policy reforms, including new educator evaluation models, and Common Core and Next Generational Science Standards. Dedicated professional development time will ease the strain on families and children created by the proliferation of half or partial school days, and will reverse the erosion of instructional time that has resulted from the underfunding of professional development.