



State Board of Education Spotlight

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SBE Chair Signals Support for More Flexible Approach to New Instructional Hour Requirements

Chairwoman Dr. Kristina Mayer sent the below letter to Senate lawmakers signaling support for providing school districts more flexibility in meeting the new instructional hour requirements scheduled to take effect in the 2014-15 school year. The letter was in response to Senate Bill 6552, which would delay the increased instructional time requirements by one year, allow compliance with the requirement to be calculated as an average across all grades (rather than across specific grade bands or grades), and provide districts flexibility in how to deploy budgeted resources to best support a career and college-ready diploma, starting with the Class of 2019.

In the letter, Chair Mayer emphasizes the need to stay focused on the desired system outcome of career and college-readiness for all students, rather than focusing on inputs.

Dear Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:



On behalf of the State Board of Education, I would like to thank you for your work on authorizing the 24 credit Career and College-Ready graduation requirement framework for the Class of 2019.

Like you, we have heard concerns raised by school districts regarding the implementation of the 1080 hour instructional hour requirement for grades 7-12, contained in ESHB 2261 (2009) and set to take effect for the 2014-15 school year. The State Board of Education believes this bill represents a fair compromise - it provides the flexibility on "inputs" (the timing and the calculation of the instructional hours component) while preserving the outcome of improved postsecondary preparation through a meaningful high school diploma for the Class of 2019.

Career and college-readiness for our graduates is the ultimate policy goal. Several school district superintendents have indicated a support for the revised 24 credit framework, but need some flexibility to make sure resources can be strategically deployed to support this goal most effectively on a case by case basis. Instructional time is an important component of the program of basic education; however, we believe some flexibility in how this new requirement is met is warranted, given the delays experienced during the June 2013 special session of the Legislature, and unique circumstances of each district as they decide how best to modify course offerings for the Class of 2019, our current 7th graders.

The Board has worked hard on the framework to make it into something that school districts and other stakeholders can support. Ultimately, we believe providing the flexibility contained in Senate Bill 6552 gets us there. We ask for your support in passing Senate Bill 6552 as proposed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kristina Mayer,
Chair

UPDATE: [SB 6552](#) was voted out of the Senate and is on its way to the House.

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 also use [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and our [blog](#) to ensure you stay well informed of the latest news in P-12 education.

Photo Gallery



Board members talk with students at Clark County Skills Center



Executive Director Ben Rarick tours New Market Skills Center

2014 Legislative Priorities



At the January board meeting, the State Board of Education approved the list of 2014 Legislative Priorities we believe will improve outcomes for students.

Most notable is the modified graduation requirements framework. The Board made clear that it embraces a multiple pathways approach designed to prepare all students for postsecondary education and training. This represents a shift for the Board, which previously supported a default pathway approach tailored to 4-year university admission standards. The intent is to provide more flexibility, and greater integration of Career and Technical Education programs into the framework.

The Board also supports providing school districts more flexibility in meeting the new instructional hour requirement.

Make Ample Provision

Identify a reliable and dependable revenue funding source for K-12 education to support a robust response to the McCleary Court Order, and to fully implement the provisions of [ESHB 2261](#) and [SHB 2776](#).

Authorize Career & College Ready Diploma

The Board urges the Legislature to authorize implementation of the 24-credit career and college-ready graduation requirement framework that supports multiple pathways to postsecondary education and training, and living wage employment options. Changes should take effect for students who will be seniors during the 2018-19 school year (current 7th graders).

Subject	Requirements for the Class of 2016 & Beyond	Proposed Career- & College-Ready Graduation Requirements
English	4	4
Math	3	3
Science	2 (1 lab)	3 (2 lab)
Social Studies	3	3
Career and Technical Education ¹	1	1
Health and Fitness	2	2
Arts	1	2 (1 can be PPR)
General Electives	4	4
World Language (or) Personalized Pathway Requirement (PPR)		2 (Both can be PPR)
Total Credits	20	24²

Personalized Pathway Requirement are related courses that lead to a specific post high school career or educational outcome chosen by the student based on the student's interests and High School and Beyond Plan, that may include Career and Technical Education, and are intended to provide a focus for the student's learning.

