

# The Washington State Board of Education

Governance | Achievement | High School & College Preparation |  
Math & Science | Effective Workforce

## State Board of Education Spotlight

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Greetings!

April is a busy time in Olympia this year as legislators scramble to close a projected \$5 billion plus budget deficit for 2011-2013.

Balancing the books in the context of such staggering shortfalls is no easy task. Although we are heading into the home stretch of the 2011 Legislative Session, there is still a tremendous amount of work to do. A special session will likely begin after April 24 to make sure key policy and budget bills are passed.

Throughout this session, the Washington State Board of Education has supported protecting our most important investment - the education of our children. While there are significant cuts to compensation and class size for educators, there are some small steps forward to continue the education reform agenda embarked upon two years ago in the legislature, including:

- Reducing K-3 class sizes in high-poverty schools.
- Continuing support for the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program.
- Continuing the phase-in of all-day Kindergarten in high-poverty schools.
- Continuing funding toward the implementation of a Kindergarten-assessment program.
- Implementing teacher and principal pilot performance-based evaluations and providing incentive grants for schools to implement these evaluations.
- Implementing a new, prototypical school funding formula.
- Identifying and supporting innovation schools.
- Creating an electronic certification system for educators.

We still have work to do to ensure that the issue of students meeting the new science standards as a graduation requirement is addressed.

## Stay in the Know!



This e-newsletter is just one of the many ways to make sure you have the latest education news.

Our [website](#) is updated daily, and we also make good use of [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [RSS feeds](#), and our [YouTube channel](#) to ensure you stay abreast of the latest news in P-12 education.

Get connected and stay in the know!



The Washington State  
Board of Education  
[Website](#)

Much is at stake for our children's educational future as the legislature finalizes its budget.

Cheers!

Eddie Harding

## The Washington Achievement Awards

State Board of Education member Warren Smith and State Superintendent Randy Dorn will recognize the 185 schools receiving the [Washington Achievement Award](#) during a ceremony on April 27 at Lincoln High School in Tacoma.

Based on the Achievement Index approved by the State Board of Education in 2009 and authorized by the Washington State Legislature (RCW 28A.305.225 (2)), the Washington Achievement Awards recognize elementary, middle/junior high, high, and comprehensive schools in several categories:

Overall Excellence, and Special Recognition in:

1. Language Arts
2. Math
3. Science
4. Extended Graduation Rate
5. Closing Achievement Gaps
6. Improvement

The Achievement Index (available on our [website](#)) assigns schools scores according to outcomes and indicators.

There are five measured outcomes:

- Student performance on statewide assessments in reading, writing, math, and science.
- The school's extended graduation rate (for high and comprehensive schools only), which includes those students who took longer than four years to graduate.

Those outcomes are measured using four indicators:

1. Achievement of students who are not from low-income families.
2. Achievement of students from low-income families.

3. Achievement of all students when compared to statistical "peers" (similar percentage of students learning English, designated as gifted, in special education, etc.).
4. Improvement in achievement of all students from the previous year.

### **Survey of Career- and College-Ready Practices in the Middle Grades**

In April, SBE will be surveying middle school principals for information about current career- and college-ready practices. The questionnaire will inform the Board about school-based initiatives to prepare students for high school and beyond. Results will be posted by school on SBE's website in June. We appreciate principals taking the time to provide information about opportunities they are providing for their students.

### **Student Video Contest Deadline Approaching**

The 2011 State Board of Education Student Video Contest, designed for student videographers in middle school and high school, will wrap up May 2.

The judges for the contest, led by SBE student members Jared Costanzo and Anna Laura Kastama, will evaluate the entries. The winners will be announced by May 16 via the State Board of Education website.

The student video contest is in its second year. This year, we are asking participants to create films supporting the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM), and Career and Technical Education (CTE).

Students will work in teams of three to produce a five to ten minute film, and all the student films will be available for viewing online.

More information is available on the State Board of Education website.

### **World Languages Proficiency Credits**

English Language Learners (ELL) face the challenge of learning new concepts in a second or third language. This

can be daunting, especially for high school students who are dealing with a fast-paced curriculum and classes required for graduation.

