

September 14-15, 2011 Meeting Highlights

Note: 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 either packet to your computer first rather than opening it up in the browser.

On September 14-15, the State Board of Education (SBE) met in Tacoma, Washington, to:

- Review progress on SBE's [strategic plan](#).
- Clarify waiver request criteria from the Basic Education Compliance Act.
- Consider high school graduation requirements rule revisions.
- Preview the 2012 legislative session and impending budget considerations.
- Discuss the 2011-2012 work plan for education governance.
- Receive an update from the Wenatchee School District and their work with the Teacher/Principal Evaluation Pilot.
- Receive an update on Alternative Learning Experiences from representatives of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the Steilacoom School District, and the Washington Virtual Academies.
- Review the 2011 state assessment results and Washington's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).
- Preview the 2011-2012 Required Action process for the state's persistently lowest-achieving schools.
- Review the initial findings of SBE's middle-level college- and career-ready practices survey.
- Receive an update on efforts to close the opportunity gap for African American students.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS

SBE approved the following:

- Minutes from the July 12-14, 2011, Board meeting.
- Minutes from the August 9, 2011, special Board meeting.
- The 180-day waiver requests for Auburn, Bainbridge, Deer Park, Entiat, Highline, Kettle Falls, Medical Lake, Mount Vernon, North Kitsap, Oak Harbor, Okanogan, Orondo, Sunnyside, Thorp, and Wahkiakum School Districts.
- Private schools as forwarded by OSPI.
- Draft proposed language for WAC 180-51-066.
- Draft proposed language for WAC 180-51-050.
- SBE 2012-13 draft proposed budget.

WAIVER CRITERIA

In July, Board members provided guidance to staff to move forward with draft criteria designed to clarify Option One waivers (please see our [website](#) for more information about the three different waivers available to school districts).

During the September meeting, the Board discussed two issues relative to Option One waivers:

1. Should the waiver rules include parent teacher conferences as an acceptable waiver activity?
2. Does the Board intend to work with the legislature to clarify whether or not parent teacher conferences should be included as a 'school day' as defined in RCW 28A.151.203?

Based on the guidance provided, Board members will review draft language during the November Board meeting to clarify waiver requirements for districts.

SBE members also reviewed staff recommendations on the application process for districts requesting waivers as part of their application to be an innovation school or zone (via HB 1546). Though the legislature did not provide SBE additional waiver authority, the innovation bill does provide an additional purpose for the allocation of waivers from the Basic Education Compliance Act. Districts wishing to apply to be an innovation school or innovation zone must first submit their applications through their regional Educational Service Districts by January 6, 2012. SBE will consider a special meeting in February 2012 to review the waiver requests within the innovation applications forwarded by the Educational Service Districts and recommended by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS RULE CHANGES

SBE approved the Career - and College- Ready Graduation Requirements Framework in November 2010. In 2011, SBE forwarded its proposed high school graduation requirements changes for review by the education committees of the legislature and the Quality Education Council, as directed by [RCW 28A.230.090](#). SBE discussed its intent to move forward on the graduation requirements changes that OSPI determined to have no fiscal cost. These changes, if adopted by rule, will become effective for the graduating class of 2016.

During the September meeting, SBE reviewed the draft language revisions to WAC 180-51-066. Within the 20 credits required by WAC 180-51-066, these changes would include:

- Increase English from 3 credits to 4 credits.
- Increase social studies from 2.5 credits to 3 credits; require .5 credit of civics, per [RCW 28A.230.093](#).
- Decrease electives from 5.5 to 4 credits.
- Make successful completion of Washington State history and government a noncredit requirement.
- Clarify that the 2 credits of health and fitness include .5 credit of health and 1.5 credits of fitness.
- Create a "two for one" policy that would enable students taking a CTE-equivalent course to satisfy two graduation requirements while earning one credit.

SBE also considered draft changes to the definition of a high school credit in [WAC 180-51-050](#), primarily to:

- Substitute a non time-based definition of a credit for the current time-based 150 instructional hours definition.

SBE moved to file a CR 102 for the changes above to WACs 180-51-066 and WAC 180-51-050. During discussion, the Board expressed a desire to receive additional input from school districts as to the impact the proposed changes would have on district operations. The final vote to ratify the rule language will occur after public outreach in late September and October. There will also be a public hearing prior to the final Board vote during the November meeting.

2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION PREVIEW

SBE reviewed the agency and K-12 impacts of potential budget cuts in light of the state's revenue shortfall.

