



State Board of Education Spotlight

Volume XXXIII
April 2014

Governor Signs Graduation Requirements, Course Equivalencies, and Summer Learning Loss bills

On April 3, Governor Jay Inslee signed bills on three of the State Board of Education's 2014 legislative priorities:

- Authorization of a 24-credit career and college ready graduation requirement framework,
- Expansion of math and science course equivalencies for vocational programs, and
- Extended learning opportunities to combat summer learning loss.



Authorizing a Career & College Ready Diploma

This was a big day for the kids of Washington state and for the Board. We have been working toward a meaningful high school diploma that prepares students for their next step in life for nearly a decade. Increasing course expectations helps make the senior year a better "launching pad" for students' career and/or college aspirations.

The Board adopted a philosophy of upholding high graduation standards for all students, while also showing compassion and flexibility to students who need extra support to meet the standard. We believe [SB 6552](#) is fair and equitable. The final law includes flexibility in three areas:

- **Students** may have up to two credits waived to account for unusual circumstances or obstacles in their personal journey;
- **Districts** will no longer need to provide exactly 1080 hours in each of grades 7-12, but can demonstrate compliance in alternative ways; and
- **Communities**, who may need a little more time to prepare their students and schools for the higher standard before it presumptively takes effect for the Class of 2019, may apply for an extension for up to two years.

Combatting Summer Learning Loss

Summer learning loss is a real problem for many students, and can be detrimental to those already lagging behind. [SB 6163](#) creates the Expanded Learning Opportunities Council to look at a modified calendar and an action plan for a pilot program for an extended school year. A more balanced academic calendar will help combat summer learning loss and close the educational opportunity gap.

On behalf of the Washington State Board of Education,

Ben Rarick,
Executive Director

Stay in the Know!

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

Our [website](#) is updated daily, and we are on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#), and have a [blog](#). You can also sign up for our [ListSery](#) to ensure you stay well informed of the latest news in P-12 education.

Photo Gallery



Board members Connie Fletcher and Jeff Estes at their Senate Confirmation Hearing



Board members Deborah Wilds and Holly Koon at their Senate Confirmation Hearing

ELL Students Making Great Progress

In March, the Board announced [42 recipient schools](#) of the first ever English Language Acquisition Award, representing 26 districts from across the state.

The board created the language acquisition award at the March 2014 board meeting to recognize schools whose ELL students are making the greatest progress toward the goal of becoming proficient in English, which is a stepping stone to career and college-readiness.

Language acquisition is an indicator of school success and deserves to be acknowledged. We want to shine the light on what is working so it can be replicated across the state.

These schools not only deliver high quality instruction to all of their students, they also provide instructional services to support their ELL students, preparing them to transition out of language programs and achieve academic success.

The Board is developing a website where award-winning schools will be able to share their strategies and promising practices.

You can find out more about the English Language Acquisition Award at: http://www.sbe.wa.gov/ela_award.php

Improving School Discipline Practices

At the March board meeting, the Board voted to adopt a [school discipline resolution](#) affirming its commitment to improving school discipline practices in Washington.

The board pledges to collaborate with districts and communities to promote best practices, and explore incorporation of a discipline indicator in the Statewide Indicators of Educational System Health framework.

Being removed from the educational environment through in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or other discipline practices has been found to negatively impact a student's academic success.

Schools in Washington state disciplined more than 59,000 students in the 2012-13 school year. In Washington state students of color, low-income students, and special education students are suspended and expelled at higher rates.

In January, the U.S. Department of Education and Justice Department issued [school discipline guidance](#) that draws on emerging research and best practices to help guide state and local efforts to improve school climate and discipline policies with the goal of reducing disproportionality in discipline practices.

The board recognizes that efforts are already underway in many districts to improve discipline policies and practices. The board encourages districts to collect and examine local discipline data and policies to look for concerning patterns in discipline practices and for policies that may benefit from revision in light of the new federal guidance.



Governor Inslee signs SB 6552 - Graduation Requirements and Course Equivalencies



Governor Inslee signs SB 6163 - Summer Learning Loss

Interacting with Practitioners, Policy Makers and You

The Board has initiated several different ways to interact with practitioners, policy makers and the public.

Community Meetings

The Board convenes community meetings with local superintendents, school board members and legislators coinciding with our board meetings. So far we have had meetings in Yakima, Vancouver, Olympia, and Tukwila. Our next community meeting will be in Kennewick after the May board meeting.

Outreach and Education

Board members and staff regularly give presentations at meetings, workshops, seminars, and conferences.

Public Comment

Time for public comment is provided at all board meetings.

Contact Us

You can ask questions and share feedback with the Board through our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages, our [blog](#), and by emailing sbe@k12.wa.us or calling 360-725-6025.

Be in the Know

To stay up-to-date on all things SBE, sign up for our [ListServ](#) to receive news releases, blog posts, draft rules, meeting materials and highlights, announcements, and newsletters.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Board Member Highlight - Mara Childs (Student)



Mara is the current western Washington student Board representative. Mara is a junior at Shorecrest High School in Shoreline, Wash. As the daughter of a teacher in the Seattle Schools District, Mara has always been interested in the progress of education and how things can "work differently to be better for everyone." She hopes that her view from the standpoint of a student currently experiencing public education will be valuable input for the Board as it continues to reshape education in Washington.

Mara was just re-elected to be a class senator, and is also the new Key Club President. She also participates in varsity girls swimming, varsity girls water polo, the Shoreline/LFP Youth Court, the Chansons Vocal Ensemble, the Viva Voce Chorale, and the Shorecrest Chapter of the National Honors Society. Of her position, Mara says, "I'm very honored to have been appointed to a position that allows me to have the experience of working with these particular people and with this system - something I don't think many students get the opportunity to do."

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

Seeking Applicants for the School Facilities Citizen Advisory Panel

The Washington State Board of Education is now accepting applications for appointment to the School Facilities Citizen Advisory Panel (CAP). Those interested in this appointment may apply by submitting a letter of interest specifically addressing the qualifications listed in the [announcement](#) and a current resume to sbe@k12.wa.us by the closing date of Monday, April 21, 2014. Members will choose two appointees by vote at a State Board of Education meeting. The earliest that this could happen is at the May 8, 2014, board meeting in Kennewick.

If you have additional questions, please contact Gordon Beck, OSPI Director of School Facilities and Organization, at Gordon.beck@k12.wa.us or 360-725-6261.

More information about CAP can be found at:
www.k12.wa.us/SchFacilities/Advisory/default.aspx

Next Board Meeting

May 7-8, 2014
Kennewick School District
Kennewick, Washington

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