

September 14-15, 2010 Meeting Highlights

On September 14-15, the [State Board of Education](#) (SBE) met in Renton, Washington, at the [Puget Sound Educational Service District](#), to:

- Review the new State Board [strategic plan](#), [communications plan](#), and [work plan](#).
- Discuss the [Board meeting structure for 2010-2011](#).
- Evaluate proposed revisions to the [Washington State high school graduation requirements](#).
- Review the current [Washington State history requirement and proposed civics requirement](#).
- Review several proposed rule changes on [math credits](#).
- Review proposed rule changes for [GED eligibility](#).
- Review the [proposed schedule rule](#) for Required Action Districts.
- Review [technical rule revisions](#).
- Review [Basic Education Program Requirements Waivers](#).
- Receive a briefing on the [2010 state assessment results](#).
- Receive a briefing on the [OSPI mathematics systems improvement framework](#).

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS

The Board approved the following:

- Provisional [graduation requirements framework](#).
- Revisions to the [math credit rule](#)
- Draft rule on the [schedule for Required Action Districts](#)
- Draft Rule for [technical fixes](#)
- 180-day [waivers](#) to the Tacoma School District
- SBE [revised fiscal year 11 budget](#)
- SBE [2012-2013 draft proposed budget](#)

2010-2011 STRATEGIC PLAN

SBE discussed ideas for its new Strategic Plan at four [meetings](#) (March, April, May and July). In the September meeting, the Board reviewed the final [strategic plan](#). The plan contains five goals:

1. Advocate for an effective and accountable governance structure for public education in Washington.
2. Provide policy leadership for closing the achievement gap.
3. Provide policy leadership to increase Washington's student enrollment and success in secondary and post-secondary education.
4. Promote effective strategies to make Washington's Students nationally and internationally competitive.
5. Advocate for policies to develop the most highly effective K-12 teacher and leader workforce in the nation.

The Board also reviewed the complementary [work plan](#) and [communications strategy](#) for 2010-11. The plan complements the draft plan of the [Professional Educator Standards Board](#) as well as the draft state education reform plan.

THE WASHINGTON STATE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

SBE's work on graduation requirements reflects a commitment to a single college and career-ready high school diploma with multiple pathways that prepares students for postsecondary education, the 21st century workplace, and citizenship. During the September meeting, the Board reviewed:

1. Graduation [credit requirement options](#)
2. [Policy recommendations](#), based on the work of the Core 24 Implementation Task Force
3. [Phase-in strategy and timeline](#)
4. Changes to the [High School and Beyond Plan](#)
5. Changes to the [culminating project](#) will be reviewed, but no action will be taken until the November 2010 meeting

SBE approved a revised draft [graduation requirement proposal](#), including credit requirements, policy recommendations, a phase-in strategy/timeline and changes to the High School and Beyond Plan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON WASHINGTON STATE HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS

SBE reviewed the [Washington State history and the new the potential civics requirement](#). SBE considered the implications of making Washington State history and government a non credit requirement. If SBE increases the number of course credits in social studies required for high school graduation under [RCW 28A.230.090](#), SBE shall also require that at least one-half credit of that requirement be coursework in civics. Districts will need to create an additional course if they do not already have a stand alone civics course, as well as clarifying where the course should be placed

MATH CREDIT RULE

In 2007, the Washington State Legislature directed SBE to increase the high school math graduation requirements from two to three credits (equivalent to three years of high school level math) and to determine the content of the three credits. The Board adopted a new math rule ([WAC 180-51-066](#)) in July 2008, effective for students in the graduating class of 2013. Three implementation issues emerged that can only be addressed through the proposed amendment to [WAC 180-51-066](#).

1. Provisions for taking classes simultaneously.
2. The appropriate sequence for mathematics coursework.
3. Provisions for student placement out of required courses.

See the proposed rule changes [here](#).

DRAFT RULE ON SCHEDULE FOR REQUIRED ACTION DISTRICTS

The 2010 legislature passed [E2SSB 6696](#), creating Required Action Districts that contain persistently lowest achieving (PLA) Title I or Title I eligible schools in the bottom five percent of performance on state assessments for all students in math and reading.

The SBE reviewed the [provisional schedule](#) for the [Required Action Process](#). The final SBE rule will have a public hearing. SBE will consider adoption of the final rule at the November meeting.

RULE REVISIONS FOR TECHNICAL FIXES

In 2009, SBE began a periodic review of its rules, as stipulated by [WAC 180-08-015](#). The review process is designed to fix outdated text and to align the rules with the current work of the Board. The [draft amendments](#) fix inaccurate references to rules and statutes. The inaccuracies have developed over time due to modifications or deletions of the referenced rules and statutes.

BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS WAIVER

The Tacoma School District [requested a renewal waiver](#) for the Tacoma School of the Arts, the Science and Math Institute, and Stewart Middle School. The purpose of the waivers is to provide extended school days to substitute for a set number of days when no instruction is offered, but other opportunities such as internships are offered. Because the teachers' contracts are for a set maximum number of working hours per year, to employ this strategy the schools must have fewer school days. Even with the fewer days, the schools will be able to exceed the minimum 1,000 hours of instruction per year by at least 81 hours.

2010 STATE ASSESSMENT RESULTS

SBE reviewed the [2010 High School Proficiency Exam \(HSP\) and the Measurement of Student Progress \(MSP\) results](#).

In addition, SBE also had the opportunity to hear perspectives from three Renton School District administrators on the school-site logistics of HSP and MSP administration and implementation.

MATHEMATICS SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK

The mathematics systems improvement framework includes five components:

1. Mathematics leadership
2. Core mathematics program
3. High quality mathematics instruction
4. Mathematics assessment system
5. Mathematics intervention system

These components mirror many of the [successful practices of reading improvement](#) in Washington State. Another central tenet of Washington State's [mathematics systems improvement framework](#) is the adoption of the Common Core standards. OSPI will be conducting [several public outreach sessions](#) this fall to gather input and feedback on the Common Core.

The next State Board of Education meeting will be in Olympia, Washington, on November 9-10, 2010. A portion of the meeting will be held jointly with the Professional Educator Standards Board.

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