



# THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

<b>Title:</b>	<u>School Recognition</u>	
<b>As Related To:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Goal One: Develop and support policies to close the achievement and opportunity gaps. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal Two: Develop comprehensive accountability, recognition, and supports for students, schools, and districts.	<input type="checkbox"/> Goal Three: Ensure that every student has the opportunity to meet career and college ready standards. <input type="checkbox"/> Goal Four: Provide effective oversight of the K-12 system. <input type="checkbox"/> Other
<b>Relevant To Board Roles:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy Leadership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> System Oversight <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Communication <input type="checkbox"/> Convening and Facilitating
<b>Policy Considerations / Key Questions:</b>	RCW 28A.657.110 (3) directs the State Board of Education (SBE), in cooperation with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), to annually recognize schools for exemplary performance as measured on the Washington School Improvement Framework (formerly the Achievement Index). The SBE is also directed to collaborate with the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC) regarding the measures and school recognition for closing gaps.	
<b>Possible Board Action:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review <input type="checkbox"/> Approve	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt <input type="checkbox"/> Other
<b>Materials Included in Packet:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Memo <input type="checkbox"/> Graphs / Graphics <input type="checkbox"/> Third-Party Materials <input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint	
<b>Synopsis:</b>	<p>The SBE presented options for school recognition identification methodology and qualifying criteria for the spring 2018 school recognition to the EOGOAC in April. After presenting to the EOGOAC, the SBE received verbal comments and is anticipating a formal written recommendation from the EOGOAC on school recognition that includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Form a committee comprised of members from the EOGOAC, OSPI, and SBE to develop school recognition criteria and an identification methodology to be applied to the winter 2019 Washington School Improvement Framework.</li> <li>• Over the course of the next year, develop meaningful achievement gap measures and the best manner in which to measure the achievement gap changes over time.</li> </ul> <p>The memo describes the rationale for adopting the EOGOAC recommendation. The superintendent’s office has provided similar feedback to SBE staff.</p>	



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## SCHOOL RECOGNITION

### Policy Considerations

RCW 28A.657.110 (3) states that the State Board of Education, in cooperation with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), shall annually recognize schools for exemplary performance as measured on the Washington Achievement Index, now the Washington School Improvement Framework (WaSIF). Also, that the SBE shall have ongoing collaboration with the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC) regarding the indicators used to measure the closing of the achievement gaps and the recognition provided to the school districts for closing the achievement gaps.

The statute places a significant portion of the authority to recognize schools on the shoulders of the Board, but clearly directs the Board to make the recognition with the cooperation of and collaboration with other agencies.

### Summary

At the March 2018 SBE meeting, the Board directed staff to develop school recognition criteria to meet statutory requirements and to share those criteria and analyses with the EOGOAC. The SBE presented an overview of school recognition to the EOGOAC in March and presented specific recognition criteria and identification methodology to the EOGOAC in April. The EOGOAC provided the SBE with feedback that included the following:

- Form a committee comprised of members from the EOGOAC, OSPI, and SBE to develop school recognition criteria and an identification methodology to be applied to the winter 2019 Washington School Improvement Framework.
- Through the committee or a workgroup and over the course of the next year, develop meaningful achievement gap measures and the best manner in which to measure the achievement gap changes over time.

### Background and Recommendation

Every year in the late spring, the SBE and OSPI host a ceremony for the Washington Achievement Awards. The annual recognition for overall excellence and achievement gap reduction is specified in statute, but the [Washington Achievement Awards](#) have been expanded over the years to include recognition for high progress, high growth, exceptional graduation results, and strong results in English language acquisition. In each of the most recent years, hundreds of schools have been recognized for one or more of the awards.

In 2017, a Puget Sound area assessment director published a [research paper](#) highlighting the fact that many of the schools recognized for overall excellence through the Index results were located in high income areas. In a separate analysis, the SBE found that in spring 2017, approximately one-third of all recognized schools were located in only five of the wealthier, Puget Sound region, school districts.

Schools recognized in 2017 had an average Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRL) rate of approximately 30 percent, while the schools not recognized had an average FRL rate of 50 percent.

Another concern regarding the school recognition program is that, for the most part, achievement gaps are not considered in the qualifying criteria. Under the identification methodology used through the spring 2017, a school could be recognized for overall excellence even if substantial achievement gaps were present at the school.

With the transition from the Achievement Index to the WaSIF, the SBE is leading an effort to explore new methodologies and define new qualifying criteria for recognition. The identification methodologies presented to the EOGOAC show promise in recognizing schools that are high performing and:

- Are performing better than predicted after controlling for school composition and poverty status.
- Have small or smaller than average achievement gaps.

However, additional work is required to ensure the approach addresses concerns raised by stakeholders and to develop meaningful measures of school success including overall school performance and achievement gap reduction over time.

### **Action**

The Board is expected to discuss and to vote on whether to adopt the EOGOAC recommendation to suspend school recognition for the spring 2018.

Links to materials referenced in the memo:

Washington Achievement Awards:

<http://www.k12.wa.us/EducationAwards/WashingtonAchievement/>

Assessment director research on the Index:

<http://www.wera-web.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/WEJ-May-2017-final.pdf>

Please contact Andrew Parr at [andrew.parr@k12.wa.us](mailto:andrew.parr@k12.wa.us) if you have questions regarding this memo.