SBE also discussed two pending policy issues for the 2012 legislative session: one concerning English Language Learner (ELL) funding and the other concerning Alternative Learning Experience program requirements. In the 2011 session, ELL funding formulas underwent two changes to take effect during the 2012-13 school year: 1) per student funding allocations to districts were prorated based on student's language proficiencies, and 2) bonuses were established for districts that exit students from the Bilingual Transition Program. In addition, Alternative Learning Experiences funding was reduced by 15 percent and several key aspects of the regulatory framework for these programs was modified. The Board discussed several key questions, such as:

1. What does the 180 day and 1000 hour requirement mean in the ALE context?
2. What does a non-seat time-based funding formula look like?

The Board will explore these issues further in upcoming meetings.

EDUCATION GOVERNANCE

SBE members reviewed their work thus far in the research of effective governance models and explored a possible structure for the development of a new education reform plan. This new structure would be the primary means by which the State Board of Education provides "strategic oversight" to the education system. A central premise of the approach would be that developing good "governance" models (strategic oversight, policy, evaluation) is a necessary first step to understanding what "government" models (administration/implementation) best fit the system's needs. Board members also explored the possibility of creating a web-based platform to enhance the development of and stakeholder interaction with state education goals.

TEACHER/PRINCIPAL EVALUATION PILOT – UPDATE FROM THE WENATCHEE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Teacher and Principal Evaluation Project (TPEP) emerged out of the 2010 education reform legislation, [E2SSB 6696](#). The legislation called for every board of directors to establish revised evaluative criteria and a four-level rating system for all certificated classroom teachers and principals (to be fully implemented beginning with the 2013-14 school year). OSPI was charged with developing models for implementing the evaluation system criteria, student growth tools, professional development programs, and evaluator training in 2010-2011, with the intent that the models would be available for use in the 2011-2012 school year. The ultimate goal for the pilot is to improve teaching and learning.

The Board identified "providing a forum for reporting on teacher and principal evaluation pilot programs" as a strategy for meeting its objective to review state and local efforts to improve quality teaching and educational leadership for all students. To this end, Wenatchee School District staff presented their principal evaluation pilot and discussed the process of developing their evaluation.

ONLINE LEARNING

OSPI staff joined the Steilacoom Superintendent and a representative from the Washington Virtual Academies to address:

- The promise and potential of online learning.
- OSPI's implementation of the Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) funding rules in response to [ESHB 2065](#).
- The 2009-10 [online learning annual report](#) (included in the July packet).

STUDENT ASSESSMENT RESULTS AND ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS

OSPI staff presented the statewide Measurement of Student Progress and end-of-course assessment results, Adequately Yearly Progress results, and state graduation rate data. OSPI staff then previewed changes to the 2012 assessment cycle, which includes a new end-of-course biology exam, a new English language proficiency assessment, and the opportunity for online testing in grade 3 reading and math.

REQUIRED ACTION AND THE ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

[E2SSB 6696](#) calls for an aligned federal/state accountability system. SBE has completed development of the Required Action components of that system, but more work remains. Unfortunately, federal funds for voluntary School Improvement Grants and Required Action Districts are likely to be eliminated. The budget shortfall may necessitate that the designation of Required Action Districts and the eventual development of districts' Required Action plans be suspended.

The Board's consideration of how to move forward will continue in the November meeting.

To the extent possible, SBE will continue oversight of the Required Action process and begin to develop research-based state intervention models for Required Action.

SBE will also continue its development of the Achievement Index, including the exploration of ways to include the English Language Learner data in the Index and how the Index might be used to identify schools in need of improvement and support.

MIDDLE-LEVEL COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READY PRACTICES

Throughout its three-year discussion of graduation requirements, SBE has repeatedly recognized pre-high school preparation as a contributing factor to high school success. In order to get a clearer picture of the college- and career- ready strategies practiced in Washington's middle schools, SBE is currently surveying principals in schools including grades 6, 7, and/or 8. Of the 563 principals queried, 185 (33 percent) have responded so far. This inventory of practice, listed by school, is now available on the SBE website under "For Schools."

Individuals can search the database to identify schools engaging in similar practices. They can also identify schools achieving significant success in improving student attendance, behavior, and English or math performance. In order to create as comprehensive a resource as possible, principals of schools not currently included in the database are encouraged to complete the [survey](#).

OPPORTUNITY GAP UPDATE – AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS

One of the Board's objectives is to focus on joint strategies to close the achievement / opportunity gap for students of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, students in poverty, and English Language Learners. Representatives from OSPI, the Federal Way School District, the Act Six Leadership and Scholarship Initiative, and Pacific Lutheran University provided a review of current data behind the opportunity gap and discussed how effective state policies and local practices can make a positive difference for African American students.

The next State Board of Education meeting will be in Vancouver, Washington, on November 9-10 at Educational Service District 112.

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