



THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

A high-quality education system that prepares all students for college, career, and life.

Title: Private School Update

As related to:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goal One: Develop and support policies to close the achievement and opportunity gaps. | <input type="checkbox"/> Goal Three: Ensure that every student has the opportunity to meet career and college ready standards. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goal Two: Develop comprehensive accountability, recognition, and supports for students, schools, and districts. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal Four: Provide effective oversight of the K-12 system. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Relevant to Board roles:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Policy leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Communication |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> System oversight | <input type="checkbox"/> Convening and facilitating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy | |

Policy considerations / Key questions:

At the May 2018 State Board of Education (SBE) meeting the Board will consider approval of private schools recommended by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). The recommendation for approval is based on “minimum state controls necessary to insure the health and safety of all the students in the state and to insure a sufficient basic education to meet usual graduation requirements.” ([RCW 28A.195.010](#)) Staff recommends the Board approve the list of private schools recommended by OSPI, and approve three schools for provisional approval.

In addition, the Board will hear from a private school panel. Key questions are:

- What are shared priorities of the Board and private schools?
- Are there private school priorities that the Board should consider in the Board’s strategic planning efforts?

Relevant to business item:

Approval of private schools for the 2018-2019 school year

Materials included in packet:

- Included online and in the printed meeting materials:
- A staff memo with background information on private schools
 - A list of private schools for provisional approval
- ONLINE ONLY at: <http://www.sbe.wa.gov/materials.php>
- List of privates school recommended for approval

Synopsis:

At the May 2018 Board meeting, the Board will consider approval of private schools for the 2018-2019 school year under RCW 28A.195.040 and Chapter 180-90 WAC. Three schools are seeking provisional approval with a major deviation. Two schools lack a certificated staff member as required by law. Both have submitted a Plan of Action stating that a specific staff member is seeking a conditional certificate. These certificates should be issued well before the start of school. A third school is awaiting a health and fire inspection, that is expected before the start of school.

The schools are Eastside Community School, Fusion Academy, and Lumen Academy.

The Board will hear a brief overview from staff on the role of the Board with Private Schools, and on how the role is changing as a result of HB 2824. Then, a private school panel will:

- Share information about private schools
 - Describe how the schools manifest both their mission and their commitment to student success
 - Describe how private schools interact with state agencies
 - Discuss with the SBE how the Board may help support the priorities of private schools as part of the state’s K-12 education system.
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PRIVATE SCHOOL UPDATE

Policy Considerations

At the May 2018 State Board of Education (SBE) meeting the Board will consider approval of private schools recommended by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). The recommendation for approval is based on “minimum state controls necessary to insure the health and safety of all the students in the state and to insure a sufficient basic education to meet usual graduation requirements.” ([RCW 28A.195.010.](#)) Staff recommends the Board approve the list of private schools recommended by OSPI.

HB 2824 will change the Board’s relationship with private schools. The new legislation shifts the private school approval process from OSPI and the SBE to the SBE only. Private schools will continue to work with OSPI on access to Federal programs and reporting requirements. Changes will go into effect as of January 1, 2019, and the Board will be working on rules to implement the changes over the next few months.

The Board will hear from a private school panel which will:

- Share information about private schools
- Describe how the schools manifest both their mission and their commitment to student success
- Describe how private schools interact with state level agencies
- Discuss with the SBE how the Board may help support the priorities of private schools as part of the state’s K-12 education system.

The discussion between the Board and the private school panel may help inform the Board’s strategic planning efforts.

Background

Private School Requirements, Rights, and Authority

Table 1 summarizes the requirements, rights, and authority of private schools in RCW 28A.195.

Requirements	Notes
Each year, superintendents of private school districts or principals of private schools will file a statement with OSPI certifying that the minimum requirements of law are being met.	Changed due to SHB 2824: the statement will be filed with the SBE. The certification form is defined in WAC.
No fewer than 180 school days, or the equivalent in instructional hours, and a school-wide annual average of 1,000 instructional hours for grades one through five, and at least 450 hours for kindergarten.	

Teachers must hold a Washington state certification, or be people of unusual competence supervised by a certificated educator. The school must submit an annual statement explaining such circumstances to OSPI.	WAC defines “people of unusual competence.”
Private schools may operate an extension program for parents or guardians for home-based instruction. A certificated educator must supervise the parents or guardians, spend a minimum monthly average of an hour of contact per week with the students, and evaluate the students’ progress. Supervising educators shall not supervise more than 30 extension program students.	
Private schools must take appropriate measures to safeguard permanent records.	
The physical facilities of the school must be adequate to meet the program needs, and meet reasonable health and fire requirements.	
Private school curriculum shall include instruction in “occupational education, science, mathematics, language, social studies, history, health, reading, writing, spelling, and the development of appreciation of art and music, all in sufficient units for meeting state board of education graduation requirements.”	
Maintain policy statements.	
Report attendance to educational service districts by June annually.	Attendance is reported to OSPI annually in the fall.
Private schools may not engage in a policy of racial segregation or discrimination.	
Rights and authorities	Notes
Private school students are not required to meet state learning goals or meet assessment requirements.	Private schools may choose to teach to state learning standards. They also may choose to have their students take state tests (the school pays for the tests and the results are shared only with the school).
Private schools may teach “religious beliefs and doctrines, if any: to pray in class and in assemblies, to teach patriotism including requiring students to salute the flag of the United State if that be the custom of the particular private school.” (RCW 28A.195.020.)	
Private schools are authorized to require that employees undergo a record check with the Washington State Patrol.	
Approved private schools may offer and administer an online school program.	
Private School Advisory Committee	

The Superintendent of Public Instruction is directed to appoint a private school advisory committee broadly representative of educators, legislators and private school groups.

