

December 5, 2024

Esteemed board members, colleagues, and state-level decision makers,

In response to [RCW 28A.305.035](#), the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) and the State Board of Education (SBE) are pleased to report on the “the progress the boards have made and the obstacles they have encountered, individually and collectively, in the work of achieving the goals” of basic education in Washington state. The PESB and the SBE are committed to a thriving and productive partnership that builds on each organization's role and position in governance and oversight of our state's public education system.

Working Together

The Professional Educator Standards Board and the State Board of Education have built a strong and collaborative partnership over the years, one that has consistently benefited both agencies and, more importantly, the educational system as a whole. This longstanding relationship is grounded in a shared commitment to advancing the quality of education in Washington State, and both boards have worked in tandem to ensure that their respective goals are aligned and mutually supportive.

PESB and SBE staff maintain regular and open lines of communication, working closely together on a variety of initiatives that serve the common interests of both agencies. This ongoing coordination enables the two boards to effectively address overlapping responsibilities, streamline efforts, and ensure that their work complements each other. Whether through joint endeavors, shared policy development, or coordinated support for educator preparation and student outcomes, PESB and SBE collaborate extensively to create a cohesive and integrated approach to education governance in Washington.

By working together, PESB and SBE have been able to achieve significant successes in key areas. The close working relationship between the two agencies has allowed them to leverage each other's expertise, resources, and networks, resulting in more effective strategies and greater

impact. As a result, both boards are better equipped to respond to emerging challenges and ensure that educators and students are supported in ways that promote educational excellence across the state.

Strategic Planning

SBE adopted its [2024-2028 Strategic Plan](#) at the June 2024 Board meeting. The plan prioritizes authentic engagement with partners as SBE embarks on an ambitious agenda to address the diverse needs of our educational community, focusing specifically on what SBE can do within its areas of authority. Through strategic focus and authentic engagement, SBE aspires to cultivate an equitable and inclusive K-12 education system where every student is empowered with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in a changing world.

SBE is grateful for the support that PESB provided throughout its strategic planning process. Of particular note, PESB's Executive Director facilitated discussions among SBE board members that helped shape SBE's shared values and priorities. This collaboration reflects the strong alignment and partnership between our agencies, ensuring a coordinated and aligned approach to supporting both student and educator success. This close collaboration has been vital in ensuring that the work of both boards complements and reinforces each other, fostering greater consistency and effectiveness across the state's education system.

As PESB's current strategic plan nears its expiration, the agencies are eager to continue their collaboration on strategic planning. SBE looks forward to working closely together to ensure that PESB's next strategic plan is closely aligned with SBE's priorities and initiatives, creating a unified and coherent vision for the future of education in Washington. By coordinating the agencies' strategic planning efforts, PESB and SBE can further strengthen their shared commitment to improving outcomes for all of Washington's students and families.

Collaboration Highlights

PESB and SBE are collaborating closely on a range of important projects and professional development initiatives aimed at enhancing education across the state. One key area of focus is the Mastery-Based Learning Collaborative, funded by the state legislature. This demonstration project provides grant funding, professional development, and implementation support to two

cohorts of participants, including 47 schools in 28 districts, who report on impacts and share best practices. The success of this demonstration project relies on collaborative leadership, with SBE sharing executive sponsorship with PESB and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. As SBE continues to lead efforts to advance Mastery-based Learning (MBL), PESB is working diligently to ensure that Washington's educators are well-trained to effectively support student learning within an MBL framework. To further this goal, PESB and SBE staff both attended the Aurora Institute this year to engage in shared learning experiences and deepen their understanding of MBL practices and policies.

Additionally, during the 2024 legislative session, PESB was directed by a budget proviso to compile a comprehensive list of significant changes in pedagogy and practice within the education sector over the past 10 years. In this effort, SBE has been an invaluable partner, contributing expertise and insights to help shape a clear and coherent set of recommendations. This list will provide much-needed clarity for local education agencies, educators, students, and families, ensuring alignment across the state's education system.

Finally, PESB, SBE, the Charter School Commission, and the Financial Education Public-Private Partnership have been working collaboratively over the past year to develop a decision package and agency request legislation. This initiative aims to secure adequate administrative resources and functions for each of the involved agencies, ensuring that they have the capacity to effectively implement their goals and responsibilities.

