



# WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

## **BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM COMPLIANCE BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Minimum Basic Education Compliance reporting by Washington State school districts gives assurance to the State Board of Education that the districts are in compliance with the minimum requirements of the Basic Education Act, as well as related requirements such as the State High School Graduation Minimum Requirements.

To conserve expenses, the memorandum and Form SPI 1497 were posted on the SBE Web site and were emailed using established list serves. The school districts were required to complete the form and mail one original copy with signatures of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and Board chair, to the State Board of Education by November 3, 2008.

Categories of Reporting for the 2008-09 School Year:

- Total Instructional Hour Offering (RCW 28A.150.220/WAC 180-16-200) Kindergarten offering of 450 hours. Grades 1–12 offering of a district-wide annual average of 1,000 hours linked to the Essential Academic Learning Requirements and other district-determined subjects/activities (not tied to grade spans).
- K–3/4–12 Students to Classroom Teacher Ratio (RCW 28A.150.250/WAC 180-16-210). The district ratio of students per classroom teacher in grades kindergarten through three is not greater than the ratio of students per classroom teacher in grades four and above.
- Minimum 180-Day School Year (RCW 28A.150.220(3)/WAC 180-16-215). The 180-day program is accessible to all legally eligible students, including students with disabilities, five years of age, and under 21 years of age who have not completed high school graduation requirements.
- State High School Graduation Minimum Requirements (RCW 28A.230.090) (WAC 180-51-061) minimum state credits (19) in all subject areas are aligned with the high school standards at a minimum, to grades 9/10 grade level expectations or state essential academic learning requirements at Benchmark three (high school). District high schools meet all state minimum graduation requirements.

At the Board Meeting, a handout will be provided listing the school districts and their compliance status.

### **EXPECTED ACTION**

Board certification of school district compliance with Basic Education allocation entitlement requirements, pursuant to WAC 180-16-191 through WAC 180-16-225, for the 2008–09 school year.



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## BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENT WAIVERS

### SUMMARY OF POLICY ISSUE /STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (SBE) STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The Board may grant waivers to school districts from the Basic Education Act Program Requirements (RCW 28A.150.200 through 28A.150.220) on the basis that such waiver or waivers are necessary to implement successfully a local plan to provide for all students in the district an effective education system that is designed to enhance the educational program for each student (RCW 28A.305.140).

### BACKGROUND

The Board will be considering two applications for waivers from the Basic Education Act requirements at the Board Meeting:

1. **Granger School District** is requesting a waiver of five days from the 180 day minimum school year requirement for three years (2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12 school years) for the purpose of professional development. This is a new application. The District would like to restructure its professional development scheduling to lessen the number of early release days and design more productive staff development opportunities for teachers, para-educators, and administration. The waiver would allow the District to eliminate 36 early release days each year. The District plans to incorporate Professional Learning Communities into their professional development model. A three-year waiver would provide the District with "the means to 'stick to it'... and establish long-range continuity." Granger, Washington is located in the south central region of the state. Granger is in Yakima County near Yakima, and their October 2007 student count was 1,501.
2. **South Bend School District**, is requesting a waiver of three days from the 180 day minimum school year requirement for three years (2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12 school years) for the purpose of professional development. This is a renewal application. The District would like to continue to have no half days and three full-day professional development opportunities. The use of waiver days is directly driven by the District and school improvement plans, which are developed by administrators and staff. The plans are created using student data, building and district needs, and staff needs for professional development. Since their first waiver three years ago, the District has seen improvements in their 10<sup>th</sup> grade reading and writing WASL results. This renewal of their current waiver will allow the District layout a longer timeline and help make meaningful change occur. South Bend is in Pacific County, near Willapa Bay, and their October 2007 student count was 582.

## **POLICY CONSIDERATION**

Both applications for waivers meet the State Board of Education's criteria for the purpose and use of a waiver. Therefore, approval of the applications should not have any policy implications.

## **EXPECTED ACTION**

Approval of both applications.