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OUR VISION:

We inspire and foster excellence in educational attainment.



WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL

EDUCATION · OPPORTUNITY · RESULTS

2015 MAY UPDATE

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Washington State Legislature gaveled out of the 2015 regular session two days early but still weeks or more away from a budget deal. Late in the session, lawmakers indicated they needed more time to reach an agreement on how to fund the state for the next two years. Governor Inslee announced a 30-day special session beginning April 29.

The Washington Supreme Court will wait until the conclusion of special session before deciding if the Legislature should face sanctions for failing to come up with a plan to fund public schools. Chief Justice Barbara Madsen ordered lawmakers to provide the court with an update the day after special session ends.

Support remains high for Washington's attainment goals and the need for a strong higher education system. We are certainly pleased with our progress thus far. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Council members, Maddy Thompson, our staff, and our valued partners, many of our Strategic Action Plan recommendations have moved forward, with the potential of several more advancing pending final budget negotiations.

STATE ASSESSMENTS

WSAC staff continue to collaborate with OSPI to support the implementation of Smarter Balanced assessments. Juniors received a letter from Randy Dorn and Gene Sharratt explaining the importance of the tests and how the assessment scores are used by colleges and universities to exempt students from remedial coursework. OSPI staff have translated the letter into multiple languages, maximizing outreach across the state.

Work with SBAC continued with staff's attendance at the 2015 SBAC collaboration conference. The conference brought together K-12 and higher education staff from 21 states, the US Virgin Islands, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to talk about challenges with the first operational administration of the exam, ideas for improvement of the assessment system, and states' approaches to using the assessments to improve student learning and transitions to postsecondary education.

WHO WE ARE.

The Washington Student Achievement Council is a nine-member council and cabinet-level state agency that provides strategic planning, oversight, and advocacy to support increased student success and higher levels of educational attainment in Washington.