



November 5-6, 2008 Meeting Highlights

On November 5-6, the State Board of Education met in Des Moines at Highline Community College to:

- Finalize the charter for the CORE 24 Implementation Task Force
- Review options to respond to the Memorandum of Agreement with the Tribal Leader Congress (TLC) on Education on the TLC request for a tribal history graduation requirement
- Review the findings from the High School Transcript study (final report will be available December 1 on the State Board Web site)
- Receive the report from Strategic Teaching on a math curricular menu for elementary and middle school and develop recommendations for the Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Examine proposed accountability concepts for continuous school and district improvement through: an accountability index, state assistance, a time table, and consequences for districts that are unable to make improvement

The Board listened to a presentation from Big Picture High School Principal, Jeff Petty, who requested a waiver from the Board's credit-based graduation requirements to implement a set of competency-based requirements. The Board also heard a presentation from Heil and Associates on the strengths and weaknesses of using end of course assessments with the new science standards.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS

The Board approved the following:

- Approval of CORE 24 Implementation Task Force Charter
- Approval of Strategic Teaching Report on OSPI Mathematics K-8 Curricular Menu and Board Recommendations
- Approval of Application for Waiver from Credit-Based High School Graduation Requirements
- Approval of revised 2009 and 2010 Board Meeting Dates
- 180 Waiver Days Request
- Private School Approval

The Board agreed to delay action on the Tribal Memorandum of Agreement and the Proposed Accountability Policy Framework to obtain further input.

CORE 24 IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE

The Board approved the charter for the CORE 24 Implementation Task Force. The Task Force will help the Board more fully understand implementation considerations so they can determine what policy direction is needed to implement the CORE 24 Graduation Requirements Policy Framework adopted in July 2008.

The Board is seeking applications from current or recently-retired practitioners to serve on the Task Force. Applications for the Task Force are available on the Board's Web site, and will be accepted through December 1. Approximately 15 people will be selected. The Task Force will meet six times in 2009, with the first meeting scheduled for February 2, 2009.

The Board will move forward with a funding request to the Legislature and the Joint Basic Education Finance Task Force to support the implementation of CORE 24.

TRIBAL LEADER CONGRESS ON EDUCATION MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

The Board postponed a decision on the Memorandum of Agreement in order to consult further with members of the Tribal Leader Congress on Education. A resolution will be put forward at the January meeting.

STRATEGIC TEACHING MATH CURRICULAR MENU FINDINGS AND BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is required by the legislature, to provide official comment and recommendations to the Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding the recommended mathematics curricula that best align with the new math standards. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has provided the Board with its recommendations on the curricular menu of up to three programs each for elementary and middle school.

The Board requested Strategic Teaching to review the top four OSPI ranked programs for both elementary (grades K-5) and middle (grades 6-8), although OSPI only recommended two programs each at the elementary and middle levels.

Strategic Teaching's findings support one of the two OSPI recommended programs, Math Connects, for the elementary level (grades K-5). Strategic Teaching also recommends that Math Expressions be added to the OSPI elementary level curricular menu. Strategic Teaching found problems with the other two math programs: Bridges in Mathematics (which OSPI recommends) and Investigations (which OSPI did not recommend). While no program can be perfect for Washington, these two programs will need more support and supplementation.

Strategic Teaching's findings concur with the two OSPI recommended programs, Holt and Math Connects, for the middle level (grades 6-8). Strategic Teaching also recommends that Prentice Hall be added to the OSPI middle level curricular menu. Strategic Teaching's findings did not support the inclusion of Math Thematics.

The Board accepted Strategic Teaching's report and requested OSPI to do the following:

1. Recommend Math Connects for the elementary grade level (K-5) and add Math Expressions; revisit the decision on Bridges in Mathematics in light of information provided by Strategic Teaching in their final draft report to the Board.

2. Recommend Holt and Math Connects for the middle grade level (6-8); add Prentice Hall, in light of the additional information provided by Strategic Teaching in their final draft report to the Board.
3. Brief the Board, at the January meeting, on the OSPI review for the supplemental K-8 materials, including: what will be done for those programs that 70-80% of the schools are using now, findings from the district curriculum survey, actions OSPI plans to take to help districts with unaligned curriculum, and the results of the Request for Information for an online curriculum.
4. Brief the Board on suggestions for how to improve future curricular and instructional materials reviews at the SBE March 2009 meeting.
5. Brief the Board on how OSPI could provide incentives to publishers to align their curriculum with the new math standards.

UPDATE ON SYSTEMS PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

The Board continues to examine a state accountability framework to ensure that all students receive a quality education. The accountability system will be a state/local partnership that supports continuous improvement for all schools and districts. The Board is examining this system with the following components:

1. An accountability index to identify schools for exemplary performance as well as those that need more assistance.
2. Current programs OSPI provides for assistance as well as additional programs to build the capacity of districts to help their schools on improvement for student achievement.
3. A timeline and definition of what constitutes improvement by a district.
4. A set of steps for a newly-defined required state/local partnership if there is no improvement in the district.

The Board will continue to seek input from all interested parties. In January, the Board plans to adopt a resolution to the legislature that states the guiding principles and key elements for a new statewide accountability system that it believes needs to be a part of the revisions made to the basic education funding system. It will continue to refine the details of the accountability system working with all of its partners. The Board anticipates asking the federal government to use the new state accountability program in place of the current federal system.

The next State Board of Education meeting will be at the New Market Skills Center in Tumwater on January 14-15, 2009.

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