

# STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**HEARING TYPE:** X INFORMATION

**DATE:** January 9-10, 2008

**SUBJECT:** ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

**SERVICE UNIT:** Edie Harding, Executive Director  
State Board of Education

**PRESENTER:** Dr. Howard DeLeeuw, Program Administrator for Migrant/Bilingual Education, OSPI  
Dr. Richard Cole, Superintendent, Sunnyside School District

## **BACKGROUND:**

A group of Yakima County Superintendents has met with the Governor, OSPI and legislators to discuss their concerns that a significant number of English Language Learners has yet to pass portions of the reading and writing portions of the WASL, which could lead to a disproportionate number of these students not receiving a diploma. They would like to present their concerns to the Board.

These superintendents are requesting, for the graduating classes of 2008-2012, that students be allowed to graduate without a Certificate of Academic Achievement if they do not meet the reading or writing standard on the high school WASL or one of its alternatives, but meet all other graduation requirements. For the class of 2008 the students must earn one English credit (or career and technical education credit equivalent) for the class of 2009-12, the students must earn two English credits (or career and technical education credit equivalent). There have been a number of other earlier proposals by the Superintendents from Yakima, but we do not know their current status.

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction has submitted several legislative proposals to address these issues. Legislators are anxious to work with the Yakima superintendents to help these students.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's presentation will provide an overview of English language learner data for Washington State. Data provided will address questions such as what grade levels have the largest percentage of new English language learners and WASL passage rates of students who have exited the program. The presentation will also include specific information regarding English language learners in the Class of 2008. OSPI will end with a discussion of the State Transitional Bilingual Program evaluation and current policy initiatives regarding English language learners.