

November 8-9, 2012 Board Meeting Highlights

On November 8-9, the State Board of Education (SBE) hosted a Board meeting in Vancouver, Washington, at the offices of the ESD 112.

During the meeting, members discussed the following:

- Progress on the SBE's 2012-2014 Strategic Plan.
- Initiative 1240, Relating to public charter schools.
- Performance indicators for the revised Achievement Index.
- Opportunities for collaboration with the Office of the Student Achievement Council.
- Standard setting for alternative assessments to the math End of Course exams.
- Basic Education Act compliance and compliance process.
- 180-day waiver rules.
- Priorities for the 2013 legislative session.
- The 2012 STEM Vital Signs report.
- New reports from the Professional Educator Standards Board on teacher assignment data and educator workforce development policies.
- Required outcomes for the December Achievement and Accountability Workgroup (AAW) meeting.
- Recommendations for a college and career-ready assessment system.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS

SBE approved the following:

- Approval of minutes for the September 25–27, 2012 Board Meeting.
- Approval of minutes for the October 17, 2012 Special Board Meeting.
- The 2012 biennial SBE/PESB Joint Report.
- Performance Indicators for the revised Achievement Index.
- Letter to the Achievement and Accountability Workgroup on next steps for the revised Achievement Index.
- Cut scores for ACT and SAT as approved alternative assessments to the mathematics End of Course exams.
- Washington State school districts' compliance with the Basic Education Act.
- 2013–2014 Board meeting dates.
- CR 101 for Initiative 1240.
- Waiver rules adoption.
- Private school approvals.
- 180-Day waivers for the following school districts:
 - Deer Park, Issaquah, Odessa, Tacoma, Vashon Island, and Waterville.

THE 2012-2015 STRATEGIC PLAN

Board members reviewed progress on the 2012-2014 strategic plan. This update complements the extensive strategic plan review that happens annually during the Board retreat.

WASHINGTON STATE INITIATIVE 1240

The passage of Initiative 1240, calling for the creation of up to 40 charter schools in Washington State, was still too close to call on November 8, the day of the Board's discussion. This new program will have an immediate impact on SBE, which is required within 90 days of the effective date to establish an annual application and approval process and timelines for local school boards seeking approval to be charter school authorizers. Eligible authorizers are school district boards of directors and the Washington Charter School Commission established by the act.

SBE will develop the initial process for charter school authorizers' applications and evaluations through a rule-making process, culminating in an anticipated formal rule adoption by March 6, 2013. SBE will file a CR 101, Pre-Proposal Statement of Inquiry, in November. More information on SBE's role in the charter school process will be available on our website on November 15.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE REVISED ACHIEVEMENT INDEX

Performance indicators are major accountability measures aligned with the goals of the system. As an example, the current Index is primarily an "academic proficiency" – based Index – looking mostly at objective levels of student performance on state assessments.

Washington's Elementary and Secondary Act flexibility waiver will require the revised Index to also include student growth measures and data disaggregated by student subgroups.

With assistance from the Achievement and Accountability Workgroup (the AAW), SBE and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) will revise the Achievement Index, incorporate the required changes, and include additional indicators to better support a statewide accountability framework.

At the conclusion of the meeting, SBE approved the following indicators for inclusion in a revised Index:

1. Measure student performance and achievement gaps using both proficiency (meeting state standards) and student growth (student growth percentiles) for all students and for subgroups.
2. Incorporate a career and college-readiness performance indicator that includes high school graduation rates (as well as extended graduation rates) as well as additional career and college readiness indicators.
3. The use of improvement in the identification of schools for recognition but not factored into a composite Index score.
4. A performance indicator for student proficiency, which includes equally weighted math, science, reading, and writing assessments.

SBE members also agreed to further explore alternatives for the disaggregation of subgroup data for measuring achievement gaps.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL

Mr. Jay Reich from the Student Achievement Council previewed emergent work for the Council and possible areas for collaboration with SBE. Mr. Reich's presentation referenced several issues pertinent to SBE's work, including the following:

- The potential for using the 11th grade Common Core Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium tests for postsecondary admissions and course placement.
- Possible Achievement Index indicators for career and college readiness.

STANDARD SETTING FOR ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENTS TO THE MATH END OF COURSE EXAMS

SBE is required under RCW 28A.305.130(4)(b) to identify the scores high school students must achieve to pass statewide student assessments and graduate. Students can also become eligible for graduation through alternative assessments. In regards to these alternative assessments, SBE approved the following:

- SAT/ACT cut score equivalencies.
- The standard setting process for the mathematics Collection of Evidence.

SBE approved the Reading and Writing cut scores for the Collection of Evidence in August of 2007. In the November 2012 meeting, members approved cut scores for ACT and SAT as approved alternative assessments to the mathematics End of Course exams.