Recommendations

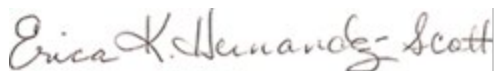
PESB and SBE jointly recommend supporting our proposed decision package and request legislation, which aims to provide our agencies with the flexibility to secure appropriate levels of administrative support. Specifically, we propose removing the statutory requirement that PESB and SBE be housed within the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. This change would allow both agencies to access administrative support through small agency services and other qualified public sector providers, ensuring a more efficient and responsive approach to meeting our operational needs.

SBE is requesting continued funding for the Mastery-Based Learning Collaborative (MBLC), a recommendation that PESB fully supports. The MBLC addresses opportunity gaps by fostering a culturally responsive, student-centered approach to learning. The requested funding will sustain support for the existing cohorts of schools while enabling the addition of a third cohort, expanding the reach and impact of mastery-based learning across Washington State. This funding will provide schools with grants, professional learning opportunities, and access to a statewide network, all essential for successful implementation. Additionally, continued support for program evaluation and resource development is recommended to equip educators with the necessary tools, support systems, and professional communities for effective, sustainable mastery-based learning practices.

In addition, PESB and SBE both recommend removing the statutory mandate for the production of this report. This report is a vestige from the creation of PESB as an agency and the shifting of duties that were formerly SBE's to PESB. The report initially served the purpose of informing the Legislature of potential challenges within the newly formed agency structure. However, now that PESB is a well-established agency and collaboration between the agencies is strong, we believe that this report is no longer necessary and no longer serves its original purpose. Removing this requirement will reduce administrative burdens while allowing both agencies to focus on more impactful work.

With your support, we can transform Washington's education system into one that serves each and every student equitably. To this end, PESB and SBE are committed to working together for bold system change. Only through close collaboration can we gain momentum in forward progress and collectively address barriers to student learning and well-being.

Respectfully,



Erica Hernandez-Scott
Executive Director
Professional Educator Standards Board



Randy Spaulding
Executive Director
Washington State Board of Education

For more information on the work of the boards, please see the following resources:

Professional Educator Standards Board	State Board of Education
<p>The purpose of the Professional Education Standards Board is to establish policies and requirements for the preparation and certification of Washington’s educators.</p>	<p>The purpose of the State Board of Education is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide advocacy and oversight of public education ● Implement a standards-based accountability system to improve student academic achievement ● Provide leadership in the creation of a system that personalizes education for each student and respects diverse cultures, abilities, and learning styles ● Promote achievement of the goals of basic education
<p>Agency Overview</p>	<p>Agency Overview</p>
<p>Strategic Plan PESB adopted its strategic plan in January 2021 and is making progress towards its 2021-2025 goals.</p>	<p>Strategic Plan SBE adopted its strategic plan in June 2024 and has begun work on its 2024-2028 strategic initiatives.</p>
<p>Administrative request (see recommendations section above)</p>	<p>2025 Legislative Platform</p>
<p>PESB Members (12):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adam Aguilera (Chair), Governor appointed (teacher) ● Amy Campbell, Governor appointed (teacher) ● Alejandro Castro-Wilson, Governor appointed (teacher) ● Dr. Tenesha Fremstad, Governor appointed (principal) ● Michaela Jackson, Governor appointed (BASTE) ● Juan Mata, Governor appointed (teacher) ● Dr. Michaela Miller, Governor appointed (OSPI) ● Denise Renteria, Governor appointed (ESD representative) ● Dr. Kevin Roxas, Governor appointed (preparation program dean) ● Dr. Nicole Talbert, Governor appointed (CTE teacher) ● <i>2 open positions</i> 	<p>SBE Members (16):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bill Kallappa II (Chair), Governor appointed ● Mary Fertakis (Vice Chair), M.Ed, WSSDA elected ● Dr. Dana Riley Black, Governor appointed ● Brooke Brown, Governor appointed ● Ryan Brault, WSSDA elected ● Jan Brown, private schools elected ● Castulo Gonzalez, student member ● Dr. Angela Griffin, WSSDA elected ● Alex Henriksson, student member ● Ron Mabry, WSSDA elected ● Harium Martin-Morris, Governor appointed ● Dr. Paul Pitre, Governor appointed ● Dr. Susana Reyes, Governor appointed ● Chris Reykdal, State Superintendent ● Kevin Wang, Governor appointed ● Patty Wood, WSSDA elected