

Dear partner in education:

Greetings! I am happy to share with you updates on the State Board of Education's (SBE) work to improve student achievement and ensure all students are prepared to succeed after high school - in the 21st century workforce, postsecondary education and citizenship. During June, SBE conducted several initiatives to collect feedback from people across the state on both the Meaningful High School Diploma work and the system performance accountability initiative.

SBE hosted three community meetings across Washington to discuss SBE's work on graduation requirements and accountability. The community meetings were kicked off June 2 in Spokane, continued June 3 in Yakima and concluded in Seattle on June 4. We were very pleased with the high level of interest and engagement in each of these communities. We wish to extend our gratitude to everyone who took the time to attend. The board members appreciated hearing your thoughts and ideas on creating the best path forward on these important initiatives.

In addition, SBE is conducting an online survey to capture feedback on CORE 24, the proposed graduation requirements plan, and on the draft system performance accountability framework. We appreciate the thoughtful input submitted by everyone who took the time to complete the survey. The survey will be open through June 30. If you have not yet had the opportunity to complete the survey, we'd ask that you take a few minutes to do so. [Please click here to complete the survey.](#)

Also, our consultants are wrapping up a study among education stakeholders, policy makers, business groups, and nonprofit partners from across the state to identify the policy barriers that exist to improving student achievement and providing all students with a high quality education (for more details, please see below).

Thank you for all the great input. We look forward to continuing our discussion with you on one of the most important issues facing our state - preparing all students for success.

Edie Harding

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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Executive Director

Spotlight: SBE in the community

Caption: More than 80 people participate in discussions at SBE's community meeting in Seattle on June 4, 2008.

Spotlight: Policy Barriers in Education Study

SBE is conducting a study to learn about the perceived policy barriers to improving student achievement from the perspectives of different education stakeholders, policy makers, and business groups and nonprofit partners working on education issues. The study focuses specifically on district practices and the policy environment in which districts are implementing school improvement efforts.

This research will help inform the Board's work to design State/Local Partnerships to target resources for "Priority Schools" - schools where students consistently do not meet grade level expectations - and their districts. SBE will review draft concepts at its July board meeting.

Get to know your board members: Austianna Quick, Eastern Washington Student Member 2008-2010

Ms. Quick is a junior at Oroville High School and lives with her parents and two siblings in Oroville, Washington. She is very involved with sports, including volleyball, basketball, and track and field, as well as other curricular activities. Ms. Quick says her "passion is music" and she plays the piano, the flute, and also sings in the All Girls Choir. She has received much of her experience in business and politics by being involved in Future Business Leaders of America and as a page in Olympia. Ms. Quick enjoys spending time with her family and friends and loves to travel.

We want to hear from you!

Click [here](#) to complete the online survey by June 30.

We encourage you to attend our next board meeting, July 23-24 in Vancouver. Click [here](#) for the meeting agenda and location.

Thoughts or questions? E-mail them to sbe@k12.wa.us.