

COVID-19 Policy Response & Legislative Priorities July 2020 Board Meeting



Timeline

May

- Board discussed COVID-19 challenges and policy response options
- Legislative wrap-up and interim planning

June

Board work session on COVID-19 challenges and policy response options

July

- Continue discussion of COVID-19 challenges and policy response options
- Discuss legislative requests, focusing on the most pressing issues

Sep.

- Finalize 2021-23 budget and legislative requests for regular 2021 session
- Discuss 2021 legislative platform

Nov.

Adopt 2021 legislative platform



Discussion themes

- Serve as foundation for legislative platform
- Priorities to be developed between now and November adoption
- Examples for further development and consideration:
 - Elevate student, family, and community voices in policymaking
 - Put student and staff well-being at the forefront
 - Ensure digital equity to support continuous learning
 - Build supports and incentives to promote mastery-based learning
 - Protect K-12 funding from budget cuts



Pressing issues

- Minimum instructional hours and days requirements
- Graduation pathways requirement
- Credit graduation requirements



Ideas under consideration

Rulemaking concepts

- Instructional hours and days for the 2020-21 school year
- Private school online programs
- Mastery-based crediting
- Multidisciplinary approaches to meeting subject area graduation requirements
- Flexibility for WA State History requirement

Potential legislative requests

- Graduation pathways flexibility
- Credit graduation requirements flexibility
- + Longer term ideas



Rulemaking proposals

RULEMAKING TIMELINE

Public school basic education access requirements

Board to likely adopt emergency rules to take effect July 10 and approve proposed permanent rules for future filing July 9

Public hearing
October 28

Emergency rules end, permanent rules take effect

December

September 23

File proposed rulemaking notice (CR-102), proposed rules shared with public

November 5

Board to consider and likely adopt rules adoption of final rule (CR-103)

RULEMAKING TIMELINE

Private school minimum requirements and graduation requirement flexibilities

Board approved initiation of rulemaking process - filed the preproposal statement of inquiry (CR-101)

June 17

Public hearing (date TBD)

August/Sept.

Rules take effect soon after filing

October

July 9

Board to consider and likely adopt proposed rules - file proposed rulemaking notice (CR-102), proposed rules shared with public

Sept. 15-17

Board to consider and likely adopt rules adoption of final rule (CR-103)





- SBE has statutory authority on access, compliance, and implementation of the Program of Basic Education
- Social distancing, school closures, and distance learning may impact basic education delivery and access in SY 2020-21
- Rule concept:
 - Counting time outside of the traditional classroom for instructional hours and school days
 - Rules applicable for SY 2020-21 only
 - SBE review of rules in Spring 2021 to anticipate needs for SY 2021-22
 - SBE will collect additional info in minimum basic education compliance reporting



Private school online programs

- Clarifies that approved private schools may open in the fall 2020 with an online program
- Allows private schools approved under provisional status to operate an online program, provided they plan to have a physical facility when it is safe to do so





- Permissive rules would articulate districts' existing authority in an explicit way to clarify what is allowed and to support districts in offering these opportunities more widely
- Put E2SHB 1599 definition of MBL into rule and change "competency" to "mastery" in SBE WAC to align with law and work group's work
- Broad categories for student demonstration of proficiency:
 - State assessments
 - Local assessments
 - Success in a higher level course
 - Other MBL work group recommendations
- Districts would still need to adopt a written policy



Meeting subject-area graduation requirements Rulemaking concept

- Rules would clarify that a single course may meet more than one subject area graduation requirement
 - Already common practice with CTE course equivalencies, rule would clarify that this practice may be applied to other core subject area requirements
- Potential benefits
 - Provide flexibility in students' schedules to make up courses or take other elective credits
 - Encourage exploration of multidisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning that would complement project-based and mastery-based learning





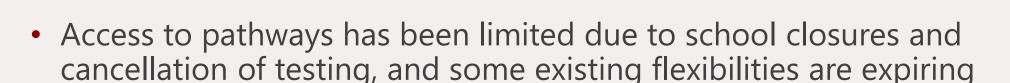
- Current rules allow principal to waive the WSH requirement for individual students under certain circumstances
- Proposed rules would expand waiver option to students who did not complete a WSH course because of an emergency school closure
- Many students will be able to make up the course, but it may become a barrier to some given fewer options and tighter schedule
- Districts must still provide the opportunity for students to take WSH and must still meet statutory requirements regarding teaching and learning of civics, the WA constitution, and the Since Time Immemorial curriculum



Legislative request proposals



Potential legislative request – special session



Potential request: Extend the Expedited Assessment Appeal (EAA)
waiver for the Class of 2021





Potential legislative request – special session

- The impact of school closures, modified schedules, and hybrid learning models will continue to limit some students' ability to complete credit graduation requirements on time
- Statute allows districts to waive up to two flexible credits based on individual student circumstances, but more flexibility may be warranted in some cases
- Potential request: Extend the emergency waiver of credit graduation requirements
 - Local determination on individual student basis
 - To be used as last resort after demonstrating good faith effort
 - More restrictive parameters for number and type of credits



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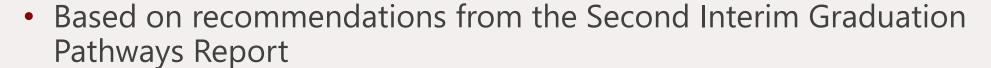
Potential legislative request – regular session

- Need for a more comprehensive, longer term strategy to better respond to the ongoing repercussions of the current crisis as well as future unforeseen emergencies
- Potential request: Ongoing authority to grant necessary waivers of certain graduation requirements to address emergency situations
 - Emergency triggers for eligibility
 - Level of waiver
 - Parameters on flexibility
 - Application, data collection requirements
- Other pathway options:
 - Suspend pathways statewide for one or two years
 - Establish a waiver to allow districts to innovate with pathways





Potential legislative request – regular session



- Potential request: Create additional pathways
 - Portfolio or project-based pathway
 - Additional career focused options
 - Credit-based pathway





Forthcoming recommendations

- Mastery-based Learning Workgroup recommendations
- Charter school report recommendations
 - Consider supporting extension of authority to approve new charter schools, which expires in April of 2021
 - Review charter school rules



Questions & Discussion