

October 17, 2012 Special Board Meeting Highlights

On October 17, the State Board of Education (SBE) hosted a special Board meeting in Olympia, Washington.

During the meeting, members discussed the following:

- The October 10 Achievement and Accountability Workgroup meeting.
- Performance indicators for possible inclusion in a revised Achievement Index.

THE OCTOBER 10 ACHIEVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY WORKGROUP MEETING

Board members discussed the outcomes of the initial Achievement and Accountability Workgroup (AAW) meeting, held in Renton, Washington, on October ten. The AAW, comprised of representatives from 22 different stakeholder agencies, will play a vital role of informing SBE and the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) in the development of a revised Achievement Index.

Workgroup members' discussions focused primarily on Achievement Index design options related to the following:

- The selection of performance indicators for the revised Achievement Index (including proficiency, growth, and career and college readiness indicators).
- The assigned weights of tested subjects in a revised Index.
- The disaggregation of data by student subgroup.

SBE staff, working with AAW members, will produce a feedback report following each AAW session. Available on the SBE website three weeks after the AAW session date (October 21), the feedback report will assist the Board as they progress to the November Board meeting and an anticipated adoption of performance indicators for the revised Achievement Index.

Board members expressed appreciation for both the important work of the AAW representatives during the October 10 session and the valuable input AAW members will continue to provide in the coming months.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance indicators are major accountability measures aligned with the goals of the system. As an example, the current Index is primarily an "academic proficiency"-based Index – looking mostly at objective levels of student performance on state assessments. The Index also includes an improvement component that recognizes increases in scores, comparing different groups of children in a school, from one school year to the next.

Washington's Elementary and Secondary Act flexibility waiver will require the revised Index to also include student growth measures and data disaggregated by student sub groups.

With assistance from the AAW, SBE and OSPI will revise the Achievement Index and incorporate the required changes including additional indicators to better support a statewide accountability framework.

Board members reviewed AAW members' input and staff recommendations on performance indicators for the revised Index, including the following:

- How should achievement gaps be measured in the new Index? For example, should achievement gaps be measured by proficiency, growth, or some combination?
- What indicators should be included as part of career and college readiness? The current Index only utilizes graduation rates. Should the revised Index incorporate additional measures?
- Should we continue to include "improvement" as an indicator in the new system? Should improvement focus on proficiency or growth?
- What weight should the revised Index give to the subjects tested? The current Index weighs all tests equally. What would be the rationale and implications for shifting allocations?
- How should subgroups be delineated in the Index? The current Index uses combined subgroups (also known as super subgroups) to address race/ethnicity gaps in the Index. However, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the revised Index disaggregate data using Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) subgroups. ESEA is approving the use of combined subgroups (super subgroups) only if the combination results in the inclusion of more students in the accountability system. What are the merits of developing an Index that disaggregates subgroup data by ESEA subgroups, super subgroups, or by ESEA subgroups except where the low N size masks in a subgroup prevents those students from being included in the accountability system?

The next State Board of Education meeting will be November 8–9 in Vancouver, Washington, at the Educational Service District 112.

Visit our website (sbe.wa.gov) for additional information and Board meeting materials, or call the Board office at: 360-725-6025.