

Issaquah School District School Board Handbook 2021

OVERVIEW

The Issaquah School District has approximately 19,500 students and over 2,700 full- and part-time staff members. Spread out over 110 square miles in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains, our District is comprised of 16 elementary schools, six middle schools, three comprehensive high schools, and one innovative choice high school. Our schools are located in East King County, including the cities of Sammamish, Issaquah, Newcastle, Renton, and Bellevue. The District also runs the educational program at the State's Echo Glen Children's Center in Snoqualmie, WA.

ROLES OF THE SCHOOL BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT

The Board's most critical role is to hire a superintendent and to monitor the leader's performance in meeting the goals of the organization without violating typical standards of practice. The Superintendent's role is to make the decisions necessary to achieve the goals as established by the Board and to be responsible for those decisions and the outcomes.

A formal evaluation of the Superintendent is conducted annually near the end of the academic year in June. This evaluation is comprised of:

- A summary based on the data derived during the year from monitoring the Board's Ends and Executive Limitations policies.
- Conclusions based upon the Board's prior action during the year relative to the Superintendent's reasonable interpretation of each End, whether each End has been achieved or reasonable progress has been made toward its achievement;
- Conclusions based upon the Board's prior action during the year relative to whether the Superintendent has reasonably interpreted and operated within the boundaries established by the Executive Limitations policies.

It is the responsibility of the Board President to initiate the annual review and complete the final report no later than the week of the last board meeting in June. The entire Board will generally meet in two executive sessions held in the spring to provide input to the evaluation report.

The Superintendent's employment contract is reviewed annually as part of the annual evaluation. State law does not allow for contracts longer than three (3) years (per RCW 28A.330.100(1) and RCW 28A.400.010). Nonetheless, a typical practice is to annually add an additional year to the contract after satisfactory review of the superintendent so that the contract has a rolling three-year term.

INDUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Mentors

A senior board member is assigned to each new board member to act as an informal support and sounding board for protocol and negotiating the maze of public education.

WSSDA Annual Conference -- Third Week of November

The winner of a school board election is sworn in on the first meeting in December; however, the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) allows successful candidates to attend the November WSSDA (Washington State School Directors Association) Conference in place of the retiring board member. New board members are strongly recommended to attend the special “early bird” sessions on the first day of the WSSDA Conference that are designed to provide basic knowledge on the functioning of the state education system. During the next three days of the conference, courses especially helpful for new board members are marked to create a pathway to acquire helpful skills and knowledge.

The conferences provide time away from local school board business for board members to interact informally, become better acquainted, and build understanding and trust and thereby create a new cohesive team around the new board members.

Open Government Training – Course Requirement

Instituted in 2014, each new board member must take the course within 90 days of taking the oath of office. The course is conveniently offered at the WSSDA Conference.

Policy Governance (PG)

Few new board members will have had any experience with this mode of governance, with its own unique vocabulary and protocols. Sessions on PG are often presented at the WSSDA Conference. In addition, the mentor, Board President and Superintendent will support the new member personally as needed and provide a copy of the book, *Good Governance is a Choice*, by Randy Quinn and Linda Dawson. The Board President and Superintendent, when appropriate, will also arrange for local training in the NW region or bring a PG consultant for the entire Board and administrative team as a study session.

SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE

Policy Governance is a system of policies and procedures by which an organization’s board provides oversight of the organization. PG, developed by John Carver, is a specific system of governance that provides specific objectives (i.e. Ends) that the organization must strive to accomplish while not violating basic standards of practice (i.e. Executive Limitations). The board’s oversight of the organization is enacted by modifying the Ends and Executive Limitations to guide the organization’s goals and to limit the actions taken by the Superintendent and administration to achieve those goals. The critical component of PG is that the Board does not direct the organization or its employees on the actions (i.e. Means) to be taken to achieve the goals. The only direct oversight the Board exerts over the organization is hiring the chief executive (i.e. Superintendent), monitoring that person’s performance on achieving the Ends while complying with the Executive

Limitations, and either renegotiating or terminating the Superintendent’s contract. [The Lighthouse Governance model developed by the government of New South Wales is similar to PG.]

See <https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/board/policies> for all policies established and maintained by the Board.

