



THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

A high-quality education system that prepares all students for college, career, and life.

Title: 2017 Legislative Priorities

- As Related To:**
- Goal One: Develop and support policies to close the achievement and opportunity gaps.
 - Goal Three: Ensure that every student has the opportunity to meet career and college ready standards.
 - Goal Two: Develop comprehensive accountability, recognition, and supports for students, schools, and districts.
 - Goal Four: Provide effective oversight of the K-12 system.
 - Other

- Relevant To Board Roles:**
- Policy Leadership
 - System Oversight
 - Advocacy
 - Communication
 - Convening and Facilitating

Policy Considerations / Key Questions: What policy issues will be the Board’s 2017 legislative priorities?

- Possible Board Action:**
- Review
 - Adopt
 - Approve
 - Other

- Materials Included in Packet:**
- Memo
 - Graphs / Graphics
 - Third-Party Materials
 - PowerPoint

Synopsis: At its September meeting, the Board reviewed numerous staff memos and previous Board priorities, and discussed ten potential priorities for the 2017 Legislative session. The Board’s goal for this meeting is to adopt its legislative priorities.

Potential legislative priorities include:

- Make Ample Provision for Basic Education
- Strengthen Career Readiness
- End Biology EOC
- Provide Professional Learning for Educators
- Expand Assessment Alternatives
- Fortify High School and Beyond Plan
- Align and Enhance Educator Compensation and Credentialing
- Basic Education Waivers
- Strengthen Expanded Learning Opportunities



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DRAFT 2017 Legislative Priority Statements

The State Board of Education believes that these priorities are currently the most mission-critical to lead the development of state policy for K-12 education, provide effective oversight of public schools, and advocate for student success.

Make Ample Provision for Basic Education* - to help close opportunity and achievement gaps and support all Washington children. This includes:

- Completing the funding of the basic education allocations specified in SHB 2776;
- Providing state funding for educator compensation sufficient to attract and retain the highest quality educators;
- Eliminating the use of local levies to support the state's program of basic education by the 2018-2019 school year;
- Clarifying a uniform and enforceable definition of "program of basic education," as distinct from "local enhancements."

Strengthen Career Readiness*

Strengthen career readiness in the program of basic education for all students. Ensure that career connected learning, personalized pathway exploration, and post-secondary guidance and planning activities, are robustly supported. Restore funding enhancements to per pupil allocations provided for career and technical education. Support legislation that directs the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Education Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee, State Board of Education, the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board,

and the Center for Improvement of Student Learning, with assistance from other state agencies and business associations, to develop career readiness standards as a guide for K-12 curricula and a support for students, parents and counselors in the development of high school and beyond plans.

End Biology End of Course as a Diploma Requirement*

Permanently eliminate the biology end-of-course exam as a high school graduation requirement, effective with the class of 2018, and replace it with a comprehensive science assessment aligned with Next Generation Science Standards beginning with the class of 2018-2019.

Provide Professional Learning for Educators*

Embed ten state-funded days, or 60 hours, for educator professional learning into the state's program of basic education. Require that all professional learning funded by state basic education allocations be designed to meet the standards for high-quality professional learning established in RCW 28A.300.604. Specify that a certain number of state-funded professional development days must address closing the achievement gap, e.g., culturally responsive teaching and learning, social-emotional/trauma-informed educational approaches). Eliminate the use of basic education waivers for purposes of staff professional development.

Expand Assessment Alternatives*

Expand assessment alternatives for high school graduation, including successful completion of state-approved transition courses and dual credit courses.

*Recommended reform strategy in the SBE's 2016 biennial report on the K-12 system's educational health.



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Fortify High School & Beyond Plan*

Fortify the High School and Beyond Plan to support career and college-ready graduation requirements. Define the fundamental elements of the High School and Beyond Plan, in order to ensure that every student is served as intended, while leaving appropriate discretion to districts to tailor plans to student needs.

Strengthen Expanded Learning Opportunities*

Establish, fund, and increase access to high-quality expanded learning opportunities for historically underserved students and students that are credit-deficient and not on track for on-time graduation, that are aligned with the quality indicators designed by the ELO Council per SSB 6163.

Align and Enhance Educator Compensation and Credentialing

Align the new system of professional certification of teachers with a new model of professional compensation, as recommended by the Quality Education Council. Identify and fund additional effective measures to address the multi-faceted problem of teacher shortages, as a follow-up to enactment of ESSB 6455 in the 2016 Legislative Session.

Basic Education Waivers

Harmonize the definitions of “school day” and “instructional hours” or make other legislative changes to bring clarity to basic education requirements and eliminate the need for a 180-day waiver for professional development or parent-teacher conferences.

*Recommended reform strategy in the SBE’s 2016 biennial report on the K-12 system’s educational health.