

The Washington State Board of Education

Governance | Achievement | High School and College Preparation | Math & Science | Effective Workforce

Old Capitol Building, Room 253
P.O. Box 47206
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Olympia, Washington 98504

January 10, 2013

TO: Members of the Achievement and Accountability Workgroup

FROM: State Board of Education

RE: Input on the Revision of the Achievement Index: February

The State Board of Education (SBE) appreciates your ongoing input on the Achievement Index and your willingness to devote your time and expertise to the Achievement and Accountability Workgroup. Your feedback has been instrumental in moving toward a revised Achievement Index. At the February meeting we will share an update of what the State Board has decided thus far, based largely on your input and discussion.

For the February meeting of the AAW, we ask that you provide input on the following list of specific questions. SBE staff will generate another feedback report to reflect your input on these questions, which we intend to consider in next steps for Index revision.

Focusing questions for February AAW meeting:

1. Given that the federal Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waiver requires Washington to identify schools for recognition (Reward) as well as schools in need of improvement (Priority, Focus, and Emerging), what are the implications for the structure and function of the revised Index in order to establish a coherent system?
2. How should the revised Index be used to establish Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) for schools, and would this be preferable to the current AMOs?¹
3. What relative weight should be assigned to each performance indicator for elementary, middle, high, and district level calculations?

Meeting materials will provide examples of these options from other states.

¹ Currently, the AMOs are targets that, if achieved, will close proficiency gaps by 50% in six years. The targets are set at the subgroup level for reading and math and increase annually until 2016.