

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

HEARING TYPE: X INFORMATION/NO ACTION

DATE: **July 19-20, 2007**

SUBJECT: **End-of-Course Assessment**

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

PRESENTERS: Edie Harding, Executive Director
 State Board of Education

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 6023 directed the SBE to examine and recommend changes to high school assessments with a limited series of end-of-course (EOC) assessments as well as to review norm referenced tests for alternative assessments to the WASL. The Governor vetoed the EOC language because she felt that the study should not predetermine the implementation of end-of-course assessments. She asked the SBE to conduct a broad objective study that would examine policy and implementation issues and report back by January 15, 2008.

The SBE has posed the following questions in its request for proposals:

- » What are the strengths and weaknesses of Washington moving in the direction of EOCs, which may be used in conjunction with the WASL or in place of the WASL at the high school level? What are the implementation issues?
- » What role do norm reference tests have as alternative tests for graduation?
- » What are the nationwide trends in the types of assessments states are using to measure and improve student achievement at all grade levels? Are there some states with particularly innovative assessment frameworks?

The SBE issued the request for proposals in early July with proposals due back on July 23rd. The proposal has been advertised in Education Week as well as some key newspapers in the Northwest.