

# STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**HEARING TYPE:**              X   INFORMATION UPDATE

**DATE:**                      MAY 10, 2007

**SUBJECT:**                 **LEARNING FIRST ALLIANCE**

**SERVICE UNIT:**            **State Board of Education**  
**Edie Harding, Executive Director**

**PRESENTER:**                Warren T. Smith Sr., Vice Chair  
State Board of Education

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Washington State Board of Education joined the Washington State Learning First Alliance (WSLFA) four years ago. Washington was one of the five charter states selected by the National Learning First Alliance to start its own statewide organization. The WSLFA is comprised of 15 statewide education organizations (including the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, the Washington Association of Colleges for Teachers Education, the Washington Association of School Administrators, the Association of Washington School Principals, the Washington State School Directors Association, Washington Education Association, and the Governor's Office) around a common focus to improve student learning in Washington.

In the last year, WSLFA has had a difficult time convening its members to meet and determine an agenda. Warren Smith and Edie Harding attended the most recent meeting on April 11, 2007, for the SBE. The members who participated in that meeting decided it was important to find out if there was still a commitment on the part of the organizations to continue the WSLFA and to find out what issues the WSLFA should focus. The following issues were identified: NCLB, redefining basic education, addressing the achievement gap, improving math performance, and supporting the simple majority (which just passed!). Warren will discuss next steps with you.