Ends

Ends are the results for students that the Board expects the organization to achieve. In Issaquah, the Ends are areas of knowledge and skill that all students must master by graduation in order to successfully live and compete in today's dynamic global environment. The Mission and Ends set the educational direction for the entire District. The Ends are fluid, always under scrutiny, and always subject to modification.

- The Board monitors progress in achieving the Ends of the organization through periodic reports (typically annually) from the Superintendent to the Board—Ends Monitoring Reports.
- After each Ends Monitoring Report, the Board reviews and comments upon the Superintendent’s progress in meeting the Ends. The Board then determines whether or not to accept the monitoring report, which becomes part of the Superintendent’s annual evaluation. This system of reporting and immediate feedback leads to an annual evaluation with no surprises for the superintendent.

Executive Limitations

Executive Limitations (ELs) are the boundaries placed upon the executive’s actions as the Superintendent guides the organization towards achieving the Ends. The ELs typically reflect the values of the Board, as they limit the Means rather than the Ends.

- The Board monitors the Superintendent’s compliance with the Executive Limitations through periodic (typically annually) reports from the Superintendent to the Board — Executive Limitations Monitoring Reports.
- Some EL Monitoring Reports will be discussed and voted on by the board in open session while others will be reviewed by the Board on the consent agenda. Any board member can remove a report from the consent agenda at any time.
- The Board will periodically review its Executive Limitations to determine if modifications are necessary. To tighten or loosen control over the Superintendent, the Board can increase or decrease the limitations on the Superintendent’s ability to take certain actions.
- There must be a high level of trust between the Board and the Superintendent for this system of self-reporting compliance to be effective. If trust is lacking, the Board may require outside verification of compliance. The only routine outside verification process for the Issaquah School District is the annual financial audit performed on all school districts by the Washington State Auditor’s Office.

Board/Superintendent Linkage Policies

Board/Superintendent Linkage (B/SL) policies define the responsibilities of the Board and the responsibilities of the Superintendent. In the B/SLs, the Board delegates to the Superintendent the responsibility for all decisions in running the organization to meet the goals. The B/SLs also contain the procedures by which the Board monitors and evaluates whether the Superintendent has made

progress towards achieving the organizational Ends and whether he or she has stayed in compliance with the Executive Limitations.

Governance Process Policies

Governance Process Policies (GPs) are the policies that guide the Board’s internal operations, annual calendar of meetings and reports, the roles of the various board members, and basic standards of board performance and behavior.

Operational Governance Policies

Operational Governance Policies (OGPs) are derived from the WSSDA Board Operating Policies—1000 Series. This is a comprehensive list of standardized operating policies based on Washington State law or regulations. The Superintendent and staff support the Board in updating these policies.

BOARD CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board’s Code of Conduct – Governance Process Policy GP-6

This policy addresses the ethical, professional and lawful conduct required of board members toward the board, staff and community.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Communications with the Media

- As the spokesperson of the Board, only the Board President should respond to questions from the media about the Board’s decisions, freeing other members to refer all questions to the Board President.
- For news events, the Board President will refer the media to the Superintendent or the Executive Director of Communications & Strategy for consistent messaging.
- When expressing their opinions on matters or events affecting the district, board members should clarify that they are speaking for themselves, not for the Board as a whole. They should support and explain Board votes, not undermine them, even if they opposed the decision.

Communicating with other Board Members or the Superintendent

- As a courtesy, email inquiries regarding board business should typically be responded to within 24 hours of receipt.
- Board member to board member two- way communication by any means is permissible; however, see the restrictions and recommendations below.
- Board members should refrain from emailing all board members at one time to limit any actual or perceived violations of the Open Public Meetings Act. Informational emails are permissible, but the email should clearly state that responses are to be sent to the sender only; never “reply all.” Emails that need to go to the entire Board may also be forwarded to the Executive Secretary to the Superintendent, the exception being scheduling questions for which “responding all” for expediency sake is appropriate.

- Board members should use only their district-issued email accounts and district-supplied technology devices for all district- and board-related communications and not home devices for these purposes.
- Board members should communicate directly only with the Superintendent or designees as defined by the Superintendent per B/SL-2. Communications with other district staff should be handled through the Superintendent.
- A board member may have occasion to communicate with district staff in his or her role as a parent or a member of an outside organization. In this case, the board member should use a personal email account rather than a district account, and should make clear that the communication is not school board related.