¹ Or 1 Occupational Education credit, as defined in WAC 180-51-067.

² Up to 2 credits can be waived locally for students who have attempted 24 credits.

Expand Math & Science Equivalencies

The Board urges the Legislature to direct the development of statewide model course modules and frameworks that allow students to fulfill math and science credit requirements at skill centers and other high school programs across the state. The Board has an interest in ensuring that these credit equivalency opportunities are offered in an equitable manner across the state.

Restore Professional Development

The Board urges the Legislature to restore funding for three Learning Improvement Days (LID) to support the professional development needs of educators to implement new state policy reforms, including new educator evaluation models, and Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards.



Board member Connie Fletcher at the Golden Apple Awards

Dedicated professional development time will ease the strain on families and children created by the proliferation of half or partial school days, and will reverse the erosion of instructional time that has resulted from the underfunding of professional development.

Combat Summer Learning Loss

Summer learning loss is a real problem for many students, and can be detrimental to those already lagging behind. Most students lose about two months of grade level equivalency in math over the summer, and low-income students also lose more than two months in reading. More than half of the achievement gap between lower- and higher income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities. The Board urges the Legislature to work toward a balanced academic calendar to combat summer learning loss and close the educational opportunity gap.

More information about our 2014 Legislative Priorities, and progress of bills related to them, can be found on our website at:
www.sbe.wa.gov/legislative.php.

On behalf of the Washington State Board of Education,



Ben Rarick,
Executive Director

Eight Charter Schools Certified

The State Board of Education recently certified Washington state's first charter schools. One was approved by Spokane Public Schools, the other seven were approved by the Washington State Charter School Commission.

Certified Charter Schools:

- **Excel Public Charter School**, Kent, opening 2015-2016
- **First Place Scholars Charter School**, Seattle, opening 2014-2015
- **Green Dot Public Schools**, Tacoma, opening 2015-2016
- **PRIDE Prep Charter School**, Spokane, opening 2015-2016
- **Rainier Prep**, South Seattle, opening 2015-2016
- **SOAR Academy**, Tacoma, opening 2015-2016
- **Summit Public Schools - Olympus**, Tacoma, opening 2015-2016
- **Summit Public Schools - Sierra**, South Seattle, 2015-2016

Teacher of the Year

The State Board of Education recognized Washington's 2014 Teacher of the Year Katie Brown at last month's meeting.



Brown was named Washington's 2014 Teacher of the Year by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. She has taught at Shuksan Middle School in Bellingham for the last 11 years, first as a social studies and language arts teacher and the last two years as an English language learner (ELL) specialist.

Brown has implemented a series of very successful ELL family nights where families once hidden in shadows can build community, ask questions about school curriculum and stay informed about their child's education - even across many different languages.

Brown has devoted herself to helping her colleagues learn the practice of the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol and cheering them on daily. Under her direction, the percent of ELL students passing the Reading MSP is up 20 points in just one year.

Congratulations Katie Brown!

Board Member Highlight

We said goodbye to three board members at the January meeting -- Mary Jean Ryan, Phyllis Bunker Frank and Jeff Vincent.

We truly appreciate the considerable time and energy they devoted to the State Board of Education and we hope that it has been a rewarding experience.

Bunker Frank is the longest-serving board member in recent history. She has tirelessly championed to bring a balanced academic calendar to the students of Washington state.

Ryan served as Chair of the SBE and worked to make graduation requirements more rigorous so all students are prepared for continued training or education that leads to gainful employment.

Vincent also served as Chair of the SBE, and was a member of the Joint Task Force on Education Funding.

Again, we thank them for their service and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.



2013 board members

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

Next Board Meeting

March 5-6, 2014
Puget Sound ESD
Renton, Washington

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