



Washington State  
Board of Education



*Working to Raise Student Achievement Dramatically*

## September 18-19, 2007 Meeting Highlights

### September 20, 2007

On September 18-19, the State Board of Education met in Wenatchee at Educational Service District 171 to discuss key concepts on System Performance Accountability and the Meaningful High School Diploma. Superintendents from Soap Lake and Cashmere also briefed the Board on their Math Leadership Alliance work in North Central Washington.

### Board Actions

The Board approved the Mathematics Standards Review Report by Strategic Teaching, which will be sent with a letter from the Board Chair to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The Board approved 85 private schools for the 2007-08 academic year.

The Board approved revisions to the waiver process for the 180 Day School Year; the district average of a 1,000 instructional hour year and the student teacher ratio. Information on the guidelines and the new process can be found on the State Board of Education's website:

<http://www.sbe.wa.gov/>

The Board approved charters to direct the staff work on the End of Course Assessment study and Science Standards review.

The Board adopted a preamble to its motions on key concepts for the meaningful high school diploma and the system performance accountability work to provide direction to staff as they develop proposals for the State Board of Education's future review. The Board wants to be clear that these are preliminary, draft concepts that will receive extensive and formative public input and refinement. The Board, in advancing these concepts, is not endorsing specific details at this point. In addition, the Board acknowledges the magnitude of the implementation challenges that these proposals may present and asks our staff to be especially sensitive to identifying potential implementation barriers as well as strategies for dealing with them as they bring forward proposals for our review.

The Board approved key draft concepts for further exploration for the staff to use as guidance as they continue to refine the concepts in more detail. These include:

*Meaningful High School Diploma Concepts:*

1. A draft definition of the purpose of a diploma: the diploma should signify that students are ready for success in postsecondary education, gainful employment, and citizenship, and at the same time address the personalized education needs of students as well as society's needs.
2. The concept of one diploma for all: the purpose and expectations of a diploma apply to all students (with appropriate recognition for special education students on IEPs). Requirements for the diploma send a clear message to all students about what they need to succeed after high school, and ensure that students have met a common set of standards.
3. Several proposed principles that will provide guidance to staff in building a revised set of high school graduation requirements. Those principles are:
  - Establish overarching expectations/essential skills needed for student lifelong learning;
  - Explore equivalency or competency credits, particularly, but not exclusively in the area of career and technical education;
  - Create a comprehensive integrated graduation requirement package;
  - Align with postsecondary education minimum entry requirements.

*System Performance Accountability Concepts:*

1. Performance Improvement Goals and Indicators to Measure System Progress
2. A Tiered System of Continuous Improvement for All Schools
3. Targeted Strategies for Chronically Underperforming Schools

The staff will work with members of various educator stakeholder groups, community members, business groups, students, legislators and staff from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Professional Educator Standards Board as it continues to refine the elements under each concept.

**Public Outreach**

Staff will work with APCO on its outreach strategies. Phase one will occur this fall with the Meaningful High School Diploma (MHSD) concepts. Phase two will occur next spring on both the MHSD and Systems Performance Accountability concepts.