MEETINGS

BOARD BUSINESS MEETINGS AND EXPECTATIONS

Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA)

Board decisions occur only by majority vote of a quorum of three or more members in a regularly advertised open public meeting. Three or more board members meeting face-to-face or electronically outside of a regularly scheduled public meeting to discuss board business is a violation of the OPMA, punishable by fine.

Regular Board (Business) Meetings

Business meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursday of a month at 6:00 pm, generally in the district office board room, and regular attendance is expected (duration 2-4 hours). Work study sessions are usually scheduled prior to board meetings at 5:00 pm.

Notice of Absences

A board member should notify the Board President and/or the Superintendent of anticipated or unplanned absences from any board event.

Excessive Absences

All absences from regular board meetings are treated as unexcused absences, although a majority of the Board may excuse a board member's absence from a meeting if the absence is for reasons other than illness or active or training military duty, and if requested to do so. (See OGP-3.) The current RCW 28A.343.390 allows for the removal of a board member after four (4) consecutive unexcused absences from regular board meetings. If a board member has four consecutive unexcused absences, the Board will make a decision regarding the removal of a board member on a case-by-case basis.

Agenda

The agenda for a school board meeting is available to the Board by Friday afternoon preceding a Thursday board meeting.

Addressing Questions: If a board member has a question about a specific item on the agenda, he/she should contact the Board President and the Superintendent no later than the Tuesday preceding the board meeting.

- The goal is to have legitimate questions thoughtfully considered and answered in the meeting or, for clarifying questions or background information, to allow the Superintendent time to email all board members with the requested information prior to the meeting.
- It is improper for board members to engage in “gotcha” questioning regarding district operations, including asking about individual personnel matters

Consent Agenda Items, Clarifying Questions

While board members may send informational questions on these items, it is generally understood that the consent agenda items are routine operating items of the district, under the purview of the superintendent and the administration and not topics for lengthy board discussion. However, some consent agenda items may address issues of sufficient district or community importance to warrant a presentation during the meeting for information only. Monitoring reports for Executive Limitations may sometimes be included on the consent agenda. An item may be removed from the consent agenda and be placed on the regular agenda upon the request of any one board member.

Meeting Preparation

It is expected that each and every board member will have read and gained a sufficient level of understanding regarding the items on the board agenda before attending a board meeting. While this does not preclude robust discussions and questions at a board meeting, it does place responsibility on each board member to come to meetings prepared (1-3 hours required).

Treatment of the Audience

Members of the public who have signed up to address the board on topics not on the board agenda are allotted up to three minutes each at the beginning of the meeting. Personal complaints about district personnel are not permitted. Board members are expected to listen attentively but the Board does not respond to public input. The Board President acknowledges the speaker and may direct concerns to appropriate staff without establishing dialog. During the business meeting, the Board President will allow for public input on specific agenda items.

Rules of Order

The Board loosely follows Robert’s Rules of Order.

ANNUAL CALENDAR

Additional types of meetings, expectations for board attendance and scheduling (estimated hours per year for each activity).

Work Study Sessions (scheduled prior to most regular meetings, 30 - 90 minutes)

Open to the public, but the public may only observe, not ask questions or give public input. No board business is conducted. **Board attendance expected.**

At the Board's request, time is provided for more involved presentations and on specified topics by the Superintendent and the executive team or an outside consultant. Work Study sessions typically occur prior to a regular board meeting.

Linkages or Focus Group Discussions (scheduled five to six times per year, 1 – 2 hours)

Open to the public, no board business. Held at the district office, various schools or city council chambers, and at convenient times for each group, often connected with a light repast if over mealtime. **Board attendance expected.**

The Board holds five to six community linkages throughout the year as a way to connect with and listen to the community, students, families, partner organizations, professionals, and others. The Superintendent, administrators and staff attend the linkages to facilitate and record the community feedback. Under Policy Governance, the Board must be responsive to all owners of the district, including property owners and voters, beyond the typical groups from which we hear, customers (i.e. parents and students) and employees.

