

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY—

A BRIEF HISTORY & CONTEXT

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History and Context

RCW 28A.305.130 states that a purpose of the State Board of Education (SBE) is to:

- implement a standards-based accountability framework that creates a unified system of increasing levels of support for schools in order to improve student academic achievement



State Accountability Initiatives

Commission
on Student
Learning
1993-1999

Academic
Achievement
and
Accountability
(A+)
Commission
1999-2005

State Board of
Education

2005-present

- System Performance Accountability (SPA) Committee
- Achievement and Accountability (AAW) Workgroup

The Commission on Student Learning, 1993-1999

Initial Responsibilities (SSB 5953, 1992)

Identify essential academic learning requirements

- Develop strategies to assist educators in helping students meet learning requirements
- Recommendations on the support and resources need by schools and districts to achieve essential academic learning requirements

Present to SBE and SPI elementary and secondary assessment systems

- The secondary assessment system shall lead to a certificate of mastery
- Estimate cost of implementing the assessment systems during the 1995-1997 biennium

Recommend a statewide accountability system

- Recommend Legislative steps to assist schools and districts where learning is significantly below expected levels

Academic Achievement and Accountability (A+) Commission, 1999-2005

The Commission on Student Learning

- Did not create an accountability system
- Expired June 30, 1999

A+ Commission, SSB 5418, 1999

- Transferred duties and functions of the Commission on Student Learning to the A+ Commission

The A+ Commission, 1999-2005

By 2001 districts, schools should establish goals to increase percent of students who meet or exceed the math standard on the 4th and 7th grade WASL

Authorized the A+ Commission to establish and revise statewide goals in additional content areas and grade levels

Criteria to identify successful school and districts as well as those in need of assistance in which a significant number of students persistently fail to meet state standards

Responsibilities of the A+ Commission Transferred to SBE, 2005

The A+ Commission

- Proposed an accountability system that was not passed into legislation
- Funds were made available for voluntary assistance and school improvement programs.

ESSB 5732 (2005)

- Abolished the A+ Commission and redirected responsibilities to the SBE

SBE's Work on the State Accountability System, 2005-2010

ESSB 5732 reconstituted the SBE and directed the SBE to:

- set performance improvement goals for schools, districts and groups of students, in consultation with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

The System Performance Accountability advisory (SPA) committee of the SBE started meeting in February 2007, and continued to meet through June 2010

- Meaningful High School Diploma committee worked concurrently

SPA Committee Charge:

Performance improvement objectives

- System
- Sub-groups

Improvement strategies

- Schools
- Students

Turn-around model for schools and districts that are chronically under-performing

Identifying criteria to prioritize schools through a tiered system of support

January, 2009 SBE Resolution

Develop a fair, consistent, and easily understood achievement index (AI)

- feedback to schools to self-assess
- recognize schools with exemplary performance
- identify schools with poor performance

Build capacity of school improvement and a unified system of state assistance, including the Innovation Zone

Establish an Academic Watch process

Continue to refine the Achievement Index

ESHB 2261 (2009) Directed the SBE to:

- Include student growth, graduation rates and multiple indicators in the Achievement Index
- Report on voluntary and required intervention of schools to the Legislature by December 2009.
 - In December 2009, a draft report *An Excellent and Equitable Education for All Students: A State and Local Partnership for Accountability* was submitted to the Legislature. The report was finalized in April 2010.



E2SSB 6696 (2010):

Much of the system outlined in the December 2009 Draft SBE report was expressed in the act, with some additional directives including:

- Collaboration with the Achievement Gap Oversight Committee (now the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee)
- Race to the Top Grant funds were potential funding sources

Collaborative roles to OSPI and SBE in the development and implementation of an accountability system.

Phase One:

- Recognition of schools
- Assistance to lowest achieving schools through first a voluntary, and then a required action process

Phase Two:

- SBE's accountability index for identification of schools in need of improvement
- Use state and local intervention models and state funds through a required action process beginning in 2013, in addition to the federal program, to raise the achievement of those schools.

Summary

Work on state accountability has been on-going over two decades

Challenging work

- Balance of state control and local control
- Federal funding and law

A major purpose and responsibility of the SBE