

BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM COMPLIANCE BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

BACKGROUND

School districts are required to show compliance with the Basic Education entitlement requirements and the minimum high school graduation requirements.¹ School districts demonstrate compliance by submitting SPI Form 1497 to the State Board of Education (SBE) by the first Monday in November of each school year. The form may be found at: <http://www.sbe.wa.gov/documents/2010.07.29%20Form%201497.pdf>

The SBE must certify whether each school district is in compliance and provide that information to the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI). SPI will distribute the state's basic education allocation funding for the remainder of the 2010-11 school year and the beginning of the 2011-12 school year to all school districts that are certified by the SBE as in compliance with the Basic Education entitlement requirements.

Categories of Reporting for the 2010-11 School Year:

- **Total Instructional Hour Offering:** Kindergarten offering of 450 hours. Grades one through twelve offering of a district-wide annual average of 1,000 hours linked to the Essential Academic Learning Requirements and other district-determined subjects/activities.
- **K–3/4–12 Students to Classroom Teacher Ratio:** The district ratio of students per classroom teacher in grades kindergarten through three is not greater than the ratio of students per classroom teacher in grades four and above.
- **Minimum 180-Day School Year:** The 180-day program is accessible to all legally eligible students, including students with disabilities, five years of age, and under 21 years of age who have not completed high school graduation requirements.
- **State High School Graduation Minimum:** Compliance on their minimum high school graduation requirements. All high schools in the district require students to take the minimum 19 state credits in all subject areas (20 credits for the class of 2013 and beyond). In addition, the district must ensure that the minimum state credits are aligned at a minimum with the nine/ten grade level expectations or state essential academic learning requirements.

POLICY CONSIDERATION

All of the 295 Washington State school districts have provided their compliance with the Basic Education entitlement requirements for the 2010-11 school year, by submitting SPI Form 1497. Several school districts had to revise their schedules in late December to comply. OSPI and SBE staffs were able to work through the issues with those districts. SBE and OSPI staff have also discussed ways to update the requirements based on the new state basic education

¹ WAC 180-16-191 through WAC 180-16-225, RCW 28A.150.220, and RCW 28A.150.250

funding formula which goes into effect on September 1, 2011 and streamline the submittal process. SBE staff will bring some rule revisions to the Board in March.

EXPECTED ACTION

The SBE will certify that all 295 school districts are in compliance with the Basic Education allocation entitlement requirements.