Retreats (scheduled twice per year, 16 hours over two days)

Open to the public, but the public may only observe, not ask questions nor give public input. No board business takes place. Retreats are scheduled on dates convenient to the Board and Superintendent, and are usually held at the district office. **Board attendance expected.**

The agenda is set by the Board President with input from other board members and the Superintendent.

Executive Sessions (as needed, .5 to 1.5 hours)

Advertised, but closed to the public and usually connected to a business meeting. **Board attendance expected.**

Legal stipulations (Open Public Meetings Act):

- Seven allowed topics, commonly real estate considerations, contracts, and personnel matters.
- Start & finish documented in brief open sessions. Minutes give generic topic only. Report to public if running over and set new finish time.
- For deliberation and discussion only. Votes must be taken in subsequent public session.
- All discussion and specific topics must be kept confidential, including from friends and family members.

School Improvement Plan Review (scheduled over three or four meetings in Jan/Feb/Mar, 3 hours each)

The Board reviews each School Improvement Plan (SIP) over the course of three or four meetings. **Board attendance expected.**

Quasi-Judicial Hearings (as needed, .5 to 1.5 hours)

Occasionally the Board will hear an appeal in a quasi-judicial hearing. **Board attendance expected.**

Special Events

High School Graduation Ceremonies in June, Ground Breakings, and New Facilities Dedications.

School board members are strongly encouraged to attend these special events in the school year and are personally rewarded for doing so. Board members will rotate accepting the graduating class at each of the high schools.

Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) Regional Meetings (twice per year, in evening with meal, 3 – 4 hours)

We are in WSSDA Region 2, comprised of school districts within the Puget Sound Educational Service District in King County and the Bainbridge Island School District. Meetings are generally held at one of the 20 school districts in Region 2. **Board attendance encouraged.**

These meetings are professional development opportunities, typically with a dinner, an update from WSSDA staff and staff of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and then an open discussion among all the participants.

WSSDA Annual Conference (the week before Thanksgiving, 3 – 4 days)

Site alternates between Seattle/Bellevue (odd years, Thursday to Sunday) and Spokane (even years, Wednesday to Saturday), with special early bird sessions for new board members on the first day. **All board members and the Superintendent are strongly encouraged to attend.**

The conference is the premier in-state educational and networking event for school directors and superintendents.

WSSDA Annual Legislative Conference (two days, Sunday – Monday, in Jan, Feb or Mar)

Held in Olympia during the current Legislative session, this conference is also sponsored by Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) & Washington Association of School Business Officials (WASBO). It involves educational updates from legislators, the Governor, OSPI and the three sponsoring professional associations as well as advocacy time with our 5th, 41st, 11th, and 48th District Legislators in their offices. **All board members and the Superintendent are strongly encouraged to attend.**

National School Board Association (NSBA) Annual Conference (3 days Saturday - Monday, in Mar or Apr)

Held in major city convention halls around the country, this is the premier school board conference that brings in some of the biggest names in education and nationally known speakers. **All board members and the Superintendent are strongly encouraged to attend.**

MEETINGS AND CONTACT WITH THE PUBLIC

Official Channels for Contact:

The Board's group email address is schoolboard@issaquah.wednet.edu. This email address is publicized on the Board's webpage. It goes to the entire Board and Superintendent. While we have individual board email addresses for internal communication, we are elected at large and have chosen joint communication methods.

If a board member receives an individual email from a staff, parent or community member to their district account, the board member should reply and cc the Superintendent and Board President, if appropriate, or forward to the Superintendent and Board President for assistance with a response.

Individual board members have district email addresses and personal telephone numbers listed in the Board Profiles on the district website.

Unofficial Channels

Unofficial channels are those not provided by the district, besides the grocery store.

If you are contacted through your private email, these email communications about the district should be forwarded to your district email first and replied to through your district email address. This allows for retention of records through the district, not your private computer. (See Public Record Act.) Any email or text messages relating to school board business can be requested by a member of the public. If you use your personal computer or cell phone for these purposes, they are subject to search.

Suggested Protocol for Interaction

Listen attentively and make no promises to intervene.

Encourage interaction at lowest level, starting with the classroom teacher, next Principal, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning and Superintendent.

