

Dear partner in education:

Greetings! November is shaping up to be an exciting month for the Washington State Board of Education (SBE) as we continue to develop our key initiatives to improve student achievement across Washington and ensure that every student is prepared to succeed after high school.

One key strategy to meet the Board's goal to improve student preparation is creating a rigorous set of graduation requirements. Since establishing the CORE 24 High School Graduation Requirements Framework in July, we have turned our attention to developing strategies to best address the implementation issues surrounding the new requirements, starting with the creation of a CORE 24 Implementation Task Force. This Task Force will be comprised of highly skilled and experienced practitioners, and will be an integral step in moving forward with this work. The Task Force will ultimately help the Board determine what policy direction is needed to implement CORE 24.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to our upcoming Board meeting, on November 5-6 in Des Moines. At this meeting, Board members will review the CORE 24 Implementation Task Force Charter and draft responses to the Memorandum of Agreement with the Tribal Leader Congress. In addition, the Board will consider a draft Policy Framework of Accountability Concepts for a new statewide accountability system and provide recommendations to the Superintendent on the K-8 math curriculum materials best aligned to the new math standards.

Thank you for providing an active voice throughout this process. This is a chance for all of us to come together in our shared vision of ensuring that every student has the ability to succeed in postsecondary education, the 21st century world of work and citizenship.

Edie Harding
Executive Director

Spotlight: CORE 24 Implementation Task Force

On November 6, the Board is expected to take action on the CORE 24 Implementation Task Force Charter at the upcoming

Learn more about our key initiatives

- [A Meaningful High School Diploma:](#) preparing students for life after high school no matter what path they choose.
- [World-class math:](#) providing students with the math foundation they need to succeed.
- [Exemplary science:](#) fostering science education to expand students' minds and broaden horizons.
- [Accountability:](#) providing assistance to schools and districts so that no student falls through the cracks.

Quick Links

[Washington State Board of Education](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

meeting in Des Moines.

The purpose of the CORE 24 Implementation Task Force is to examine the issues associated with implementation of the CORE 24 High School Graduation Requirements Framework, and advise the Board on strategies needed to implement the requirements, including a phase-in process that would begin with the graduating class of 2013. These revised requirements are expected to become fully implemented for the graduating class of 2016.

Through public outreach and discussion on CORE 24 with a variety of stakeholders, the Task Force will identify and address possible issues related to the implementation of CORE 24, before making recommendations to the Board. These include the degree of flexibility in assigning course credit, strategies to ensure there are enough qualified teachers, associated capital needs, scheduling concerns, subject-specific issues, and the optimal strategy necessary for phasing-in CORE 24.

The Task Force will be comprised of a central leadership group of approximately 15 people, including working or recently retired practitioners, well-respected for their wide understanding of systems issues, depth of expertise, and ability to think systematically and creatively. The Task Force will also seek people in different leadership roles who serve or have recently served in the K-12 system. Kathe Taylor, SBE's Policy Director, will serve as the staff project manager, and will present the Charter at this month's meeting, along with Board co-leads, Jack Schuster and Steve Dal Porto.

SBE has designed the recruitment process for the CORE 24 Implementation Task Force. Applications will be accepted until December 1, 2008. To access the application online, [click here](#) (You may also right-click the link and paste it into your browser).

Spotlight: Creating a shared system of performance accountability

The State Board of Education (SBE) estimates that 70,500 Washington State students are currently enrolled in struggling schools as identified by its accountability index. Even though one out of 14 students in the K-12 system is affected, there are currently no state incentives for making transformational change in these schools. SBE is committed to developing a shared system of accountability that provides schools and districts the support they need to improve student achievement. All students deserve a quality education.

The draft Policy Framework of Accountability Concepts for a new statewide accountability system operates under a central

premise - all schools and their districts should be engaged in continuous improvement efforts to ensure that all students are reaching their highest potential.

At this month's meeting, Board members will examine a draft Policy Framework of Accountability Concepts for a new statewide accountability system. The framework includes several key connected components to focus on student achievement. These components include:

- An **accountability index** which is based on a set of performance indicators and outcomes to identify exemplary schools and districts as well as those in need of targeted investment.
- A **preventative, proactive system** of support to help all schools and districts continue to improve. The system would be voluntary for districts except where the accountability index indicates a clear need for support in specific areas, such as closing the achievement gap or in certain curriculum areas.
- A range of **voluntary state and/or local district intensive assistance strategies** for districts with one or more "Priority Schools," to develop a system approach for improving student achievement. These systems include OSPI's Summit District Program, SBE's Innovation Zone or a locally developed and state-approved district program to bring schools out of Priority status.
- If an intensive assistance strategy system approach fails to result in sufficient progress after two full years of implementation, districts will fall into a category of deeper state and local partnership, called **Academic Watch**. It is intended that Academic Watch would only be used after all other intervention efforts fail to improve the academic performance of students in the District's Priority Schools.

The Board is currently reviewing the details of this proposal including the standards for school and district performance measurement at each stage of the proposed accountability framework. To learn more about the system of performance accountability, [click here](#). (You may also right-click the link and paste it into your browser).

Spotlight: Update on science standards

The SBE consultant, David Heil & Associates, Inc., continues to provide formative feedback to staff and advisers at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) on revisions to the science standards. The SBE Science Advisory Panel will meet on November 12 to review the latest draft of the standards.

Get to know your board members:

John "Jack" Schuster

Ocean Shores, Private School Representative,
through January 2012

Since joining the State Board of Education in 2004, John "Jack" Schuster has been an active representative of private schools across Washington. Jack brings 36 years of educational experience to SBE. For 22 years prior to his retirement, he was principal of John F. Kennedy Memorial High School in the Archdiocese of Seattle. He also served as principal of Tahoma Senior High School in Maple Valley, Washington and as a teacher and vice-principal at Burlington-Edison High School in Burlington, Washington.

Jack has been a keen advocate for Washington's private school sector for several years. In 1999-2000, he became the first private high school principal to serve as president of the Washington Association of Secondary School Principals. In 2003, he was elected president of the parent organization, the Association of Washington School Principals. During his tenure, Jack's primary focus was to provide principals with professional development that would help move their schools to a standards-based environment while maintaining balance in their personal lives.

Jack has been widely recognized for his commitment to Washington education. In 1989, he was selected High School Principal of the Year by the Washington Library Media Association and in 2004, received the Sister Mary Taylor Award from the Archdiocese of Seattle for outstanding service to Catholic Schools. In 2007, he received the Columbia Award from the Washington Federation of Independent Schools for strengthening education for all of Washington's children.

"Washington students need us to take action to ensure they graduate high school with the skills necessary to succeed in postsecondary education and an increasingly competitive workforce," said Mr. Schuster. "I believe that students need a balance and an education that engages students in their learning and prepares them for success irrespective of whether they

attend a public or private school. Every student in Washington deserves an equal chance to succeed."

A native of Spokane, WA, Jack received a Bachelor's in History from Eastern Washington State University and a Master's in Education Administration from Western Washington State University. He later went on to receive a Continuing Principals Certification from the University of Washington.

We want to hear from you!

[Upcoming Board Meeting:](#)

Board Meeting
November 5-6, 2008
Highline Community College, Des Moines, WA
To view an agenda for this meeting, [click here](#).

Science Standards Advisory Panel Meeting
Wednesday, November 12, 2008
Puget Sound ESD, Renton, WA

E-mail your thoughts and questions to SBE at sbe@k12.wa.us.