

December 1, 2018

Esteemed board members, colleagues, and state-level decision makers,

In response to RCW 28A.305.035, the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) and the State Board of Education (SBE) are pleased to report on the “the progress the boards have made and the obstacles they have encountered, individually and collectively, in the work of achieving the goals” of basic education in Washington state.

Washington faces a number of unique challenges in providing all students with the opportunity to become responsible and respectful global citizens, to contribute to their economic well-being and that of their families and communities, to explore and understand different perspectives, and to enjoy productive and satisfying lives.

Over the past 10 years, Washington has experienced a dramatic increase in the diversity of our population. We have seen a 57 percent increase in the number of English Language Learners enrolled in public K-12 schools. Students of color now represent nearly half of our student population, compared to just 34 percent a decade ago. In the same time period, the percentage of educators of color has remained relatively constant, with approximately 10 percent of our educator workforce identifying as educators of color. In addition, a number of our students and families face homelessness or housing insecurity, as demonstrated by a 34 percent increase in the share of students who report they have experienced homelessness in just the last five years.

The 2017-19 Biennium brought forth of a number of changes relating the work of the respective boards. In addition to new staff level leadership, each board also experienced a number of policy changes brought forth by the legislature that further shaped the direction of each organization. Further, the State Board of Education has updated its strategic plan shaping and informing its work through 2023. PESB will be updating their strategic plan in 2020.

In an effort to build stronger partnerships across the organizations, the PESB and SBE have taken specific steps to ensure better collaboration and cooperation. These include direct board member to board member meetings and conversations, co-scheduled board meetings, and identification of shared values and priorities. This has led to new opportunities for working together towards common goals.

The boards have specifically found common purpose and ground in the following shared priorities:

- Advancing equity in education
  - Increasing Educator Diversity (PESB and SBE)
  - Increasing access to expanded learning opportunities (SBE)
- Program and Policy Oversight
  - Standards, Approval and Review of preparation programs (PESB)
  - Indicator Based Educator Preparation Program Review
  - Include additional school quality indicators to address school climate and culture, access to effective, experienced, and appropriately credentialed educators, and disproportionate discipline in the state accountability system. (SBE)

- Advocacy & Systems Development
  - Implementing a culturally responsive curriculum (PESB and SBE)
  - Professional Development for Paraeducators (PESB)
  - Micro-credentials and professional learning
  - Creating additional flexibility in state diploma requirements (SBE)

For more information regarding these and other efforts, please see the following documents and reports:

- Professional Educator Standards Board
  - [Agency Snapshot](#)
  - [2019 Legislative Priorities](#)
- State Board of Education
  - [Strategic Plan](#)
  - [2019 Legislative Platform](#)

The PESB and the SBE are committed to a thriving and productive partnership that builds on each organizations role and position in governance and oversight of our states public education system. Only through close collaboration can we gain momentum in forward progress and collective address barriers to student achievement.

Respectfully,



Executive Director of The Professional Educator Standards Board



Randy Spaulding  
Executive Director of The Washington State Board of Education

PESB Members: Ernesto Araiza, Aurora Flores, Amy Frost, Michaela Miller, Bethany Rivard, Maribel Vilchez, Marissa Winmill. Executive Committee: Luke Thomas (Chair), Ron Jacobson, Damien Pattenaude, Tammie Schrader.

SBE Members: Kevin Laverty (Chair), Peter Maier (Vice Chair), Dr. Alan Burke, Judy Jennings, Connie Fletcher, Harium Martin-Morris. Ricardo Sanchez, MJ Bolt, Patty Wood, Ryan Brault, Jeff Estes, Holly Koon MEd, NBCT, Dr. Paul Pitre, Chris Reykdal (State Superintendent), Joseph Hofman (Student Member), Autymn Wilde (Student Member).