Report concerns to the Superintendent.

SCHOOL BOARD

Board Officer and Committees

The Board President is elected by a majority of the Board during the first meeting in December. The duties of the Board President include being the spokesperson for the Board as a whole, presiding over board meetings, establishing board meeting agendas in conjunction with the immediate past president of the Board, planning retreats, appointing a mentor for any newly appointed or elected board member and leading the Superintendent's annual performance review in June. The duties of the Board President are outlined in more detail in GP-5, *Chief Governance Officer's Role*.

The Legislative Representative is elected by a majority vote of the Board for a two-year term in December of even-numbered years. The Legislative Representative's responsibilities include following state and federal legislation to share important developments with the Board. In addition, the Legislative Representative is the Board's representative to WSSDA regarding legislative actions and attends, if possible, WSSDA's General Assembly in late September.

Committees: Occasionally the Board may formally establish a Board Committee consisting of board members. Board committees ordinarily will assist the Board by preparing policy alternatives, implications and recommendations for board deliberations. However, a two-person work group of board members (sometimes referred to as a sub-committee) is not considered a Board Committee.

Board Technology Use

All board members are provided an Issaquah School District email address for all school board related communication to better comply with the state Open Public Meetings Act, Public Records

Act, and records retention law and rules. In addition, there is an email address (schoolboard@issaquah.wednet.edu) for the public to use to email all Board members simultaneously.

All board members will be given on loan a district technology device for board work. The assignment of district technology is driven by the Public Records Act and records retention law and rules.

Board members should use only their district-issued technology device and email accounts for all district- and board-related communications and not personal devices or email accounts for these purposes. The technology checked out by a board member should only be used for board-related business. While occasional personal use is permissible, use of the technology for money-making endeavors is strictly prohibited. Please note that the use of district technology is a privilege.

Do not use the technology in a manner that would bring disrespect to the district or the Board.

Board Travel, Reimbursement and Compensation

Board members are reimbursed for travel to out of town meetings and conferences. A district-issued credit card (sometimes referred to as a P-card) is available for reimbursable travel related expenses. Meals may not include alcoholic beverages. Receipts of all expenses must be turned in with itemized receipts required for all meals. If a board member drives to an out of town meeting, they can submit the mileage and be reimbursed at the standard mileage rate.

Board members may be reimbursed \$50 per day or portion thereof for attending meetings and for performing other services on behalf of the District, not to exceed \$4,800 per year. To request reimbursement, a board member must turn in the form for reimbursement. A board member has the right to waive all reimbursement.

FINANCES

In addition to state funding, school districts receive funding from the federal government, local taxes, and other miscellaneous sources. The contribution from each source is broken down below. The budget of the Issaquah School District is comprised of five funds: General Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Debt Service Fund, Associated Student Body Fund and the Transportation Vehicle Fund. For more details, see the most recent year's *Guide to Understanding the Budget* on the District Budget webpage (<https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/departments/finances/budget>).

The General Fund is the largest and most important of the five funds. This fund provides for the daily operations of the district. This fund is utilized to provide for teaching and support activities; basic, special, vocational, English language learners, remedial, and highly capable education; library; counseling; and health-related services. It is also used to finance support services, including transportation, food services, custodial services, building maintenance, utilities, insurance, printing, information systems and warehousing distribution. The remainder of the General Fund expenditures provides leadership/administrative service support to instructional and operational programs. These support services include school principals, instructional and operational supervision, human resources, accounting, payroll, auditing, legal, communications, and superintendent office support.

The Capital Projects Fund is used to finance and pay for capital improvements. These include land acquisition, new construction and major improvements to existing facilities. This is usually financed by the sale of bonds, state construction assistance revenues, interest earnings, impact fees and special levies. By far the greatest source of revenue, nearly 98%, is from the sale of local bonds. Bond sales also provide the needed money upfront, whereas state construction assistance funds arrive after construction.

The Debt Service Fund accounts for the accumulation of resources for the payment of the principal and interest on bonds sold to fund capital improvements in the Capital Projects Fund.

Associated Student Body (ASB) Fund: Issaquah School District students have organized associated student bodies at five middle and four high schools. The financial resources of the ASB Fund are for optional non-credit extracurricular events of a cultural, social, recreational or athletic nature.

