



# WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## **REVIEW OF COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSALS TO BASIC EDUCATION FINANCE TASK FORCE AND SBE DISCUSSION OF ITS PROPOSED K-12 BUDGET PARAMETERS**

### **SUMMARY OF POLICY ISSUE /STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (SBE) STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL**

Although only the legislature can appropriate funds for K-12 education in Washington, the Board may advocate for all of the Board's strategic plan goals in various forums and at different times.

### **BACKGROUND**

The 2007 Legislature created a Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance (JTFBEF) to "review the definition of basic education and all current basic education funding formulas" (SB 5627). The Task Force is to "develop options for a new funding structure and all the necessary formulas, and propose a new definition of basic education." The Task Force will complete its work by December 1, 2008.

Since the last memorandum to the Board in July, one more comprehensive funding proposal has been presented to the Task Force and shared with the public. The new proposal entitled "Basic Education Funding Proposal: Preparing Children to Succeed in the 21st Century," was jointly submitted by Rep. Ross Hunter, Rep. Pat Sullivan, Rep. Fred Jarrett, Rep. Glenn Anderson, Rep. Skip Priest, and Sen. Rodney Tom. This new proposal has been added to the summary spreadsheet shared with Board members in July for comparison review. It has been placed in the first column of the spreadsheet and has been titled "Model School Proposal." The full proposals can be viewed on the Task Force's Web page (<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/BEF/>).

The Task Force's work plan includes a release of the full set of proposals on November 4 or 5. The Task Force members will begin to review, select, and amend proposals at their November 10, 2008 meeting. The Task Force will create a draft set of recommendations and receive public comment prior to submitting final recommendations to the legislature on December 1, 2008.



**SBE Parameters for Discussion Purposes on Basic Education Funding and  
Other K-12 Funding Components  
November 7, 2008**

**Basic Education Funding**

**CORE 24 Funding Framework: The Board believes that CORE 24 graduation requirements should be a part of basic education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

- Six hours of instruction for all students, including one hour of teacher planning and associated non-employee related costs and special education funding formula impact paid by state.
- Seven hours of instruction for struggling students, including non-employee related costs and transportation (many ways to meet requirements, thus we estimate that ten percent of students will need additional credit catch up assistance).
- Support for Navigation 101 – start up and support of some other high school plan guidance system and additional counselors, beginning in middle school
- Curricular phase-in support for additional course work students will take in Math, Science, English, Arts, World Language, and Career Concentration (fund math and science first).
- There are other costs we are not including – teacher incentives for recruitment, capital facilities, etc. We will look at these with PESB, OSPI and others.

**Other Basic Education Funding**

The Board recognizes that there are additional important components of K-12 basic education that must also be funded under a new system. While the Board is not taking a position on individual components, it recognizes that many districts are facing large financial challenges under the current funding system.

## **Other Important K-12 Funding Components**

### **Investment in Math and Science**

The state has made a significant investment in new standards for math and science. An aligned curriculum and instruction to students in the classroom are critical to see a significant change in student improvement

- Support OSPI Request for Curriculum to Ensure Alignment to New Math and Science Standards
- Support OSPI Request for Professional Development for Teachers to Ensure Effective Teaching Practices Aligned to the new standards

### **Accountability for Student Achievement**

The SBE is developing a policy framework for a statewide accountability system that includes an Accountability Index that identifies the status of all schools to ensure continuous progress on a variety of indicators of student achievement; a new tool called the Innovation Zone for districts that want to change their operating conditions and a new Required State/Local Partnership for districts that need additional assistance to improve student achievement.

Funding for the accountability system should be implemented concurrently with revisions to the basic education funding formula and the investment in additional resources for alignment of the new math and science standards with classroom materials and instruction.

### **Professional Development**

The SBE currently provides waivers for 82 districts from the Basic Education Act requirement of 180 days of student instruction. The average number of days waived is three days. The primary use of these days is for professional development, but it takes important instructional time away from the students.

- Funding to increase state funded Learning Improvement Days from two days to five days and removal of the authority to grant waivers from the minimum 180 day requirement