



THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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PRIVATE SCHOOL APPROVAL FOR FUSION ACADEMY

Prepared for the August 2018 special Board meeting

Background

Fusion Academy received provisional approval as a new private school at the May 2018 Board meeting for the 2018-2019 school year. Approval was provisional to give the school time to correct two major deviations identified by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). The school facility, located in Seattle, Washington, did not yet have a health and fire inspection, and the school did not yet employ a Washington state certified teacher. The Board's provisional approval was based on the school reporting on a plan and progress towards correcting the deviations to the Board no later than November 1, 2018.

The school would like to open a satellite campus in Bellevue in addition to the school in Seattle. The school plans to submit an amended application that includes both campuses. OSPI will review the amended application, and if it is complete and appears accurate, recommend provisional approval. Health and fire inspections will need to be conducted on both school facilities.

Although not specified in current rule, it has been the practice of OSPI, based on a discussion by the Private School Advisory Committee, to ask schools that have satellite campuses in different cities to submit separate applications for each location. Fusion Academy indicated in a letter to SBE they were not aware of this practice until after their provisional approval and would not be able to submit a separate application in time for classes starting in the fall. In the future, the Board may wish to clarify in rule a policy regarding applications from schools with satellite campuses.

Action

At the August 2018 special Board meeting the Board will consider provisional approval of the amended application from Fusion Academy. As in May, provisional approval should be based on the school reporting back to the Board on progress toward correcting the deviations no later than November 1, 2018.

If you have questions about this memo contact Linda Drake at linda.drake@k12.wa.us.