

## May 8-9, 2012 Meeting Highlights

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

On May 8-9, the State Board of Education (SBE) met at Educational Service District 105 in Yakima, Washington, to:

- Review the 2012 Legislative Session and resulting education budget, including a presentation by Senator Curtis King (14<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, Yakima).
- Review the implications of including student growth data into a statewide accountability system.
- Discuss the waiver implications for state-funded, full-day Kindergarten districts implementing the Family Connections component of WaKIDS.
- Review SBE's P-13 goals-setting project (ForWard) and evaluate possible timelines for future work.
- Review the standard-setting process for the end of course biology assessment.
- Discuss possible rule revisions to SBE's 180-day waivers.
- Discuss Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards and the implications for statewide assessments and graduation requirements.
- Receive an update on Washington State's application for an Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waiver.
- Review the findings of the Center for Reinventing Public Education's report on the statewide School Improvement Grant.
- Hear from a panel of education leaders from Washington State School Improvement Grant Schools.

### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS

SBE approved the following:

- Option One 180-day waiver for the following school district:
  - Colville School District
- Option One waivers for ten school districts requesting 180-day waivers for the for the purpose of implementing WaKIDS.
- End of course biology standard-setting process
  - Highline School District
- Filing of the CR 101 in anticipation of a rule revision pertaining to 180-day waivers.

### THE 2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Senator Curtis King (14<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, Yakima) provided his perspectives on creating a student-focused K-12 system, which included a discussion of possible revisions to school-year calendars and basic education funding designed to maximize student achievement.

The Board also discussed the 2012 supplemental budget, one that contained no program reductions in K-12 education while providing about \$12 million in enhancements, including several supporting SBE's strategic plan goals. Members also reviewed two enacted bills: HB 2483, which creates a Student Achievement Council for higher education planning and oversight; and HB 2492, which requires fiscal impact statements on proposed SBE rules.

## STUDENT GROWTH DATA AND STATEWIDE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEMS

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) will begin to calculate student growth percentile data using the Colorado Growth Model this summer. Building-level data will be available by fall 2012 for inclusion in a new draft Achievement Index aligned with ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) flexibility principles. Dr. Richard Wenning, a national expert on the design and implementation of education accountability and performance management systems, including the SchoolView® data system and use of student growth percentiles, shared his perspectives and insights. Developing a Washington State school accountability framework that includes student growth data will be a priority for SBE in the coming months.

## WAKIDS AND WAIVERS

SBE reviewed Option One waiver requests for districts implementing the legislatively mandated program called WaKIDS, the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills. WaKIDS is voluntary for districts receiving state support for full-day Kindergarten in 2011-12 and becomes mandatory in 2012-13. A required component of WaKIDS is family-teacher conferences called Family Connections. Through Family Connections, teachers meet at the beginning of the school year with each child enrolling in Kindergarten and his or her parents or guardians in order to gain information that will help in the child's transition to Kindergarten and inform instruction.

State-funded, full-day Kindergarten districts utilizing an entire school day to implement the Family Connections component are required to seek a waiver, applicable for one year. These applications were due May 8 (although subsequent applications will be reviewed by SBE in July). SBE intends to work with the Legislature in the 2013 Session to eliminate the need for a waiver requirement.

## SBE GOALS-SETTING PROJECT: FORWARD

At the November 2011 Board meeting, Board Members initiated **ForWARD**, a goals-setting action plan that would help the Board progress on its strategic plan goals. The ultimate goal of the ForWARD project is to provide a quick snapshot of the overall health of the P-13 education system. Board members discussed potential timelines for the remaining work and the need for increased stakeholder participation, eventually electing to focus their immediate efforts on the inclusion of student growth data into development of a statewide school accountability framework.

## THE STANDARD-SETTING PROCESS FOR THE END OF COURSE BIOLOGY ASSESSMENT

RCW 28A.305.130 requires SBE to "identify the scores students must achieve in order to meet the standard on the statewide assessment . . . [and to] determine student scores that identify levels of student performance below and beyond standard." It also requires SBE to "annually review the assessment reporting system to ensure fairness, accuracy, timeliness, and equity of opportunity, especially with regard to schools with special circumstances and unique populations of students." Parallel to the process established last year regarding the cut scores for the end of course exams in mathematics, SBE approved the OSPI- proposed *process* for setting the end of course biology exam cut scores. The cut scores themselves will be reviewed by SBE in August after the cut-score setting process is complete.

## BASIC EDUCATION WAIVERS

180-day waivers are approved for districts to enhance educational programs and improve student achievement. SBE is considering the adoption of criteria governing requests for waivers from the statutory requirement for a 180-day school year and providing for other requirements as determined necessary to evaluate a district's need for a waiver or waivers. SBE intends the rule revisions to provide clarity, consistency, and greater certainty in how the Board will exercise its delegated waiver authority. The Board approved the filing of the CR101 to begin the rule revision process and will discuss potential rule revisions during the July 2012 Board meeting.

### **COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS AND NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS**

Representatives from OSPI provided an update on the state's progress towards Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The adoption of CCSS and the potential adoption of NGSS will at minimum result in updated statewide assessments aligned to these standards. Assessment policy decisions likely before the 2012 Legislature were discussed.

Assessments for the CCSS will result in slightly different assessment grades evaluated, including English and math tests provided at grade 11 rather than the current grade 10 assessment. This creates some concerns related to graduation requirements that will need to be addressed. For example, under the current system, students take statewide reading and writing assessments in grade 10. The move to grade 11 will cover new material and leave less time for retakes. SBE will continue to monitor these issues in upcoming meetings.

### **CENTER FOR REINVENTING PUBLIC EDUCATION (SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANT SCHOOLS REPORT)**

The Center for Reinventing Public Education (CRPE) conducted a series of interviews in School Improvement Grant (SIG, also known as MERIT) schools in early 2011, during the first cohort's initial implementation year. They have produced a set of findings and recommendations that were presented in *Tinkering Toward Transformation: A Look at Federal School Improvement Grant Implementation*, published in March 2012. Board members reviewed that report, including the findings that most SIG schools, at that point in the grant, did not demonstrate "bold and transformative" change as envisioned by the US Department of Education.

### **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANT PANEL**

Representatives from three local School Improvement Grant schools (also known as MERIT schools) were invited to the May meeting. Their presentation to the Board included discussion of successful strategies for school improvement, data gathered from their efforts thus far, and future challenges.

**The next State Board of Education meeting will be in  
Bellingham, Washington, at the Western Washington University**

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