

Dear partner in education:

Greetings! Students across Washington are getting ready to go back to school and share their summer stories with friends. Throughout the summer the State Board of Education (SBE) has been hard at work on our key initiatives to improve student achievement across Washington and ensure that all students regardless of race or income receive a high quality education.

Currently, one-third of Washington students go to schools that are underperforming and almost one-third of our high school students drop out. SBE is focused on developing a system of performance accountability. Working with key stakeholders and gathering public input, SBE is developing a state-wide system of accountability to improve student achievement and provide targeted assistance to schools and districts.

Additionally, the Board approved the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI's) adoption of revised state math standards in Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II or Integrated Math I, II, and III for students in ninth through twelfth grades. These new math standards provide greater clarity about what is expected of students in each grade, more explicit guidance to educators about what to teach when, and increase the rigor of math to ensure more Washington students succeed. Along with these new math standards, the Board has approved a third credit of high school math, which will take effect for the Class of 2013.

While it has been a busy summer for SBE, we are committed to continuing to work with students, parents, educators, and community leaders to accomplish our shared goal of improving student achievement in our state. I would like to thank all those who continue to provide invaluable guidance to SBE. We invite you to join us at our next meeting, scheduled for September 24-25 in Pasco. Together, we can ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed in postsecondary education, the 21st century world of work, and citizenship.

Eddie Harding
Executive Director

Spotlight: System Performance Accountability - improving student achievement across

Learn more about our key initiatives

- [A Meaningful High School Diploma:](#) preparing students for life after high school no matter what path they choose.
- [World-class math:](#) providing students with the math foundation they need to succeed.
- [Exemplary science:](#) fostering science education to expand students' minds and broaden horizons.
- [Accountability:](#) providing assistance to schools and districts so that no student falls through the cracks.

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Washington

In 2005, the Washington State Legislature directed the Washington State Board of Education (SBE) to create a statewide system of accountability to improve student achievement and ensure no student falls through the cracks. SBE is committed to developing a shared system of accountability which encourages the improvement of student learning, is fair and consistent in implementation, and transparent and simple to understand.

In August, SBE proposed an accountability index to tier schools and districts into different categories based on how they perform on a set of indicators and outcomes. The four indicators are achievement, achievement compared to similar schools, improvement and achievement of students of color or low income. These four indicators are then paired with five outcomes to create a matrix of student achievement. The five outcomes are the results of state assessments in four subject areas and the extended graduation rate for high schools and districts. Click [here](#) to learn more about the proposed index.

A system of performance accountability will ensure that no student falls through the cracks and will provide schools and districts the support they need to improve student achievement and engage students in their learning.

SBE assembled two advisory work groups to determine the technical details of the proposed system and to select the appropriate data to identify those schools in greatest need. SBE is also conducting studies to better understand the policy barriers schools and educators face to providing a high quality education to all students, as well as reviewing best practices for state and local partnerships used by top-performing states and countries to help struggling schools.

[Learn more>>](#)

Spotlight: Improving Math Standards

On July 30th, SBE approved the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI's) adoption of revised state math standards in Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II or Integrated Math I, II, and III for students in ninth through twelfth grades.

The new standards will clarify and strengthen high school math graduation requirements, including providing more opportunities for students to take classes in advanced level math. The revised standards will also provide high school juniors the option to take a college placement test.

SBE's approval culminates a process that began when the 2007 state Legislature, recognizing the urgent need to improve math achievement in the state, directed SBE and OSPI to review math standards in Washington state's K-12 schools. That review, undertaken by math consultant Strategic Teaching and an SBE-appointed math advisory panel of education, business and community leaders from across Washington, was completed in August 2007. OSPI then coordinated a standards revision team consisting of state K-12 teachers, school district curriculum experts and higher education mathematicians.

In the coming months, OSPI will prepare curriculum recommendations that best reflect the new math standards, in addition to teacher training. SBE will then review OSPI's top recommendations. Along with these new math standards, the Board has approved a [third credit](#) of high school math, which will take effect for the Class of 2013.

[Learn more>>](#)

Get to know your board members: Steven Floyd, Gig Harbor, WSSDA Elected Position 3, Western Washington, through January 2012

Steven Floyd serves on the site council for Peninsula High School and the General Advisory Committee for the Peninsula School District. Mr. Floyd was a school director for the Peninsula School District from 1995 to 2000, serving as president for three years. During this period, he completed Level I and II of the Washington State School Directors' Association's leadership training program. He has also served as the chair of the School District Boundary Committee and was a member of the Facilities Committee. Mr. Floyd serves as the Board Lead for math, and has overseen the development of revised K-12 Math Standards and the addition of a third credit of math as a requirement for high school graduation.

"The new math standards reflect SBE's thorough review of math standards and best practices nationally and internationally as well as the feedback we received from educators and the community regarding the level of competency that today's competitive job climate demands. The adoption of more rigorous standards illustrates the Board's commitment to giving our students the necessary tools for success in postsecondary education, the workforce and in life."

Mr. Floyd is also actively involved in community service with the Gig Harbor Rotary Club, Peninsula Park District Commission, Peninsula Youth Services, Group Action for Peninsula People and as a coach for Special Olympics for both youth and adult teams in soccer and baseball.

Mr. Floyd grew up in Texas and California and moved to the

Northwest in 1974. In 1986, he joined the Burkhart Dental Supply Company as controller and member of the board of directors, where he is presently employed. Mr. Floyd is married to Cheri, a health technician in the Peninsula School District.

We want to hear from you!

[Upcoming Board Meeting:](#)

Wednesday, September 24 - Thursday, September 25
Educational Services District, Pasco, WA

E-mail your thoughts and questions to SBE at sbe@k12.wa.us.

