

The Washington State Board of Education

Governance | Achievement | High School & College Preparation |
Math & Science | Effective Workforce

State Board of Education Spotlight

Volume XXII
June 2011

Greetings!

During our July Board meeting, we will be engaged in several of our strategic plan goals, including exploring what part state level governance plays in creating and maintaining an education system that supports the conditions that make education work for every student. We will also be taking a closer look at teacher and principal evaluation pilots and online schools.

July also marks a time of transition for the Board. Our former Executive Director, Edie Harding, resigned from the Board in May to take a position with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. I am serving as our Interim Executive Director while we conduct a search for a replacement. The Board will also be filling two recent Board member vacancies (one elected, one appointed) in the coming weeks.

The transition period has not hampered the State Board of Education's commitment to increasing student success through policy leadership, advocacy, and strategic oversight of K-12 education. Our strategic plan goals encompass five key areas: advocacy for effective and accountable education governance, closing the academic achievement gap, increasing student enrollment and success in secondary and postsecondary education, promoting effective strategies in math and science, and advocating for an effective teacher and leader workforce.

We will continue to work on these five goals in the coming months. I encourage you to join us, if not in person, than through our website and social networks to stay abreast of the Board's work. We are always interested in any questions, concerns, or ideas you may have on how we might move ahead to make Washington one of the premiere P-20 educational systems in the nation.

On behalf of the Board, we hope you have a fun and relaxing summer!

Kathe Taylor

Stay in the Know!



This e-newsletter is just one of the many ways to make sure you have the latest education news.

Our [website](#) is updated daily, and we also make good use of [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [RSS feeds](#), and our [YouTube channel](#) to ensure you stay abreast of the latest news in P-12 education.

Get connected and stay in the know!



The Washington State
Board of Education
[Website](#)

Policy Director and Interim Executive Director

Education Governance - Moving Forward

At the March Board meeting, members began an investigation of possible statewide education governance models. The work included a review of a comprehensive staff report on national and international trends in education governance (available under the March 9-10, 2011, meeting materials on the home page of our [website](#)).

The Board will use most of its retreat time at the July Board meeting to explore governance more deeply and to determine how to engage stakeholders in a discussion of the state's educational governance system. The Board remains committed to developing and supporting policy designed to maximize student achievement.

Agenda items and materials for the Board's July discussion will be available on the website by July 6.

World Language Proficiency Update

Over 20 students signed up and participated in Washington World Language Assessment Days in April and May at the University of Washington Language Learning Center. They completed the Standards-Based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP) test in Spanish, German, Japanese, and Chinese (Traditional or Simplified Characters). OSPI and SBE jointly issued certificates commending the students' participation and accomplishments.

Students came from both middle schools and high schools in Auburn, Anacortes, Bainbridge, Redmond, Seattle, and Tacoma. All of the students demonstrated proficiency ratings in Reading, Writing, and Speaking high enough to warrant being recommended for high school competency-based credits in World Languages (from 1-4 credits/Carnegie Units). Many of the students were English Language Learners who were able to demonstrate proficiency in their home language in order to potentially earn high school credits (each district must agree to award credits based on demonstrated competency). To date, three districts (Seattle, Mount Adams, and North Thurston) have adopted the sample world language competency-

based policy that WSSDA, OSPI, and SBE collaborated to create. You can see a copy of the sample policy and procedure [here](#).

OSPI's partner, the Washington Association for Language Teaching (WAFLT), plans to schedule additional World Language Assessment Days at locations around the state this summer and fall. Check the [World Languages website](#) for dates or contact [Michele Aoki](#). (Thanks to Michele Aoki, OSPI's World Languages Program Supervisor, for her contribution to this article.)

Graduation Requirements

In 2010, the Board approved a new career and college-ready graduation requirements framework, and presented it to the 2011 Legislature and Quality Education Council. The Board will review draft rules at its September meeting that will likely include the following changes:

- Increase English from 3 to 4 credits.
- Increase social studies from 2.5 to 3 credits (adding .5 credit of civics per [RCW 28A.230.093](#)).
- Decrease electives from 5.5 to 4 credits.
- Make Washington State History a noncredit requirement.
- Substitute a non time-based definition of a credit for the current time-based definition.
- Add biology as a required science class in order to meet federal NCLB guidelines.

The total state-mandated credits would remain at 20. The state's economic recession and resulting budget cuts have put full implementation of the Board's 24-credit proposal on hold.

The 2011 Legislature passed new bills relating to statewide assessments required for graduation. Based on these changes, and in addition to meeting proficiency in the reading and writing state assessments:

- The classes of 2013 and 2014 must pass one math end-of-course assessment (or alternative).
- The classes of 2015 and beyond must pass two math end-of-course assessments (or alternatives).
- Beginning with the class of 2015, students must pass one biology end-of-course assessment.

Graduation Statistics

The [new OSPI report](#) on Washington graduation and dropout statistics is available, with some encouraging results.

In 2010, 82.6 percent of students graduated in more than four years, up from 79.2 percent of students in 2009.

Students who are showing increased extended graduation rates include:

- Black, Hispanic, and American Indian students.
- Students receiving Special Education Support.
- Migrant students.

Students whose extended graduation rates are not improving include:

- Pacific Islander students.
- Students who are limited English proficient.

Student Video Contest - It's a Wrap!

We are excited to share the winning student videos from our 2011 State Board of Education Student Video Contest.

This year, students created films supporting the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM), and Career and Technical Education (CTE).

A total of 25 high school teams submitted videos to the contest.

The winning videos are featured on the [student video contest page](#) on our website. Shorewood High School and Arlington High School claimed first place in the documentary and creative categories, respectively. Second place teams included students from Deerpark and Kentwood High Schools. All 25 entries and more can be found on our [YouTube Channel](#).

Board Member Highlight - Matthew Spencer - Student Representative

Matthew Spencer, a junior at Woodinville High School in Woodinville, Washington, is the new student representative

to the Washington State Board of Education.

Board membership calls for two student representatives, one from eastern and one from western Washington. Matthew is replacing outgoing western Washington student representative Anna Laura Kastama, a recent graduate of the Tacoma School of the Arts, who ended her two-year term with the Board this May. Matthew will join the current eastern Washington student representative Jared Costanzo, a senior at Chiawana High School in Pasco. Jared is serving his second and final year as a student member.

Matthew is hopeful his insights will help the Board as they continue to work on behalf of K-12 students. "I will have the opportunity to provide the perspective of a student who experiences educational reform policies and requirements daily," said Matthew.

You can learn more about Matthew and other Board members by visiting our [Board member roster](#).

Upcoming Board Meeting

July 13-14, 2011

[Holiday Inn Express](#)
8606 36th Ave NE
Marysville, WA
360.530.1234

Meeting materials are available on our website prior to the meeting. Email your thoughts and questions to SBE at sbe@k12.wa.us.