



Feedback Summary of the May 12, 2015 Community Forum

37 participants, nine board members, and two staff attended the May community forum.

The most common topic discussed at the community forum was the Smarter Balanced assessment. Participants voiced the following concerns about the implementation of the Smarter Balanced assessment:

- Testing causes anxiety for students;
- The assessment will prevent students from graduation;
- The Common Core State Standards are supported by corporations;
- There is miscommunication regarding the test;
- Instructional time is being lost to testing;
- Students don't receive enough math education to become proficient by the time they take the test;
- There is no recourse to challenge the results of the test;
- Tests are changing frequently
- Some educators are teaching to the test;
- Questions on the test are open to interpretation;
- Access to computers and technology can limit student success on the assessment;
- Money is being wasted on assessment; and
- The individuality of students is not taken into consideration in the assessment.

Participants offered the following suggestions on improving the use of the assessment:

- Discontinue sending letters to schools to notify them that they are failing (as required by federal law due to the loss of the ESEA flexibility waiver);
- Examine the opportunity gaps in Advanced Placement;
- Provide dual language support for interpreting assessment results, make sure that families that speak a language other than English are informed of assessment requirements;
- Make sure there are a variety of options (assessment alternatives) for reaching graduation;
- Integrate "real life" learning into education; and
- Collaborate further with diverse communities to understand Achievement Index results.

Participants voiced the following concerns about the state policy work:

- McCleary implementation is not happening yet;
- 24-credit graduation requirements don't allow room to make mistakes;
- Compliance to state and federal requirements is eating up the time that educators have;

Participants voiced support for the following policies or reforms of the educational system:

- Expand access to early learning;
- Reduce summer learning loss;

- Find ways to match student interests to their course-taking patterns (High School and Beyond Plan);
- Provide assistance to communities with little financial backing;
- Improve teacher retention; and
- Recognize successful schools through state awards.

Feedback on Outreach Efforts

Participants were appreciative of the opportunity to collaborate with the Board and discuss education at this community forum. Participants were thankful to have an opportunity to meet with board members and state their concerns.

If you have questions about this feedback summary, please email Parker Teed, Operations and Data Coordinator, at parker.teed@k12.wa.us

If you have questions about future community forums or outreach efforts, please contact Stefanie Randolph, Communications Manager, at Stefanie.randolph@k12.wa.us