

February 23, 2012 Meeting Highlights

Note: The materials listed below are available in the [online packet](#).

On February 23, the State Board of Education (SBE) met in Olympia, Washington, to:

- Review applications for Innovation Waivers.
- Review an approval framework for Economy and Efficiency Waivers.
- Receive an update on Washington's anticipated Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waiver application.
- Review education policy and budget issues stemming from the 2012 Legislative Session.
- Begin discussions on K-12 leading system and foundational system indicators.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS

SBE approved the following:

- The Innovation Waivers for:
 - Highline School District for Odyssey High School from the credit-based graduation requirements and a waiver of 5 days from the 180-day requirement.
 - Tacoma School District for Stewart Middle School for a waiver of 16 school days from the required 180 days.
- A resolution supporting Washington's application for an ESEA flexibility waiver.

INNOVATION WAIVERS REVIEW

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and SBE, each within the existing scope of their statutory authority, may grant waivers of state statutes and administrative rules for designated Innovation Schools/Zones. Waivers for Innovation Schools/Zones may only be denied if SBE concludes that implementing the waiver will likely result in decreased student achievement.

Two districts have requested SBE waivers for their Innovation Schools: Stewart Middle School in Tacoma and Odyssey High School in Highline. Members reviewed and discussed the applications during the meeting.

ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY WAIVERS

SBE has the statutory authority to grant waivers from the basic education requirement for a 180-day school year to districts that propose to operate schools on a flexible calendar for purposes of economy and efficiency. No more than five waivers may be granted at any time, including no more than two districts with student enrollment of less than 150, and no more than three districts with student enrollment of 150-500. SBE has received three applications for the current application period, all from districts with fewer than 150 students.

Members discussed draft criteria to be used in the evaluation of Economy and Efficiency Waivers. The three applications will be considered at the March Board Meeting.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT FLEXIBILITY WAIVER APPLICATION

Last September, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) announced guidelines for state educational agencies to apply for flexibility waivers that would allow relief from existing sanctions under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) accountability system.

SBE has partnered with OSPI in the development of an application for flexibility. The flexibility proposal builds upon the Achievement Index as the backbone of the accountability system. Members discussed a resolution supporting the ESEA flexibility application.

LEADING SYSTEM INDICATORS

At the November 2011 meeting, the Executive Director introduced a way for the Board to build on the goal-setting work it began in July 2011 for the purpose of helping the system to define for itself what success is and to track its progress on meeting its goals. Members continued that discussion, exploring how SBE might synthesize the indicators of success identified by various policy bodies and to identify new indicators, if needed. The Board will discuss the project in greater depth at the March 2012 meeting, and design a way to engage stakeholders in the conversation.

The next State Board of Education meeting will be in Auburn, Washington, on March 14-15 at Green River Community College

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