

Dear partner in education:

Greetings! I am delighted to share with you new updates on the State Board of Education's (SBE) work to improve student achievement and ensure all students are prepared to succeed after high school - in the 21st century workforce, postsecondary education and citizenship.

In May, the Board approved new math standards for grades K-8 and finalized recommendations for strengthening K-10 science standards. SBE continued to develop a draft framework for strengthening graduation requirements, as well as conducting two studies with education stakeholders to inform our system performance accountability work.

SBE is committed to listening to all of our partners in education--we truly appreciate your input. That's why, in addition to other outreach, we are holding community meetings in June on the draft graduation requirements and the draft approaches for an enhanced system of accountability and shared responsibility (please see details below). We hope you will be able to join us!

Edie Harding  
Executive Director

## Creating a Meaningful High School Diploma-Opening Doors with CORE 24

Washington's graduation credit requirements were last changed in 1985. Since then, globalization and technology have dramatically changed our economy and expectations of graduates. The Board is revising high school graduation requirements to better prepare students for life after high school - in gainful employment, postsecondary education and citizenship.

SBE has created a draft credit framework called **CORE 24**. To inform the proposed framework, SBE collected input from students, parents, educators, administrators, and business and community leaders. SBE also reviewed state and national studies, compiled data on current high school district requirements and re-examined the purpose of diploma.

The CORE 24 proposed requirements aim to provide students with a strong academic foundation and with the flexibility, that

## Learn more about our key initiatives

- [A Meaningful High School Diploma:](#) preparing students for life after high school no matter what path they choose.
- [World-class math:](#) providing students with the math foundation they need to succeed.
- [Exemplary science:](#) fostering science education to expand students' minds and broaden horizons.
- [Accountability:](#) providing assistance to schools and districts so that no student falls through the cracks.

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will prepare them for whatever path they choose-whether that's the workforce, an apprenticeship in the trades, or a community or four-year college.

CORE 24 is based on the following principles:

- **Equip everyone:** Prepare ALL students for life after high school-in gainful employment, an apprenticeship or postsecondary education.
- **Expect more:** Align requirements to meet the increased expectations of the 21st century workforce.
- **Provide flexibility:** Allow students to customize their education, creating relevance to their interests.
- **Give focus:** Encourage students to align course work to achieve their future career goals.
- **Plan ahead:** Emphasize the High School and Beyond Plan to offer students personalized guidance to prepare them for work, postsecondary education, or both.
- **Start early:** Prepare students to enter high school and create opportunities to meet high school graduation requirements in middle school.

[Learn More>>](#)

## Community Meetings

Upcoming Community Meetings: SBE will hold three community meetings on the Meaningful High School Diploma and System Performance Accountability initiatives. The meetings will provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about SBE's draft proposal to revise high school graduation requirements to better prepare students for life after high school and SBE's work to create a statewide system of accountability and shared responsibility to improve student achievement. The meetings will include time for feedback from the public.

Meeting Dates:

- **Spokane**  
Monday, June 2, 4:00 - 6:00 PM  
Spokane Community College  
1810 N. Greene Street, Student Center (Bldg. 6)  
Spokane, WA 99202
- **Yakima**  
Tuesday, June 3, 4:00 - 6:00 PM  
Yakima Convention Center  
10 North 8th Street  
Yakima, WA 98901
- **Seattle**  
Wednesday, June 4, 3:30 - 5:30 PM  
University Heights Center, Room 209  
5301 University Way NE

Seattle, WA 98105

## Get to know your board members

### Steve Dal Porto Ed. D., Quincy



Steve Dal Porto Ed.D., Quincy

Dr. Dal Porto was elected to the State Board of Education by Eastern Washington school board members after he retired as a school superintendent in July 2005. He has been directly involved in the education of Washington public school students for 33 years as an elementary, junior high, and high school teacher; an elementary and junior high school principal; an assistant superintendent with duties in curriculum development, professional development, and business management; and as superintendent of schools. He served as Chairman of the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) Small Schools Committee for two years and was a small school representative to WASA's Ample School Funding committee. "The policies SBE is considering will have a huge impact on local districts, parents and students. It is critical that people pay attention and get involved so that they are prepared and there are no surprises. We need to communicate with each other. The State Board looks forward to working with you."

#### **We want to hear from you!**

We encourage you to attend our next board meeting, July 23-24 in Vancouver. Click [here](#) for the meeting agenda and location.

Thoughts or questions? E-mail them to [sbe@k12.wa.us](mailto:sbe@k12.wa.us).