

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

HEARING TYPE: X INFORMATION/NO ACTION

DATE: MAY 11, 2007

SUBJECT: **Implementation Support for High School Graduation Credit
Clarification: Curriculum and Course Alignment**

SERVICE UNIT: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Dr. Terry Bergeson

PRESENTER: Mickey Venn Lahmann, Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

BACKGROUND:

At the March 2007 SBE meeting, rules for WAC 180-51-061 were clarified to ensure that students beginning in the Class of 2008 must earn high school credits which are aligned at a minimum to the 9/10th Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) with Grade Level Expectations (GLEs)—Reading, Writing, Communications, Mathematics and Science—and to EALRs at Benchmark 3, in content areas—Social Studies, The Arts, and Health and Fitness. The Board requested that the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) develop a plan to support schools in implementing these clarifications.

The role of the State Board of Education is to establish state graduation requirements describing the minimum credits needed for each subject. OSPI establishes the state standards—the EALRs and subsequent GLEs. OSPI further provides technical assistance to districts to access the state standards and provide support for implementing these standards. Districts are responsible for offering courses aligned to standards and ensure minimum high school graduation requirements are met.

The overview will highlight the work that has been ongoing since GLEs were first developed in 2004 and the subsequent outreach with many tools and processes which have been available to districts and schools. Additionally, ongoing professional development and technical assistance will be specifically targeted to our secondary schools as they continue their work on aligning courses required for graduation to meet, at a minimum, the 9/10th grade level standards. Many alignment projects and efforts will be highlighted from districts, Educational Service Districts (ESDs) and OSPI on a new OSPI Web page for “Curriculum and Course Alignment” to be fully operational in May 2007 with continuous upgrades. Continued informational sharing and technical assistance will be available to schools through educational associations, OSPI, ESDs and other stakeholder partners.

RECOMMENDATION:

None.