WHEREAS on March 12, 2020, the Washington State Legislature passed Engrossed House Bill 2965, which in Section 10 grants the State Board of Education the authority to administer an emergency waiver program to grant local education agencies and private schools flexibility to waive certain graduation requirements for graduating seniors in light of school closures due to the novel coronavirus; and

WHEREAS on March 13, 2020, the Governor closed all schools statewide at least through April 24, 2020, thereby making the emergency waiver program potentially applicable to all schools in the State of Washington that grant high school diplomas; and

WHEREAS on April 8, 2020, the State Board of Education adopted Emergency Rules (Chapter 180-111 WAC) establishing the emergency waiver program; and

WHEREAS the State Board of Education expects to receive applications for waivers under the Emergency Rule from more than 250 public school districts, charter schools, and tribal compact schools across the State; and

WHEREAS the State Board of Education’s rapid consideration and notification of decisions on waiver applications under the Emergency Rule is important to provide public school districts, charter schools, and tribal compact schools with timely information they need to serve their high school students in the Class of 2020 and earlier who were on track to graduate in the 2019-20 school year; and

WHEREAS RCW 28A.305.130(7) provides the State Board of Education with the authority to “delegate to the Executive Director by resolution such duties as deemed necessary to efficiently carry on the business of the board;”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education hereby delegates to its Executive Director the authority to grant waivers to public school districts, charter schools, and tribal compact schools under the Emergency Rules if the waiver application meets the requirements of the Emergency Rules, provided that:

1. Promptly after granting any such waiver, the Executive Director shall inform members of the State Board of Education of the Executive Director’s decision;
2. Information collected on the application, a list of all applications received, and the decision to approve or deny each application shall be posted on the State Board of Education’s website.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education reserves all rights to revoke or revise this delegation of authority, in part or in whole, at any time, and that nothing in this Resolution shall prevent the State Board of Education from granting such waivers by action of the Board.

This delegation shall be effective April 8, 2020 through July 31, 2020.

Done in open meeting by the Washington State Board of Education this 8th day of April, 2020.

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

By: ____________________________

Peter Maier, Chair