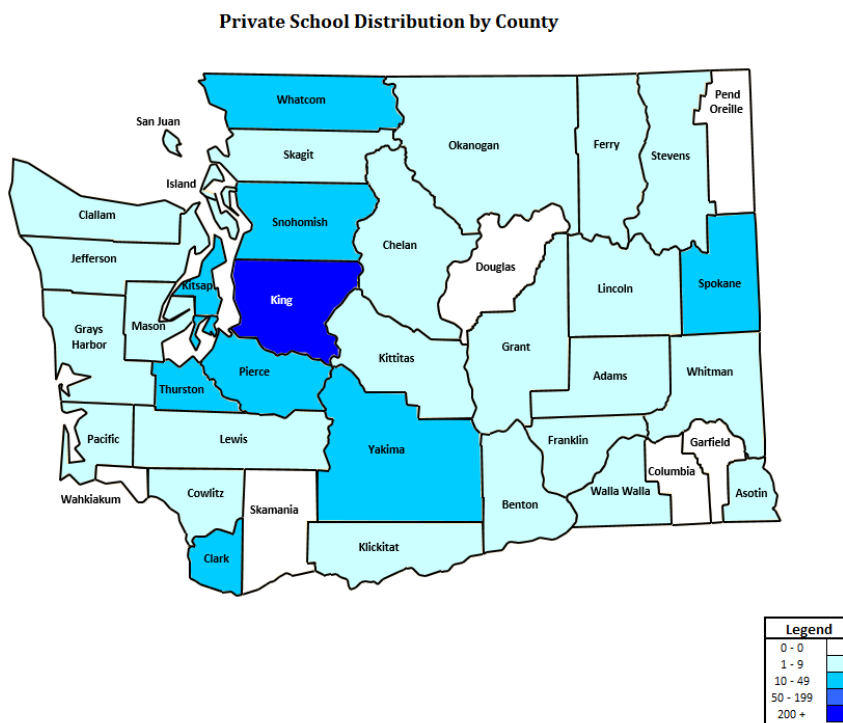
This requirement does not change with the passage of SHB 2824.

Private School Facts and Figures

The follow data on private school is for the 2017-2018 year. The enrollment numbers were collected in October 2017.

- Total number of approved private schools: 529, with over half in King County (see Figure 1)
- Total number of approved private schools that have students enrolled in 12th grade: 167
- Total number of students enrolled in private school: 81,943
- Total number of high school students enrolled in private school: 18,085
- Percent of K-12 students in private schools relative to the total number of K-12 students in Washington: 6.8
- About 40% of private schools have 75 students or fewer; the average private school has 155 students; the largest private school has almost 1,200 students.

Figure 1: Distribution of private schools by county



The demographics of students served by private schools cannot be directly compared to public schools because different subgroups of students are reported. Table I lists the racial and ethnic groups reported in private schools and in public schools in 2017-2018. (Note: the ethnicity report total was slightly different from the enrollment report total.)

Table 1: Private and Public School Student Demographics

Private Schools			Public Schools		
Total	81,974	Percent of total	Total	1,116,599	Percent of total
American Indian	764	1%	Hispanic	258,347	23%
Asian	11,143	14%	Asian	8,5478	8%
Black	3,817	5%	American Indian/Alaskan Native	15,146	1%
Hispanic	5,675	7%	Black/African American	48,506	4%
White	51,917	63%	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	12,155	1%
Other	8,658	11%	White	607,616	54%
			Two or More Races	89,211	8%

Private School Participation in Federal Programs

The students enrolled in private schools, as well as private school educators, may be eligible for equitable services through several federal programs. Districts must consult with private schools within their district boundaries to determine how to equitably serve all eligible students. Districts must set aside proportional funds of the district’s allocation for private school students and educators within the district’s boundaries, and consult with the private schools on how to provide services.

According to data from OSPI (provided to the Private School Advisory Committee in October 2017) Title IA funds for services in 2017-2018 ranged from \$357 to \$1,296 per student in districts with private schools that participated in the program.

Action

At the May 2018 meeting the Board will consider approval of private schools recommended for approval by OSPI. The Board will also hear from a private school panel which may help inform the Board about private school priorities.

If you have questions regarding this memo, please contact Linda Drake at linda.drake@k12.wa.us.

Private Schools for Provisional Approval

2018–19

School Information	Grade Range	Projected Pre-school Enrollment	Projected Enrollment	Projected Extension Enrollment	County
Fusion Academy Seattle Jennifer Rumack 214 E Galer St Seattle WA 98102-3716 616.301.1221	6-12	0	30	0	King
Lumen Academy Initial Dr. Angela Calhoun 13940 NE 166th St (Mail: 14461 156th Ave NE Woodinville 98072) Woodinville WA 98072 719.648.6672	K-5	0	10	0	King
Eastside Community School Initial Griffith T. Owen 556 124th NE Bellevue WA 98005-3100 206.295.7414	P-8	30	120	0	King