ELL students often require additional support classes to help them catch up and keep up. For this reason, many ELL students lack flexibility in their schedules to pursue electives in their areas of interest.

The good news is that school districts now have a new opportunity to help ELL students-as well as any other students who have developed second language skills outside of the classroom.

By awarding credit to students who demonstrate world-language proficiency, districts can free up to four credits in students' schedules.

In 2010, SBE joined the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to develop a [sample competency-based credit world languages policy and procedure](#). The sample policy and procedure serve as a guide for districts seeking to award competency-based credit.

Because world languages are skills-based and have nationally-available assessments of proficiency, the subject lends itself more readily to competency-based practices.

This spring, OSPI and the SBE have partnered with several universities and the Washington Association for Language Teaching (WAFLT) to offer Washington World Language Assessment Days. Students can register to take the language assessments and receive a certificate signed by SBE and OSPI, along with a letter indicating credit equivalencies based on the state model policy and procedure.

"Washington State is considered a leader nationally in the move to offer competency-based credits in world languages. We're finding that students are eager to receive recognition for skills they've developed outside the classroom - especially in languages not normally taught in Washington schools, such as Russian, Vietnamese, and even Amharic," said Dr. Michele Anciaux Aoki, World Languages Program Supervisor at OSPI.

In March 2011, Seattle Public Schools became the first school district to approve a policy providing students the

opportunity to earn credit through a world language proficiency assessment.

We invite other districts considering adoption of competency-based world language credit policies to keep us informed as they make the change.

### Arts Education Month

May is [Arts Education Month](#) in Washington State - a time to celebrate and strengthen arts education in our schools.

In 2010, SBE passed a resolution supporting May as arts education month. That resolution was soon followed by the student video contest supporting arts education. In the fall, SBE finalized a career and college ready graduation requirements framework that would give students the opportunity to earn two arts credits for graduation.

SBE has been consistent in its support of arts education.

The arts are critical to student success, and the Board will continue to support arts education as we move ahead through 2011.

### Did You Know? - Diplomas

In just two months, the graduating class of 2011 will walk across the stages of our high schools and proudly accept their diplomas.

Consider that in 2010, for people in Washington under the age of 21:

- 60,835 earned their diploma through a Washington State high school.
- 97 earned a diploma and an Associate's degree simultaneously.
- 966 earned their diploma through a community or technical college (CTC). This represents about 66% of CTC diploma-earners.
- 8,477 earned a General Education Development (GED) high school equivalency credential. Numbers of those completing a GED in this age group continue to go up and down, varying from 8,100 to 9,700 over the five year period from 2005-2009 (numbers rounded).

## Board Member Highlight - Jack Schuster - Private Schools Representative - Ocean Shores

Before joining the State Board of Education in 2004, Jack Schuster served for 22 years as the principal of Kennedy Catholic High School in Burien, Washington. His prior experience includes time as a principal of Tahoma Senior High School in Maple Valley, Washington, and as a teacher and vice-principal at Burlington-Edison High School in Burlington, Washington.

He is a native of Spokane and a graduate of St. Aloysius and Gonzaga Prep schools. He attended Gonzaga University, received a Bachelor's degree in history from Eastern Washington State, a Master's in education administration from Western Washington State, and a continuing principal's certification from the University of Washington. He and his wife, Gini, also a retired educator, have three children and five grandchildren.

Jack and his family enjoy travelling, whether exploring the country in an RV or exploring other continents (including recent trips through Europe and the Middle East). Jack and Gini are also life-long musicians, leading and participating in choirs in their community.

You can learn more about Jack Schuster and other Board members by visiting our [Board member roster](#).

## Upcoming Board Meeting

May 11-12, 2011  
[Columbia Basin Community College](#)  
Gjerde Center  
2600 North 20th Avenue  
Pasco, WA 99301  
(509) 542-5546

Meeting materials are available on our website prior to the meeting. Email your thoughts and questions to SBE at [sbe@k12.wa.us](mailto:sbe@k12.wa.us).