



**COVID-19 Policy Response & Legislative Priorities
July 2020 Board Meeting**



Timeline

May

- Board discussed COVID-19 challenges and policy response options
- Legislative wrap-up and interim planning

June

- Board work session on COVID-19 challenges and policy response options

July

- Continue discussion of COVID-19 challenges and policy response options
- Discuss legislative requests, focusing on the most pressing issues

Sep.

- Finalize 2021-23 budget and legislative requests for regular 2021 session
- Discuss 2021 legislative platform

Nov.

- Adopt 2021 legislative platform



Discussion themes

- Serve as foundation for legislative platform
- Priorities to be developed between now and November adoption
- Examples for further development and consideration:
 - Elevate student, family, and community voices in policymaking
 - Put student and staff well-being at the forefront
 - Ensure digital equity to support continuous learning
 - Build supports and incentives to promote mastery-based learning
 - Protect K-12 funding from budget cuts

Pressing issues

- Minimum instructional hours and days requirements
- Graduation pathways requirement
- Credit graduation requirements

Ideas under consideration

Rulemaking concepts

- Instructional hours and days for the 2020-21 school year
- Private school online programs
- Mastery-based crediting
- Multidisciplinary approaches to meeting subject area graduation requirements
- Flexibility for WA State History requirement

Potential legislative requests

- Graduation pathways flexibility
 - Credit graduation requirements flexibility
- + *Longer term ideas*



Rulemaking proposals



The Washington State BOARD OF EDUCATION



RULEMAKING TIMELINE

Public school basic education access requirements

Board to likely adopt
emergency rules to take
effect July 10 and approve
proposed permanent rules
for future filing

July 9

September 23

File proposed
rulemaking notice
(CR-102), proposed
rules shared with
public

Public hearing
October 28

November 5

Board to consider and
likely adopt rules -
adoption of final rule
(CR-103)

Emergency rules end,
permanent rules take
effect

December



The Washington State **BOARD OF EDUCATION**



RULEMAKING TIMELINE

Private school minimum requirements and graduation requirement flexibilities

Board approved
initiation of
rulemaking process -
filed the preproposal
statement of inquiry
(CR-101)

June 17

Board to consider and
likely adopt proposed
rules - file proposed
rulemaking notice
(CR-102), proposed rules
shared with public

July 9

Public hearing
(date TBD)
August/Sept.

Board to consider and
likely adopt rules -
adoption of final rule
(CR-103)

Sept. 15-17

Rules take effect soon
after filing

October



Instructional hours and days

Rulemaking concept

- SBE has statutory authority on access, compliance, and implementation of the Program of Basic Education
- Social distancing, school closures, and distance learning may impact basic education delivery and access in SY 2020-21
- Rule concept:
 - Counting time outside of the traditional classroom for instructional hours and school days
 - Rules applicable for SY 2020-21 only
 - SBE review of rules in Spring 2021 to anticipate needs for SY 2021-22
 - SBE will collect additional info in minimum basic education compliance reporting



Private school online programs

Rulemaking concept

- Clarifies that approved private schools may open in the fall 2020 with an online program
- Allows private schools approved under provisional status to operate an online program, provided they plan to have a physical facility when it is safe to do so



Mastery-based crediting

Rulemaking concept

- Permissive rules would articulate districts' existing authority in an explicit way to clarify what is allowed and to support districts in offering these opportunities more widely
- Put E2SHB 1599 definition of MBL into rule and change "competency" to "mastery" in SBE WAC to align with law and work group's work
- Broad categories for student demonstration of proficiency:
 - State assessments
 - Local assessments
 - Success in a higher level course
 - Other MBL work group recommendations
- Districts would still need to adopt a written policy



Meeting subject-area graduation requirements

Rulemaking concept

- Rules would clarify that a single course may meet more than one subject area graduation requirement
 - Already common practice with CTE course equivalencies, rule would clarify that this practice may be applied to other core subject area requirements
- Potential benefits
 - Provide flexibility in students' schedules to make up courses or take other elective credits
 - Encourage exploration of multidisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning that would complement project-based and mastery-based learning



Flexibility for WA State History requirement

Rulemaking concept

- Current rules allow principal to waive the WSH requirement for individual students under certain circumstances
- Proposed rules would expand waiver option to students who did not complete a WSH course because of an emergency school closure
- Many students will be able to make up the course, but it may become a barrier to some given fewer options and tighter schedule
- Districts must still provide the opportunity for students to take WSH and must still meet statutory requirements regarding teaching and learning of civics, the WA constitution, and the Since Time Immemorial curriculum



Legislative request proposals



Graduation pathways flexibility

Potential legislative request – special session

- Access to pathways has been limited due to school closures and cancellation of testing, and some existing flexibilities are expiring
- *Potential request:* Extend the Expedited Assessment Appeal (EAA) waiver for the Class of 2021



Credit graduation requirements flexibility

Potential legislative request – special session

- The impact of school closures, modified schedules, and hybrid learning models will continue to limit some students' ability to complete credit graduation requirements on time
- Statute allows districts to waive up to two flexible credits based on individual student circumstances, but more flexibility may be warranted in some cases
- *Potential request:* Extend the emergency waiver of credit graduation requirements
 - Local determination on individual student basis
 - To be used as last resort after demonstrating good faith effort
 - More restrictive parameters for number and type of credits

Strengthen ability to respond in emergencies

Potential legislative request – regular session

- Need for a more comprehensive, longer term strategy to better respond to the ongoing repercussions of the current crisis as well as future unforeseen emergencies
- *Potential request:* Ongoing authority to grant necessary waivers of certain graduation requirements to address emergency situations
 - Emergency triggers for eligibility
 - Level of waiver
 - Parameters on flexibility
 - Application, data collection requirements
- Other pathway options:
 - Suspend pathways statewide for one or two years
 - Establish a waiver to allow districts to innovate with pathways

Create additional pathways

Potential legislative request – regular session

- Based on recommendations from the Second Interim Graduation Pathways Report
- *Potential request:* Create additional pathways
 - Portfolio or project-based pathway
 - Additional career focused options
 - Credit-based pathway



Forthcoming recommendations

- Mastery-based Learning Workgroup recommendations
- Charter school report recommendations
 - Consider supporting extension of authority to approve new charter schools, which expires in April of 2021
 - Review charter school rules



Questions & Discussion