



Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Chris Reykdal, State Superintendent

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To: Randy Spaulding, Executive Director  
Washington State Board of Education

From: Tennille Jeffries-Simmons, Assistant Superintendent *TJS*  
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, System and School Improvement

SUBJECT: 2019–2020 RAD Implementation

The following update on Required Action District (RAD) programming provides an advance on OSPI's May 8, 2019, presentation to the State Board of Education (SBE) in response to a Board request.

In May of 2018, SBE released Marysville, Soap Lake, Tacoma, Wellpinit, and Yakima from RAD status. The motion, captured in exhibit K of that meeting's materials, released these districts and also reflected assurances from OSPI to provide Marysville, Wellpinit, and Yakima school districts with RAD-like supports (funding) and monitoring during the 2018–2019 school year. The specified districts received supports and monitoring commensurate with these assurances, although released from Required Action.

For the 2019–20 school year, OSPI plans to continue some funding and supports for the schools in the three districts listed above (Marysville, Wellpinit, and Yakima). These funds will be in addition to comprehensive school improvement supports and are being made available to these districts as a final transition out of Required Action. Local school budget development; decisions around staffing levels, hiring, and work plans; and the implementation of state policy suggests a removal of funding and supports for 2019–2020 would undermine the sustainability of local school improvement efforts. OSPI has confirmed that none of these formerly RAD schools/districts would be identified for RAD supports using the new identification process reflected in revised rules which took effect April 29, 2019. The State Board previewed and provided feedback on the enacted revisions during its January 2019 Board meeting. SBE and OSPI staff partnered closely on the revisions.

Consistent with the framing above, OSPI's May 8<sup>th</sup> presentation on Required Action Districts will include a recommendation for the 2019–2020 school year as a transition; OSPI's plan for how to utilize the transition year as a well implemented and effective transition will also be shared.

OSPI's recommendation also considers the collaboration of the joint SBE/OSPI workgroup on Required Action Districts and State Board feedback throughout the process to revise Required Action rules. Both efforts included significant discussion of SBE and OSPI interests and intersecting authority related to Required Action. Joint workgroup members included: Alan Burke, Holly Koon, Peter Maier, Randy Spaulding, Andrew Parr, Kaaren Hikkeš, Michaela Miller,

Deb Came, and Tennille Jeffries-Simmons. The following considerations will be supported by OSPI's recommendation:

- a connection to the new school improvement framework;
- a move toward RAD as a resource that encourages system solutions;
- a more precise, transparent, and meaningful identification process to ensure the substantial RAD resource is directed to schools and districts that need it most;
- a higher touch support from OSPI leaders, in addition to the statutorily required consultant groups; and
- the development of a RAD plan which is sustainable and more likely to lead to improvement for student outcomes.

OSPI's recommendation on May 8<sup>th</sup> will include using the identification process outlined in rule to identify a Required Introductory Cohort (RIC); doing so is an important element of OSPI's plan to intentionally utilize the transition. This cohort of schools/districts will be provided both funding (in addition to comprehensive supports, but less than full RAD funding) and additional access to OSPI improvement leaders for the 2019–20 school year to develop a meaningful, powerful RAD plan.

This will entail collaboration between OSPI school improvement contractors, the Office of System and School Improvement, the district, and the school leadership. OSPI has seen a similar model utilized by the Massachusetts Department of Education, which has strong indications for successful application in Washington. Using this approach will:

- result in effective, thoughtful, and articulate RAD planning that OSPI leadership knows more deeply;
- allow OSPI to more precisely fund the district when they become designated as RAD in March of 2020;
- nearly eliminate the possibility that the RAD plan (due 40 days after designation) will be in dispute, avoiding costly delay to the start of full RAD implementation; and
- set the district up to begin full implementation when their full RAD funding is made available.

Finally, OSPI will provide the twice-annual report to SBE as required during the 2019–20 school year as the development of the plans emerge, sharing with SBE the discovery of root causes and the investment of time and resource from across OSPI, OSPI contractors, the district, and the school.

Please let us know if you would like additional information or would like to clarify anything above.

Thank you.