

Dear partner in education:

This is our first e-newsletter -- one of our efforts to better communicate with all of our partners in education, from parents, students and educators, to business and community leaders. We are eager to bring you updates on our work to help improve student achievement and provide all students the opportunity to succeed in postsecondary education, the 21st century workforce, and citizenship.

Right now, SBE is working on four key initiatives: creating world-class math standards, creating exemplary science standards, improving graduation requirements to better prepare students for life after high school and creating a system of accountability to ensure no student falls through the cracks.

We hope you'll find these e-newsletters informative and we look forward to working with you.

Edie Harding
Executive Director

Sharing responsibility to provide a high quality education to all students

In 2005, the state Legislature directed SBE to create a statewide system of accountability to improve student achievement. SBE is considering a system of accountability that includes:

- Clear, appropriate indicators and measurements to monitor progress of the education system.
- A continuous improvement assistance program for *all* Washington schools and districts.
- Criteria to identify schools and districts in which students are successful, need assistance, or consistently fail to meet state standards; and proposals to create targeted state/local partnerships to help improve student achievement.

This spring, SBE is conducting two studies to better understand the policy barriers schools and districts face to improving student achievement and to develop state/local partnership models to help schools and districts boost student achievement.

One of the primary goals of the accountability system is to ensure that schools get the resources they need to improve student achievement. SBE is committed to advocating for our schools and students!

[Learn more>>](#)

Get to know your board members

Learn more about our key initiatives

- [A Meaningful High School Diploma:](#) preparing students for life after high school no matter what path they choose.
- [World-class math:](#) providing students with the math foundation they need to succeed.
- [Exemplary science:](#) fostering science education to expand students' minds and broaden horizons.
- [Accountability:](#) providing assistance to schools and districts so that no student falls through the cracks.

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Join Our Mailing List!

Amy Bragdon, Newman Lake (Spokane)

Ms. Bragdon retired from West Valley School District after serving 33 years in education as a teacher and later as an elementary principal, middle school principal and high school assistant principal. She taught at Eastern Washington University for several years and was recently a member of their Principal Professional Education Advisory Board. Ms. Bragdon says: "This is an exciting time for education. As we focus on Washington's future, we have a tremendous responsibility to ensure that our children have the very best in educational opportunities to be globally competitive. The challenges are many, but together we can make it happen."

Community Meetings

SBE will be holding three community meetings on Meaningful High School Diploma and System Performance Accountability. The focus of these meetings is to review SBE's work to revise high school graduation requirements to better prepare students for life after high school - in gainful employment, postsecondary education and citizenship. The meetings will also address the state Legislature's directive to SBE to create a statewide system of accountability to improve student achievement and ensure no student falls through the cracks.

Meeting Dates:

- Monday, June 2nd, 4:00 - 6:00 PM - Spokane
- Tuesday, June 3rd, 4:00 - 6:00 PM - Yakima
- Wednesday, June 4th, 3:30 - 5:30 PM - Seattle

Meeting locations and additional details will be sent out in the coming week and will be posted [here](#).

Please join us to share your input and perspectives.

We want to hear from you!

We hope you'll join us for our Board meeting May 14th -15th in Bellingham. Click [here](#) for the meeting agenda and location.

E-mail your thoughts and questions to SBE at sbe@k12.wa.us.