

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

HEARING TYPE: X INFORMATION/NO ACTION

DATE: JANUARY 25–26, 2007

SUBJECT: **MEANINGFUL HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA**

SERVICE UNIT: State Board of Education
 Edie, Harding, Executive Director

PRESENTER: Edie Harding, Executive Director
 State Board of Education

BACKGROUND:

The Board is required to provide recommendations on a Meaningful High School Diploma to the Legislature by December 2007. This requirement grew out of concerns that career and technical education programs may be getting squeezed out of high school programs with the current focus on English and mathematics. In the Board work plan last fall, the Board decided to expand this topic area (which was not specifically cited in the law) to look at the “who” in topics such as mathematics, science, creativity and the arts, and tribal history. In addition, as part of the Gates grant, the Board will be looking in depth at our current mathematics and science standards and high school graduation requirements to determine what changes we might want to make. We will also engage in a public outreach effort on all of these issues.

A briefing memo is provided for you on the status in Washington State and other states on: high school graduation requirements, alignment with college admission requirements, and different kinds of diplomas. In addition, descriptions of several frameworks are provided that the Board and Meaningful High School Diploma Subcommittee may want to consider in more detail. Finally, some vision and policy questions are posed for the Board and Subcommittee’s consideration.

We have also included a PowerPoint by the Education Trust on “No Time to Waste: Getting Serious about High School Transformation.” Katy Haycock from the Education Trust just presented much of this information at the OSPI January Conference. The bottom line: we have a moral imperative to address the achievement gap between students.