



Washington State Legislature

May 8, 2018

State Board of Education
Old Capitol Building
600 Washington St. S.E.
Olympia, WA 98501

State Board of Education,

As Chairs and Ranking Members of the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee and the House Education Committee, we understand that RCW 28A.657.110(3) requires the State Board of Education (SBE) – in cooperation with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) – to annually recognize schools for exemplary performance as measured on the Washington Achievement Index, now the Washington School Improvement Framework (WaSIF); and that it further requires SBE to have ongoing collaboration with the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC) regarding the indicators used to measure the closing of the achievement gaps and the recognition provided to the school districts for closing the achievement gaps.

We further understand that with the transition from the Achievement Index to the WaSIF, the SBE is leading an effort to explore new methodologies and define new qualifying criteria for recognition; and that throughout the course of formal and informal dialogues amongst SBE, OSPI, and EOGOAC in recent months, the three entities concur that it is in the state school system's best interest to suspend school recognition in 2018 as it adjusts to the new federal and state school accountability system, WaSIF.

We support the suspension of school recognitions for this year and urge EOGOAC, OSPI, and SBE to develop meaningful short and long term achievement gap measures, school recognition criteria, and an identification methodology to be applied to the winter 2019 WaSIF.

Sincerely,

Senator Lisa Wellman, Chair
Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education
Committee

Senator Hans Zeiger, Ranking Member
Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education
Committee

Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos, Chair
House Education Committee

Representative Paul Harris, Ranking Member
House Education Committee