

Dear partner in education:

Greetings! The Washington State Board of Education (SBE) has continued at its Board meetings to listen to the public and discuss next steps for examining the implementation issues of its policy framework for graduation requirements called CORE 24. The Board has been clear that CORE 24 must be funded before it is implemented and it will advocate for those resources during the upcoming legislative session. SBE staff will begin designing the recruitment process for an Implementation Task Force. The Task Force will be comprised of experienced practitioners who will work with SBE to develop effective strategies to implement the proposed CORE 24.

The SBE is examining ways to acknowledge schools that are doing an exemplary job educating our students as well as ensuring that all schools make continuous improvement in student learning. The SBE is also examining ways to make significant changes in schools that need to boost student achievement. The SBE is committed to generating change by empowering local leaders and their partners to create a comprehensive turnaround strategy through an Innovation Zone for low performing schools. This is a chance for educators, district leaders, and community partners to change the operating conditions that shape the quality of education offered to students.

I must express my gratitude to all the students, parents, educators, and community leaders who have provided us with extremely valuable feedback as we develop our key initiatives. With your continued support, we can accomplish our shared goal of improving student achievement.

Edie Harding
Executive Director

Spotlight: Innovation Zone - State/Local Partnership Proposed Accountability Concepts

Today, one in every 14 Washington State students attends a low performing school. The System of Performance Accountability is SBE's commitment to ensure that no student falls through the

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- [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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cracks, and provides schools and districts the support they need to improve student achievement and engage students in their learning.

The proposed Innovation Zone encourages development of a comprehensive turnaround strategy for low performing schools. It focuses on changing the operating conditions to support transformation, not just marginal change. These turnaround schools can provide a reasonable platform for encouraging performance accountability across schools in Washington.

Under the Innovation Zone a local school board whose district contains one or more underperforming schools would be invited to apply. If the local school board meets SBE's readiness criteria, the local school board would develop a performance contract with SBE in which they will identify issues they want to address, in exchange for an investment of resources by the state.

For example, a traditional school improvement approach might adjust the school schedule within the same length school day and year. With the Innovation Zone however, turnaround leaders could expand the school day and year and reinvent the schedule to fulfill their turnaround plan. They might increase the amount of time in the school day or year for students to learn and teachers to collaborate on instruction. Creating the flexibility and local control necessary to foster operating conditions, this approach complements student interests and the mission of the school.

For a complete report on SBE's proposed accountability index and their commitment to help challenged schools succeed with the Innovation Zone, [click here](#) (You may also right-click the link and paste it into your browser).

Spotlight: SBE presents update on key initiatives at House Education Committee hearing

The SBE gave an update to the Washington State Legislature's House Education Committee on September 11 about SBE's ongoing work on math standards, accountability and CORE 24.

Board member Steve Floyd presented SBE's work on world-class math standards, including an update on the math curricular review and the third math credit. SBE Chair Mary Jean Ryan and SBE Executive Director Edie Harding led the session on accountability and Board member Eric Liu presented the CORE 24 proposal.

Members of the public were invited to sign in and provide their comments regarding SBE's CORE 24 proposal. Representatives of key education stakeholders, including the Association of Washington School Principals, Washington Education Association, Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, and the Jumpstart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, provided valuable testimony at the hearing. Community members including high school students, parents, and educators also addressed the committee during the public comment portion of the hearing.

To view footage of the House Education Committee session, [click here](#). (You may also right-click the link and paste it into your browser)

**Get to know your board members:
Phyllis Bunker Frank
Yakima, WSSDA Elected Position 2, Eastern
Washington, through January 2010**

Phyllis Frank, known mostly as Bunker, cites experiences as a parent, mentor, and certified speech and language pathologist as the basis for her long-term commitment as an education advocate and K-12 policy maker. Bunker served twelve years on the Yakima School Board and was president of the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) in 1995. She has played a key role in education reform through her involvement with the Governor's Council of Education Reform, and Funding Learning's Outcomes and Assessment Subcommittee. Bunker also served as the vice chair of the Goals 2000 Education Improvement Coordinating Council, and as a member of the Certificate of Mastery Subcommittee of the State Board. She has been a member of the State Board of Education since 1998.

"Our Board is committed to creating a system of performance accountability that encourages local leaders to develop turnaround strategies for the underperforming schools in their district. I believe that measurable; observable; school, family, and community partnerships are essential to a strong K-12 education system. The schools that participate in the proposed Innovation Zone will promote such partnerships, and foster flexibility at the local level in creating a plan that matches student needs," explains Bunker.

Bunker is also an active proponent of modifying the traditional academic calendar year to offer effective, equitable, and efficient use of time to support the learning needs of all children. She has served as chair of the Professional Development & Certification committee and as liaison to the Professional Education Standards Board under the former board structure

and is currently the liaison to the Workforce Training Board.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, Mrs. Frank holds a B.S. and M.S. in speech and language pathology. She has also studied at the University of Washington.

We want to hear from you!

[Upcoming Board Meeting:](#)

Advisory Work Session - Math Panel Meeting
Friday, October 14, 2008
Puget Sound ESD, Renton, WA

Advisory Work Session on System Performance Accountability
Tuesday, October 21, 2008
Puget Sound ESD, Renton, WA

E-mail your thoughts and questions to SBE at sbe@k12.wa.us.