



# THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Governance | Accountability | Achievement | Oversight | Career & College Readiness

## State Board of Education Spotlight

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### SPOKANE SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROVED AS FIRST CHARTER AUTHORIZER - FOCUS WILL BE ON SERVING AT-RISK POPULATIONS



At the September meeting, the State Board of Education (SBE) unanimously voted to approve Spokane School District's charter authorizer application under the state's new charter school law. Spokane School District (Spokane) is the second largest school district in the state, and the first to apply to be a charter school authorizer.

One of SBE's responsibilities for implementation and oversight of the charter school law is to review and approve or deny applications from local school boards to be authorizers of charter schools. The board conducted a rigorous review process and found Spokane's application to be of high quality.

It is very important to the board that charter schools are done well. Approving quality charter school authorizers starts the process off on a good foundation. Board members spoke to the need for a rigorous, quality-based review process, and the need to emphasize at-risk student populations in the Spokane charter school RFP process.

Spokane has demonstrated commitment to and passion for creating a portfolio of choice options for students, particularly at-risk populations. They have a clear and compelling vision for chartering that is well aligned with the purpose of Washington's charter school law, and have shown themselves well-prepared to be a quality authorizer.

School districts interested in becoming charter school authorizers in 2014 must submit a notice of intent to SBE by October 1, 2013, and submit an application by December 31, 2013.

More information about charter schools is available on our website at: [www.sbe.wa.gov/charters.php](http://www.sbe.wa.gov/charters.php).

### Stay in the Know!

Get connected and stay in the know:



This e-newsletter is just one of the many ways to make sure you have the latest education news.

Our [website](#) is updated daily, and we also make good use of [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and our [blog](#) to ensure you stay well informed of the latest news in P-12 education.

### Photos Gallery



Board members toured the new facilities at Eisenhower High School in Yakima



Board members observed classes

On behalf of the Washington State Board of Education,



Ben Rarick,  
Executive Director

## SBE Seeks Federal Approval for Revised Achievement Index

The State Board of Education and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction have started the process of seeking approval of the revised Achievement Index, which streamlines both federal and state accountability into one process, from the U.S. Department of Education.

The revised Index will:

- Identify high-performing schools for recognition and low-performing schools for support and assistance.
- Enable a unified system of support for low-achieving schools that aligns with basic education, increases the level of support based upon the magnitude of need, and uses data for decisions.
- Support a statewide accountability framework designed to improve student achievement and school performance, close achievement gaps, and increase the quality of instruction for all students, including students with disabilities, English Language Learners, and students from historically underserved subgroups.

In addition to tracking proficiency, the revised Index includes student growth data and additional college and career readiness elements.

Watch the Revised Achievement Index Video:

at Adams Elementary in Yakima



Board members were served lunch by culinary arts students at Yakima Valley Technical Skills Center



For more information about the revised Achievement Index, please visit the Achievement and Accountability Workgroup webpage on our website at: [www.sbe.wa.gov/aaw.php](http://www.sbe.wa.gov/aaw.php).

### Long-Term Success of English Language Learners

The State Board of Education is working in collaboration with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish an English Language Learner (ELL) Accountability Framework to measure how well Transitional Bilingual Instruction Programs (TBIP) prepare students to transition out of the program and achieve career- and college-readiness. The goal is to better track the long-term sustainability of ELL students' performance.

The framework includes replacing the 'ELL' subgroup in the revised Achievement Index with an 'Ever ELL' subgroup, subject to federal approval. The 'ELL' subgroup consists **ONLY** of students currently in TBIPs. Once a student has met language proficiency standards they are graduated out of the ELL subgroup.

By contrast, an 'Ever ELL' subgroup would consist of current **AND** former ELL students. This approach allows the Index to get a true picture of the performance of ELLs, both during their time in an ELL program, as well as after they have exited the program.

## Recommended Next Generation Science Standards

At a recent meeting, the SBE was updated on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) review process, statewide support, assessment transition, bias and sensitivity workgroup, and standards comparative analysis.



And, after engaging in a panel discussion with representatives of science educators and employers, the board voted to recommend the Superintendent of Public Instruction approve Next Generation Science Standards.

NGSS are rich in content and practice, and arranged in a coherent manner across disciplines and grades to provide all students an internationally benchmarked science education.

You can learn more about Next Generation Science Standards at: [www.nextgenscience.org](http://www.nextgenscience.org).

## New on the Web

Over the last few months, we have updated all of our online presences.

- **Website:** We revamped the homepage and are converting PDFs to webpages to increase searchability.
- **Blog:** We transferred our blog to a more secure platform to protect our posts and our followers and commenters.
- **Facebook:** We updated the banner and avatar, added a comment policy and customized our URL.
- **Twitter:** We changed our username, updated the banner, avatar and description, and have requested to be verified.
- **YouTube:** We updated the banner and avatar, and have uploaded higher quality videos.

We hope you take advantage of these resources.

## Board Member Highlight - Deborah Wilds (Issaquah)



Deborah Wilds was appointed to the board in March 2013.

Dr. Wilds is the Chief Operating Officer of the College Success Foundation (CSF). The foundation has over 12 years of proven experience inspiring underserved, low-income students to finish high school and providing the unique integrated system of support and scholarships they need to graduate college and succeed in life.

Prior to 2006, Dr. Wilds was a senior program officer for education at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where she led efforts for the Gates Millennium Scholars Program, Gates Cambridge Scholars, and Washington State Achievers Program. She also oversaw the early college initiative creating 250 new early college high schools.

Dr. Wilds served as the deputy director of the American Council on Education's (ACE) Office of Minorities in Higher Education, in Washington, D.C. She has co-authored several books, written more than 20 articles, and co-authored ACE's Annual Status Report on Minorities in Higher Education. She was the co-founder and chair of the Board of Directors of New Era Education, an independent school and pre-school located in Baltimore, Maryland.

In addition to the SBE, Dr. Wilds currently serves on the boards of the College Success Foundation - DC, Washington State Mentors, Philanthropy Northwest, College Spark, The Corporation for Enterprise Development, UW Bothell Advisory, and the Seattle University Board of Regents.

Dr. Wilds has a Ph.D. in Education Policy, Planning, and Administration from the University of Maryland at College Park; a master's degree from Howard University; and a bachelor's degree from California State University, San Diego.

You can learn more about Dr. Wilds and other board members by visiting our [board member page](#).

## Next Board Meeting

November 14-15, 2013  
ESD 112 Office  
Vancouver, Washington

Meeting materials will be available on our [website](#) prior to the meeting.