

The Washington State Board of Education

Governance | Achievement | Transitions |
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State Board of Education Spotlight

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The Washington State Board of Education's (SBE) July 11-12 meeting at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington will include an initial exploration of principles and performance indicators for a revised Achievement Index.

SBE developed the first Achievement Index in response to 2009 legislation, ESHB 2261, a bill which charged SBE to develop a user-friendly school evaluation tool that would do the following:

- Identify schools for state recognition.
- Identify schools that may need additional state support.
- Utilize fair, consistent, and transparent criteria.
- Measure student performance on statewide assessments.
- Track graduation rates.

Since 2010, SBE and OSPI have used the Achievement Index to recognize the state's highest-achieving schools. The Legislature identified this as "Phase I" of a statewide accountability system per 2010 legislation, E2SSB 6696.

The Index's role will soon become significantly more robust, as it is the primary school performance metric in our state's application for a flexibility waiver from the requirements of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The application includes a request to use a next-generation version of the Achievement Index for statewide accountability.

Beginning in July 2012 and culminating with an approved revised Index in September 2013, SBE will consider necessary elements of a revised Achievement Index to fulfill the responsibility of SBE in Phase I (Senate Bill 6696) including:

- Principles, to guide the development and implementation of the accountability system.
- Goals, which include the purposes, uses, and

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contexts of the system.

- Performance Indicators, to measure performance and improvement.
- Design decisions, drivers for how the indicators will be used to make decisions about school and district effectiveness.
- Consequences, including rewards, sanctions, and interventions.

To better inform the development of a revised Index and encourage broad-based stakeholder feedback, we will convene an Achievement and Accountability Workgroup. The Board will provide direction to and receive feedback from AAW, beginning with the first meeting in October 2012. Representatives from 17 stakeholder organizations have been invited to participate and will play an instrumental role in supporting SBE and OSPI in the development of a revised Achievement Index and accountability framework.

That collaboration will be essential as we move ahead.

On behalf of the Washington State Board of Education,

Ben Rarick
Executive Director

Graduation Requirements - Timeline and Comparison Documents

In addition to the [graduation requirements toolkit](#), SBE has produced three documents designed to help readers better understand the history of graduation requirements in Washington State during the past few years.

1. The Washington State Graduation Requirements [timeline](#) summarizes the process of development of Career and College Ready graduation requirements from 2006 to 2012.
2. A [chart](#) of graduation requirements shows the requirements for each year for the graduating classes of 2012 to 2016. The chart displays the requirements for each class and highlights the changes from year to year.
3. An additional chart shows the 24-credit Career and College Ready [framework](#) (approved by the Board, but not implemented in rule, pending legislative funding) compared to the graduation requirements

for the graduating class of 2016.

These resources and more are all available on our [website](#).

Exploring State Accountability System Performance Indicators

Many states are incorporating postsecondary/career readiness indicators in their state accountability systems, using a combination of factors such as percentage of students completing industry certificates, enrolling in the military and completing or attempting dual enrollment courses

Education Sector's new report [Ready by Design: A College and Career Agenda for California](#) makes the case that measuring student performance on test scores alone is not an adequate proxy for post-secondary success. The report examined schools that appeared to be lower-performing, yet out-performed similar schools when low-income student enrollment in college was included.

The current Achievement Index does not incorporate these measures, but they may be considered for the tool's revision.

District Extensions from the Class of 2016 English and Social Studies Requirements

[WAC 180-51-067](#) requires students in the graduating class of 2016 and beyond to take an additional credit of English and half credit of social studies. Recognizing that some districts required more time to implement this requirement, SBE provided a means for districts to seek a two-year extension. This extension makes the additional requirements take effect for the class of 2018.

Districts opting for the extension were required to submit a resolution to SBE by June 1, 2012, signed by the superintendent and local board members.

As of this writing, the following districts have submitted this resolution and therefore have received a two-year extension:

1. Auburn

2. Blaine
3. Central Kitsap
4. Central Valley
5. Darrington
6. Eastmont
7. Grand Coulee Dam
8. Highline
9. Issaquah
10. Kettle Falls
11. Mead
12. Naselle-Grays River Valley
13. North Thurston
14. Pasco
15. Pomeroy
16. Puyallup
17. Shelton
18. South Bend
19. Sumner
20. Tahoma
21. Wenatchee

Waivers Rules-Making Update

State law requires SBE to adopt rules for evaluation of requests for waivers from the basic education requirement of a minimum 180-day school year. At the May meeting, the Board approved and provided direction for the filing of a CR 101 to initiate rule-making. At the July meeting, staff will present draft rules to evaluate 180-day waiver requests for the Board's review.

The proposed rules will provide a formal basis on which to review requests for waivers from minimum basic education program requirements. By adopting rules for waiver decisions, SBE demonstrates that it is meeting its statutory obligation to ensure compliance with basic education requirements.

Rule adoption will also clarify issues that cause confusion for school districts and policy makers, and simplify waiver procedures that have grown overly complex and difficult for districts to follow.

The proposed draft rule language will:

- Create a new category of waivers for full-day parent-teacher conferences, with no cap on days.

These waivers would not require formal action from the Board.

- Integrate Option Three waivers with Option One.
- Adopt criteria for evaluation of Option One waiver requests.
- Adopt criteria for evaluation of Option Two waiver requests.

We encourage you to review the proposed rule language (available on our website on July 2 as part of the July Board packet) and [contact us](#) with any feedback or questions you may have.

Board Member Highlight - Judy Jennings (Bonney Lake)- Private Schools Representative

Judy Jennings has served as a language arts, history, physical education instructor and coach in the Puyallup School District, curriculum and program designer for the Puyallup Valley Christian School (now Cascade Christian Schools) in 1982, and secondary principal and superintendent for Seattle Christian Schools.

Upon retiring from SCS in 2005, Mrs. Jennings became the Executive Director of the Washington Federation of Independent Schools, where she had served as a Board member representing ACSI schools for nine years prior to her appointment. In her capacity as Executive Director Judy also represented the private schools of Washington to the Council for American Private Education, (CAPE) lobbying in both Washington, D. C. and Olympia.

Mrs. Jennings holds an undergraduate degree in education as well as a master's degree in administrative leadership, both from Pacific Lutheran University. She is also a certified administrator for the Association of Christian Schools International.

Mrs. Jennings lives in Bonney Lake and has been married to her husband, Fran, for 46 years. They have two children and four grandchildren.

You can learn more about Judy Jennings and other Board members by visiting our [Board member roster](#).

Upcoming Board Meeting

July 11-2
Western Washington University
Bellingham, Washington

Meeting materials are available on our [website](#) prior to the meeting. Email your thoughts and questions to SBE at sbe@k12.wa.us.