



# WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

## MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH TRIBAL LEADER CONGRESS ON EDUCATION

### SUMMARY OF POLICY ISSUE /STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (SBE) STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The Board was asked formally, through a Memorandum of Agreement with the Tribal Leader Congress on Education (TLC), to reach a decision on including Tribal history, culture, and government as a graduation requirement by December 1, 2007. In November 2007, the Board extended the deadline to December 2008, in order to allow sufficient time for the Board to develop a comprehensive graduation requirements policy framework.

### BACKGROUND

The Board reviewed two different versions of a resolution regarding the Memorandum of Agreement at the November 2008 meeting. The Board directed staff to make changes, combine the two resolutions into one, and meet with the Tribal Leader Congress on Education (TLC) in advance of the next meeting to receive feedback on the revised resolution. A copy of the revised draft resolution is included with the packet.

### EXPECTED ACTION

Four Board members were scheduled to meet with the TLC on December 19, but the TLC cancelled the meeting due to weather. If a meeting can be held prior to the Board's January meeting, a resolution will be brought forward for action. Otherwise, action will be delayed until the Board can get input from the TLC.



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## Tribal History and Government DRAFT Resolution – December 9, 2008

### *A Response to the Memorandum of Agreement with the Tribal Leaders Congress on Education*

WHEREAS, in the spirit of enhancing government-to-government relationships, the State Board of Education (SBE) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Tribal Leaders Congress on Education to reach a decision on including Tribal history, culture, and government as a graduation requirement; and,

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has consulted with representatives of the Tribal Leaders Congress on Education to determine ways the State Board of Education can most effectively support the teaching and learning of tribal history and government; and,

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has reviewed the state law that encourages the inclusion of information on the culture, history, and government of the American Indian peoples, and the state's social studies education standards (essential academic learning requirements and grade level expectations) that specify that students should understand tribal treaties, treaty-making, government, territories, sovereignty, and growth prior to, and after, encounter; and,

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education rule (180-51-061) requires minimum graduation social studies credit requirements to align with grade level expectations at grade ten or above and stipulates that any course in Washington state history and government used to fulfill high school graduation requirements shall consider including information on the culture, history, and government of the American Indian peoples who were the first inhabitants of the state; and,

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has reviewed the sovereignty curriculum being developed by the Office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and members of the Tribal Leaders Congress on Education;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education will join with the Tribal Leaders Congress on Education in advocating that the legislature provide funding to support the broad implementation of the sovereignty curriculum that would include, for districts interested in implementing the curriculum, funding for materials, professional development on the curriculum, and evaluation; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the State Board of Education encourages OSPI to build upon the current social studies essential academic learning requirements and grade level expectations to include tribal sovereignty, and take positive steps to ensure that schools are assessing students' opportunities to learn tribal sovereignty; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the State Board of Education commits to work with the Professional Educator Standards Board and the Higher Education Coordinating Board to encourage teacher education preparation programs to introduce pre-service teachers to the sovereignty curriculum.

Adopted: (date)

Attest:

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Mary Jean Ryan, Chair