Approval of cut scores for the mathematics Collection of Evidence is slated for the March 2013 meeting.

BASIC EDUCATION ACT COMPLIANCE REPORT AND COMPLIANCE PROCESS

School districts are required to show compliance with minimum basic education requirements and the minimum high school graduation requirements. School districts demonstrate compliance by submitting SPI Form to SBE via iGrants by September 17 annually.

All 295 Washington State school districts have demonstrated their compliance with the Basic Education entitlement requirements for the 2012-2013 school year.

Members also discuss possible improvement to the compliance process.

180-DAY WAIVER RULES

Members adopted the final rule language for waivers from the 180-day school year requirement.

In May, SBE approved the filing of a CR 101 to adopt new and amended rules on requests for basic education waivers under RCW 28A.305.140 and RCW 28.305.141, and set direction for the drafting of proposed rules. In July the SBE approved the publication in the State Register of draft rules for a public hearing (CR 102). In September the SBE held a public hearing on the proposed rules.

There are no changes between the published rules from July and the final rules for adoption.

2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Members discussed two legislative priorities for the 2013 Session.

1. Compulsory Age of School Attendance.
Washington is one of two states with a compulsory starting age of school attendance of eight. The U.S. average compulsory age is six. SBE will support legislation to lower Washington's minimum compulsory age of school attendance to six. SBE will also retain provisions in current law that exempt children attending an approved private school or receiving home-based schooling from this requirement.
2. Blended Learning and Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) Funding.
Blended learning is a form of alternative learning experience (ALE) consisting of a mix of online delivery of content and content delivered at a supervised brick-and-mortar location away from home. The use of blended learning models in Washington

is impeded by the reduction in funding for ALE enrollments made by the Legislature in 2011. SBE will advocate for full funding of blended learning programs and will work with OSPI in development of an ALE proposal.

These two legislative priorities were added to the other priorities discussed at the Board's September 2012 retreat, which included the following:

1. Phased-in implementation of Career and College-Ready High School Graduation Requirements

In HB 2261, the Legislature defined basic education to include the opportunity to complete 24 credits for high school graduation, to be fully implemented by 2018. However, the Legislature has not established a plan for phased-in implementation of credits. Nor has the Quality Education Council yet recommended a schedule for concurrent phase-in of changes to instructional program and funding. SBE will advocate for a schedule to phase in the Career and College-Ready Framework.

2. A statutory definition of "school day" for basic education

Washington's statutes do not currently define the number of instructional hours required in a school day, resulting in a proliferation of half days. SBE will advocate revising RCW 28A.150.203 (Definitions) so that the number of minimum hours for a day is defined. SBE will also advocate for the inclusion of full-day parent-teacher conferences within the definition of "school day" for compliance with the minimum 180-day school year.

3. State assistance to struggling schools

The state program of assistance to the persistently lowest-achieving schools is not funded at this time. SBE will advocate, in consultation with OSPI, for resumed state funding for assistance to persistently low-achieving schools, with priority to Required Action Districts.

THE 2012 STEM VITAL SIGNS REPORT

Washington STEM is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing science, technology, engineering and math education in Washington State. Representatives from Washington STEM presented information to SBE and the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) on the Vital Signs report for Washington State and answered questions concerning the report.

TEACHER ASSIGNMENT DATA AND EDUCATOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PRACTICE

Representatives of the Professional Educator Standards Board PESB reviewed two recent reports with SBE: 1) an update on the development of Washington State's educator workforce and 2) a new report on high school mathematics teacher assignment. District human resources personnel also shared their experiences with teacher assignment practices in local districts.

SBE had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss areas of common interest and potential collaboration.

REQUIRED OUTCOMES FOR THE DECEMBER ACHIEVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY WORKGROUP (AAW) MEETING

Members approved formal direction to the AAW to guide the discussion at the December AAW meeting. The AAW, comprised of representatives from 22 stakeholder agencies, will play a vital role of informing SBE and OSPI in the development of a revised Achievement Index.

For the December meeting, AAW members will explore the questions relative to career and college-readiness indicators, the assessment of English Language Learner performance, and setting performance targets for the indicators.

A detailed letter to the AAW outlining these questions and more is available on the “meeting materials” page of our website.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A COLLEGE AND CAREER-READY ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

The state assessments required for graduation are prescribed in statute. Anticipated changes to assessments (the Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards) would require new legislation. SBE discussed the importance of assessment policies that will meet the following goals:

- Ensure fairness to students.
- Support educators during the transition to new standards and new assessments.
- Promote college and career-ready standards.
- Encourage meaningful high school assessments for high school graduation.

The next State Board of Education meeting will be January 9-10 in Olympia, Washington, at the Educational Service District 113.

Visit our website (sbe.wa.gov/materials.php) for additional information or call the Board office at: 360-725-6025.