Transportation Vehicle Fund accounts for the purchase, major repair, and related debt service incurred for school buses.

LAWS & REGULATIONS

KEY WASHINGTON STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS IMPACTING SCHOOLS BOARDS (RCW & WAC)

Legal Basis for School Boards

School Boards in Washington State have legal powers, duties and responsibilities derived from state statute and regulation. Sources such as the school code (Title 28A RCW), attorney general's opinions, regulations of the state board of education (Title 180 WAC), and regulations of the state superintendent of public instruction (Title 392 WAC) delineate the legal powers, duties and responsibilities of school boards.

Quick synopsis on the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) and the Washington Administrative Code (WAC):

- RCWs are statutes, or laws, passed by the State Legislature or by vote of the people (legislative branch).
- WACs are administrative regulations, or rules, adopted by state agencies (executive branch).
- Both RCWs and WACs legally bind the district.

PDC Filing

Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) - <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/>

- Reporting requirements for election campaigns: Within two weeks of becoming a candidate.
- Annual Personal Financial Affairs Statement: must be completed by April 15 (Tax Day), either electronically or by mail, even if you filed the year before as a candidate.
- Newly appointed board members: must file their Annual Personal Financial Affairs Statement within two weeks of the appointment.

Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA)

Limits board member communication, including email and text messages, concerning any district-related “action” outside of business meetings to only one-on-one, except for scheduling of meetings and conferences. Discussion among three or more board members counts as a “meeting” under the OPMA, and thus violates the OPMA unless the discussion takes place at an official and properly noticed meeting (or in a closed session not subject to the OPMA). A “meeting” under the OPMA includes email “replies to all,” or among three or more board members, discussing agenda items or other district business. It also includes discussions among three or more board members in other contexts, such as in person or by phone. “Action” in this context is broadly defined as not just a vote on a motion, but the transaction of official business, including receipt of public testimony, deliberations, discussions, considerations, reviews, evaluations and final actions.

Any board member who attends a meeting knowing that it violates the OPMA is subject to a potential personal liability of \$500 for the first violation and \$1,000 for a subsequent one. Reference RCW: 42.30.120(1)(2).

Public Records Act

The Washington Public Records Act (PRA) under Chapter 42.56 RCW is a law designed to guarantee that the public has access to public records of government bodies at all levels in Washington. Anyone can request records and a statement of purpose is not required, nor are there restrictions placed on the use of records. The Washington Public Records Act allows five days for records responses; board members should immediately forward all public records requests received to the district’s Public Records Officer.

Any email or text messages relating to school board business can be requested by a member of the public. If you use your computer or cell phone for these purposes, they are subject to search. Furthermore, school-related electronic communication with other board members, staff or the public must be retained for several years. For this reason, the district has a policy that all board-related electronic communications occur on district-provided computers using the district’s email service to provide archiving and ready searching for requested records.

Open Government Training Act

The Open Government Training Act, ESB 5964, requires board members to receive training in the Public Records Act, the Open Public Meetings Act, and records retention laws and rules. This mandatory training will provide you with additional guidance on complying with the state’s open government laws. New board members must receive the training within ninety days of taking office, and all board members must take a refresher training at least every four years.

Resources: Training provided at the November WSSDA Conference and free online by the WA Attorney General Office.

Grounds for Censure or Removal of Board Members

Censure is an expression of Board disapproval concerning the actions of an individual member. Service as a board officer is a privilege and not a right, so board officers can be removed from their officer position by a majority vote of the Board. The Board of Directors cannot remove individuals from the

Board itself except in cases of excessive absenteeism, defined as missing four consecutive board meetings. Reference: RCW 28A.343.390; see local policy, OGP-3, *Absence of a Board Director*.

Conflict of Interest (RCW 42.23.030)

A conflict of interest is considered to exist whenever a board member is or may reasonably appear to be in a position to request or receive, directly or indirectly, anything of value for or on account of his or her influence as a member of the Board of Directors.

FEDERAL EDUCATION LEGISLATION

Federal funding includes Title I resources that support high-poverty populations.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was last reauthorized in 2004. It provides funding for special education support.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), formerly No Child Left Behind (NCLB), was reauthorized in November 2015 and is now called Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The new act provides more state control of learning and professional standards and removal of onerously punitive federal controls for missing impossibly high standards “for every child.” It provides funding for high-poverty Title I schools.

