

The Board's 2023 legislative priorities support learning recovery and acceleration by creating conditions where each student can thrive. The Board supports investments and evidence-based strategies that accelerate learning and address the long-term impacts of the pandemic, as well as systemic inequities that existed prior to the pandemic. As the state shifts to focus on long-term recovery, we must take the opportunity to build a better education system with students and educational equity at the center.



**To this end, the Board's 2023 legislative priorities center on creating an equitable education system that is responsive to individual needs of students.**

## **Achieving this goal requires investment in long-standing FOUNDATIONAL PRIORITIES:**

### **Equitable funding**

- Prioritize funding based on the diverse needs of students
- Fully fund special education services and support inclusionary practices

### **Strong educator workforce**

- Support recruitment and retention of staff who reflect the diversity of the students they serve
- Increase staffing levels for key positions (Staffing Enrichment Workgroup's 2019 Phase I recommendations)
- Fund additional professional development
- Invest in an equitable and competitive educator compensation model

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## **LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS**

### **Expand graduation pathway options**

#### *Agency request legislation*

In 2019, the Legislature created graduation pathways to provide students multiple ways to show readiness for their individual education and career goals for after high school. In anticipation of potential barriers, the Legislature charged the State Board of Education with researching the first three years of implementation and providing recommendations for improvements and additional pathways. The research shows that the initial set of graduation pathway options do not meet the needs of all students. In addition, students, families, and educators expressed strong interest in more relevant, engaging, and authentic options that can be customized to better align with students' individual goals. Based on this research, and in response to the Legislature's charge, the Board proposes adding a performance-based pathway to the options that school districts may offer. This new option will allow students to show what they know and can do in real-world, hands-on ways that align with their individual goals for after high school. In addition, this proposal clarifies the purpose of graduation pathways and establishes ongoing data and monitoring requirements at the state and local levels.

### **Expand mastery-based learning**

#### *Budget request for \$3.2 M in FY 2024 and \$6.8 M in FY 2025*

Mastery-based learning is a key strategy to address persistent gaps and support learning recovery and acceleration in Washington. The state launched a demonstration project in 2021 to support schools transitioning to mastery-based learning with grant funding and professional learning. To ensure progress on this critical work, this request extends support for the first cohort of schools and adds a second cohort. It also funds a comprehensive evaluation and statewide resource suite. This investment will ensure educators have professional learning, tools, and supports necessary to implement mastery-based and interdisciplinary learning successfully. It will also identify policies, practices, and support structures necessary to successfully transition schools to mastery-based learning.

## The Board identified three key FOCUS PRIORITIES for 2023:

### Support the whole child to create the conditions needed for learning

- Provide funding, professional development, and technical assistance to build capacity for schools to implement equity-based practices that promote student's well-being, including the Washington Integrated Student Supports Protocol, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, inclusive practices, social emotional learning, school-community partnerships, and behavioral health supports
- Incentivize school districts to expand culturally affirming offerings, such as ethnic studies, in which students see their own cultures reflected and learn about cultures other than their own
- Support efforts to improve school climate and culture that align with work assigned to the State Board of Education to develop a statewide approach to assessing school climate (report due to the Legislature in June 2023)

### Enhance relevance and personalization of the student learning experience

- Strengthen implementation of the High School and Beyond Plan by creating a uniform statewide digital platform and supporting best practices for promoting deeper, timely, and meaningful engagement of students in goal setting and planning for the future
- Expand graduation pathways to include performance-based and work-related options so students can show what they know and can do in real-world, hands-on ways that align with their individual goals for after high school (SBE request legislation)
- Expand access to mastery-based and interdisciplinary learning opportunities for students by addressing barriers and providing incentives and supports to districts (SBE budget request)

### Expand and strengthen opportunities for powerful learning

- Expand dual language education statewide and provide all students with the opportunity to earn the Seal of Biliteracy and mastery-based world language credit
- Require school districts to implement Since Time Immemorial and tribal-developed history curriculum beginning next school year (fulfilling the state requirement that began in 2015)
- Fully fund dual credit programs so students can engage in advanced coursework and earn college credit at no cost to the student or family
- Ensure equitable access to high quality elementary science learning opportunities and expand hands-on science programs
- Align early literacy instruction with evidence-based practices grounded in the science of how children learn to read

## 2023 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM PRIORITIES

### The Board's platform centers on creating an **EQUITABLE EDUCATION SYSTEM**

To support learning recovery and acceleration the Board identifies three FOCUS PRIORITIES

Support the whole child to create the conditions needed for learning



Enhance relevance and personalization of the student learning experience



Expand and strengthen opportunities for powerful learning



Achieving our goals requires investment in two long-standing FOUNDATIONAL PRIORITIES

**Equitable Funding + Strong Educator Workforce**