

September 18-20, 2012 Achievement and Accountability Workgroup Webinar Highlights

Note: The agenda, related materials, and a recorded version of the webinar are available on our [website](#).

On September 18 and September 20, the State Board of Education (SBE) and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) hosted the first meeting of the Achievement and Accountability Workgroup (AAW) via webinar.

During the meeting, representatives from OSPI and SBE met with representatives of the Achievement and Accountability Workgroup to:

- Review the purpose, composition, timeline, and targets of the Achievement and Accountability Workgroup.
- Provide an overview of the implications of Washington's waiver from the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).
- Review SBE's statutory responsibilities pertaining to the Achievement Index.
- Review the structure and rationale behind the current Achievement Index and explore anticipated substantive changes.

PURPOSE OF THE ACHIEVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY WORKGROUP

The Achievement and Accountability Workgroup, comprised of representatives from twenty different agencies and education stakeholder groups, will provide input on a revised Achievement Index, beginning with an October 10 discussion of potential performance indicators for possible inclusion in the new metric. By April of 2013, AAW representatives will have examined the use of a revised Index in the assessment of opportunity and achievement gaps, the appropriate weights for included performance indicators, and the identification of performance tiers and targets.

In June of 2013, the AAW will transition to work related to the development of a statewide accountability framework to ensure all students graduate career and college ready.

ESEA FLEXIBILITY WAIVERS

The development of a revised Achievement Index and statewide accountability framework coincides with Washington's successful application for a waiver from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The ESEA waiver will replace Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determinations and sanctions with new, ambitious, and achievable Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs). The elimination of AYP as a requirement also absolves districts from sanctions once required for schools in improvement, including 20 percent set-aside of Title I, Part A funds for Public School Choice and Supplemental Education Services, and a 10 percent set-aside for professional development for schools.

The use of AMO calculations will begin in this fall using assessment results from spring 2012 and will include annual targets intended to close proficiency gaps by half in 2017. Each subgroup, school, district, and state will also have additional annual targets. Districts identified for support (Priority, Focus, and Emerging Schools) will be required to utilize up to 20 percent of their Title I funds to improve student outcomes.

SBE'S STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

[ESHB 2261](#) (2009) required SBE to create an Index to complement the federal accountability system or that could be used as federally-approved replacement. [E2SSB 6696](#) (2010) required SBE to use the Index to recognize schools for closing the achievement gap and to identify schools in need of improvement. This bill also required SBE to develop a statewide accountability framework, including Required Action for the state's persistently lowest-achieving schools.

With the ESEA waiver, SBE and OSPI have the opportunity to fulfill legislative expectations, replace the federal accountability system with an aligned state system supporting continuous improvement, incorporate student growth data for a better representation of school performance, and provide sharper focus on achievement and opportunity gaps.

THE CURRENT ACHIEVEMENT INDEX AND ANTICIPATED CHANGES

The current Achievement Index

- Provides student proficiency data.
- Is a tool used by educators, parents, and others as a measurement of school performance and to spotlight areas for internal improvement.

The future Achievement Index will continue to advance these principles, but will also:

- Provide student growth data as an equitable way to evaluate school and district performance.
- Better align with the goals of preparing students for postsecondary education, gainful employment, and citizenship.
- Disaggregate student growth and proficiency data by subgroup.

SBE staff reviewed the current Index with attendees, highlighting the new web-based platform. The current Achievement Index can be found on our [website](#).

The next Achievement and Accountability Workgroup meeting will be October 10 in Renton, Washington, at the Puget Sound Educational Service District.

For additional information and Board meeting materials, go to: www.sbe.wa.gov
or call the Board office at: 360-725-6025.