Common Core State Standards: National in scope, but not actually federally mandated, it was developed by a conference of State Governors & State Chief School Officers, including our OSPI, from 45 states & DC.

GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL EDUCATION AGENCIES SUPPORTING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WSSDA (Washington State School Directors Associations)

As defined and required by law, board members are members of the Washington State School Directors’ Association. WSSDA is authorized in state law to be self-governing. This body supports professional development of board members, including advocating for public education at the state and federal levels.

WSSDA holds a delegate assembly during the annual November conference. That assembly establishes and maintains WSSDA’s bylaws, adopts the association’s position on non-legislative issues and approves membership dues. The school district has one voting delegate (the Legislative Rep) at that meeting and at the WSSDA General Assembly held in late September. That group establishes WSSDA’s legislative priorities for the upcoming year.

School boards may legally lobby for legislation and initiatives and join in lawsuits aimed at improved funding for public education by the state. Boards may not support individual candidates for public office.

Groups to focus on in Olympia:

- **Legislature:** House & Senate Chairs and committee members of Education & Budget
- **Our 12 local legislators:** one Senator and two Representatives in the 5th, 41st, 11th & 48th Districts

WASA (WA Assoc. of School Administrators)

WASA's membership includes more than 1,604 members and is open to all K-12 educational administrators in central office, building management, and educational agency positions. It provides professional development and promotes community and legislative support for education.

OSPI (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction)

OSPI is the primary agency charged with overseeing K-12 public education in Washington State. Led by State School Superintendent Chris Reykdal, OSPI works with the state's 295 school districts to administer basic education programs and implement education reform on behalf of more than one million public school students. OSPI is housed in the Old Capitol Building in Olympia.

The state, through OSPI, supervises school district budgeting, accounting and financial reporting. The state auditor works with OSPI to audit our budget once a year, in the spring. OSPI collects data on schools and operations and is tasked with developing a school report card for each school in the state.

SBE (State Board of Education)

The mission of the State Board of Education is to lead the development of state policy, provide system oversight, and advocate for student success. The state board of education consists of sixteen members: seven members appointed by the governor; five members, including two from eastern Washington and three from western Washington, elected by the members of public school boards of directors; one member elected by approved private school boards of directors; the superintendent of public instruction; and two student representatives selected by the Association of Washington Student Leaders (AWSL).

PSESD (Puget Sound Educational Service District) #121

The PSESD 121 provides leadership and cooperative services to thirty-five (35) school districts in King and Pierce counties, including Bainbridge Island. Approximately 38% (433,000 students) of Washington's preK-12 public schools students reside in PSESD 121.

DCYF (Department of Children, Youth and Families)

DCYF strives to help create safe, healthy, nurturing learning experiences for all Washington children. DCYF focuses on the earliest years in children's homes, child care, school programs and communities. It offers information and resources for children's first and most important teachers — parents — as well as others who care for and teach young children.

WSAC (Washington Student Achievement Council)

By reorganization of the Washington Higher Education Commission, the Washington Student Achievement Council was established as a cabinet-level state agency on July 1, 2012. WSAC provides strategic planning, oversight, and advocacy to support increased student success and higher levels of educational attainment in Washington.

NSBA (National School Board Association)

NSBA represents school boards on a national level. They believe that public education is America's most vital institution. NSBA has five goals: 1) Member service culture and relationships, 2) School

board leadership, 3) Advocacy, 4) Support for Public Education, and 5) Infrastructure. NSBA has a wealth of information on its website and organizes an annual conference in the spring.

SUMMARY OF REFERENCES

Issaquah School District Policy Governance Model: <https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/board/policies>

NSBA: <http://www.nsba.org/>

Policy Governance

- From John Carver, creator of the model: <http://carvergovernance.com/model.htm>
- *Good Governance is a Choice* by Randy Quinn and Linda J. Dawson

Public Disclosure Commission: For candidates and officeholders, filling requirements and forms available online <http://www.pdc.wa.gov/>

WSSDA: <http://wssda.org/>

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