



## State Board of Education Spotlight

Volume XXXIV  
June 2014

### Raising the Bar for Students and Adults

Now is an exciting time in Washington public schools. We are raising the bar of achievement in several meaningful ways.

The Legislature has implemented a 24-credit career and college-ready diploma beginning with the Class of 2019. This more meaningful diploma prepares all students for college or job training after high school. In most districts, this new standard will apply beginning with the 7th graders who just cleaned out their lockers for the summer.



Not only have the credit expectations increased, but so have state content standards. The Legislature has required a series of new assessments based on the rigorous Common Core State Standards. Under current law, students will need to pass a test based on these standards in order to graduate, also beginning with the Class of 2019 – that same 7th grade cohort.

It's clear: the bar has been raised for our soon-to-be 8th graders, and for every graduating class thereafter. But they can't be the only ones: we all need to do more. We shouldn't expect students to 'jump higher' without improving the necessary supports provided by adults.

On the State Board of Education, we share a belief that all students have a right to be challenged with rigorous curriculum, because students are capable of far more than they realize. I want you to know, I have the same faith in our state legislators. I believe our Legislature is capable of fulfilling its constitutional duty to make ample provision for our schools, and following through on the school funding enhancements that are promised in law, but have not yet been delivered for our students.

To be sure, the Legislature faces political challenges in meeting the Supreme Court's new higher bar of school funding. But I ask, are these challenges more daunting than those faced by our students? Our legislators can find inspiration from our immigrant students, many of whom rise to the incredible challenge of learning English and demonstrating mastery of academic standards at the same time. Our dual-credit students meeting the new high school graduation requirements, while still finding time to earn college credits or industry certification. Or our homeless or foster youth, many of whom complete college-preparatory course-work and prepare for post-secondary education, all while struggling to maintain stable housing.

Albert Einstein once wrote to a fan: "Do not worry about your difficulties in Mathematics. I can assure you mine are still greater." Our students might say the same about the Legislature's political obstacles in school funding -- we acknowledge your challenges, but ours are still greater.

Raising the bar for high school graduation was the right thing to do. But it was never meant to be the only thing to do. Let's raise the bar for students and adults, and send an important message that when it comes to raising the bar of student achievement, the road to accountability is a two-way street.

Dr. Kristina Mayer,  
Board Chair

### 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 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 [ListServ](#) to ensure you stay well informed of the latest news in P-12 education.

### Photo Gallery



New board member Jeff Estes sworn in



Saying good bye to student member Eli and welcoming new student member Madaleine

## Proposed Rules to Implement E2SSB 6552

At its May 8, 2014 meeting, the State Board of Education approved for publication and public hearing proposed rules to implement E2SSB 6552 - Improving student success by increasing instructional hour and graduation requirements.

We are seeking public comments on these proposed rules. We encourage you to review the [proposed rules](#) and submit any comments or questions you may have by contacting us at [sbe@k12.wa.us](mailto:sbe@k12.wa.us), 360-725-6025, or State Board of Education, P.O. Box 47206, Olympia, WA 98504.

### Public Hearing

The Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed rules at the July 9, 2014 meeting from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at ESD 101, Conference Center, 4202 South Regal Street, Spokane, WA 99223.

**Find more** information about the proposed rules at:

[www.sbe.wa.gov/rulemaking.php](http://www.sbe.wa.gov/rulemaking.php)

## Recent Board Decisions

At the May board meeting, the Board adopted or approved the following:

- Location Change for the July 8-9, 2015 Board Meeting
- Emergency Rules on Required Action Plan Approval
- Required Action Plan Evaluation Process
- Draft Rules for Publication to Implement E2SSB 6552
- Member Appointment to the Expanded Learning Opportunities Council
- Member Appointments to the School Facilities Citizen Advisory Panel
- Basic Education Waiver Requests from Bainbridge Island, Lopez Island, Orient, Shoreline, Sunnyside, Federal Way, and Napavine School Districts
- Letter to the Washington Student Achievement Council Concerning High School Graduation Requirements in Science and College Admission Standards

**Find more** information about the meeting in the [May Board Meeting Highlights](#).

## Board Member Highlight - Peter Maier (Seattle) - Elected



Peter Maier has been on the Board since May 2013. He worked on K-12 education policy issues for many years. He lives in Seattle, where he attended Seattle Public Schools as did both of his children. He was deeply involved in their schools' PTAs and was twice awarded a PTSA Golden Acorn.

Peter was active in the I-728 initiative campaign (personally collecting more than 1,000 signatures). He then began working on school levy campaigns and twice led successful levy campaigns in Seattle, serving as President of Schools First Coalition (Seattle's levy campaign committee) from 2002 to 2007.



Chair Kristina Mayer with student art show winner Morgan Haberlack



Student's winning artwork "Rainbow Fish"

Peter was elected to the Seattle School Board in 2007 and served a full term until 2011. While on the Seattle School Board he was the board representative to WSSDA and often advocated on behalf of schools in Olympia as the board's legislative liaison.

**Learn more** about Peter and our other board members by visiting our [board member page](#).

## Have a Question or Comment for SBE?

We are here to answer your questions and listen to your input. You can contact us by emailing [sbe@k12.wa.us](mailto:sbe@k12.wa.us) or calling 360-725-6025.

You can also ask questions and share feedback with the Board through [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and our [blog](#).

### 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 announcements, materials and highlights, and this newsletter.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

**Learn more** about how to connect with us at: [www.sbe.wa.gov/contact.php](http://www.sbe.wa.gov/contact.php)

## Next Board Meeting - Date, Location, Topics

July 9-10, 2014  
Educational Service District 101  
Spokane, Washington

### Discussion Topics for Meeting include:

- Review of Required Action Plans from Marysville, Wellpinit, Yakima, and Tacoma School Districts
- Public Hearing on Proposed Rules to Implement E2SSB 6552
- Discuss 2015-2019 Strategic Plan Strategic Plan
- Basic Education Act Waiver Requests
- School Discipline Policy
- Course Equivalency Options for Satisfying Math & Science Credit Requirements through CTE Coursework
- Implementation of TPEP
- Possible Amendments to Charter School Rules

**Find more** meeting materials on our [website](#) a week prior to the meeting.