

# STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**HEARING TYPE:**      X   INFORMATION/NO ACTION

**DATE:**            MARCH 26, 2008

**SUBJECT:**         **SCHOOL CALENDAR CHANGE PART II: RESULTS, REWARDS,  
AND POLICY POSSIBILITIES**

**SERVICE UNIT:**    Ms. Edie Harding, Executive Director  
State Board of Education

**PRESENTER:**        Phyllis Bunker Frank, SBE board member  
National Association for Year-Round Education, Board Member

## **BACKGROUND:**

At our retreat last summer, the Board agreed to have Ms. Frank present her research and ideas for the school calendar during two Board meetings this year. Below is a summary prepared by Ms. Frank, for the Board to review that frames the materials she has prepared for you in this packet.

There are few issues facing education policymakers today that are as well documented by social scientists as summer learning loss for all students with greater summer slide for low-income children, second language learners, and special education students. Significantly, research identifies a cumulative effect of summer learning loss as a primary cause of widening in-school achievement gaps between students. Time and dollars spent each fall (cited as 4 – 8 weeks) can be a thing of the past and new teaching can begin sooner if attention is paid to reengineering (modernizing) the school calendar year to sustain efficient, effective, equitable use of allocated time integrated with timely supplementary opportunities to learn, teach, plan and partner.

The State Board of Education is in a unique position to advocate, sponsor legislation and prompt, through School/District Improvement Planning considerations, the powerful transformative potential of local district engagement in school calendar year learning analysis. Washington State proposed tiered Accountability system should ensure continuous improvement in performance for all students. The traditional calendar year detracts from such goals, annually sets back progress, and is not natural to what we know about 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning needs and preparing students for post secondary education, the world of work, and citizenship.

The November 3, 2007 presentation focused on “Defining Opportunity to Learn and Identifying the Weakest Link.” The information concentrated on documenting measurable, observable summer learning loss research as reason alone for the SBE to lead and facilitate public policy dialogue regarding issues surrounding school calendar time and opportunity to learn analysis.

At the March Board meeting the presentation will examine “School Calendar Change II: Results, Rewards and Policy Possibilities.” The findings and recommendations are relevant to the SBE charge found in RCW 28A-315-114(4) and RCW 28A.150.210 as it relates to statewide accountability the tools of school improvement planning found in WAC 180-16-220(2)(a). RCW/WAC text is provided on the first white handout page. The information from these two presentations may be used as part of the Board’s strategic planning discussions.