

August 6, 2012 Meeting Highlights

Note: The materials listed below are available on our website.

On August 6, the State Board of Education (SBE) met at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) building in Olympia, Washington, to:

- Approve cut scores for the Washington Alternate Assessment System Portfolio and the Biology End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment.
- Review 180-day waiver requests.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS

SBE approved the following:

- Option One 180-day waivers for the following school districts:
 - Columbia (Walla Walla), Finley.
- Cut scores for the Washington Alternate Assessment System Portfolio.
- Cut scores for the Biology EOC Assessment.

BIOLOGY END OF COURSE ASSESSMENT AND THE WASHINGTON ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM PORTFOLIO CUT SCORES

The State Board of Education (SBE) is required under RCW 28A.305.130(4)(b) to identify the scores high school students must achieve to meet standard in statewide student assessments and, in the case of assessments required for graduation, to obtain a certificate of academic achievement. SBE sets performance standards and levels in consultation with OSPI.

Members approved the cut scores for the new Biology EOC Assessment, a graduation requirement for the class of 2015. The approved cut scores are the culmination of an extensive standard-setting process administered by OSPI and that was approved by SBE during the May 2012 Board meeting.

A greater number of students met standard on the Biology EOC Assessment than on previous years' High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE). The scores from these two assessments are not directly comparable. The increase in the percent of students meeting standard is reflective of the following substantive changes:

- The new assessment is focused on a more limited scope of content derived from one high school course (biology), whereas the HSPE science test is a comprehensive assessment encompassing a broader range of academic content.
- The EOC assessment is typically administered immediately after the course is completed, unlike the HSPE comprehensive assessment.
- The EOC assessment is based on the 2009 revised science standards, which incorporates findings of more recent educational research and is more specific to grade level than the older standards measured on the 2011 HSPE.

Members also approved the cut scores for the Washington Alternative Assessment System (WAAS) Portfolio used in grades 3-8 and in high school reading, writing, math, and science. This assessment is used to assess students with significant cognitive challenges. The changes reflect the inclusion of additional "extensions" which provide multiple performance-based methods of

demonstrated proficiency for students with special needs. These changes to the WAAS portfolio were a response to requirements enacted by the Legislature in Second Substitute House Bill 1519 (Chapter 75, Laws of 2011). Approximately 1 percent of Washington students use this assessment.

**The next State Board of Education meeting will be September 25-27 in
Walla Walla, Washington, at the Walla Walla Community College**

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