



Direct

Washington State School Directors' Association

May 2010

Race to the Top deadline approaches

Districts consider whether to join state's application for \$250 million

With a May 17 deadline approaching, school boards around the state are pondering whether to join the state as it competes for up for \$250 million in federal Race to the Top funds.

Last month, Gov. Chris Gregoire urged all districts in Washington to sign on to the state's forthcoming application for RTTT funds, which is being submitted in the second round of the federal competition. Of the 40 states plus Washington D.C. competing in the first round earlier this year, only two—Delaware and Tennessee—were selected.

Approximately \$3.4 billion remain for states competing in the second round, of which Washington would be eligible for an estimated award of up to \$250 million. Of that amount, half would be distributed to participating school districts based on federal Title I formula allocations. The application is being configured to ensure participating districts would receive at least \$88 per student over the four-year run of the grant.

During the past weeks, the state's RTTT Coordinating Committee has conducted several briefings for school districts on the criteria for participating in the application, including two K-20 videoconference presentations and a webinar. Representatives from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction have also presented at most of WSSDA's spring Regional Meetings.

The state is hoping to strengthen Washington's chances of securing a grant by demonstrating a broad level of district participation. Earlier this year the Legislature approved a package of K-12 revisions also aimed at reinforcing the application, focusing on areas such as school district

Alan Burke, Deputy Superintendent at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, discusses the state's Race to the Top application process at the WSSDA Regional Meeting in Pasco.



accountability, teacher/principal evaluation, common core academic standards and educator certification.

To participate in the application, districts must sign a partnership agreement and transmit it to the state no later than May 17. The agreement provides for signatures of the school board chair, the superintendent, the local teachers' union president and a principal representative.

If the state is successful in its application, participating districts would have 90 days to develop a plan for addressing the required components of RTTT. Officials emphasize that the agreement would be void if the state is not awarded a grant. For full information, visit the OSPI website at www.waracetohtop.org. A WSSDA podcast interview on RTTT is also available at www.wssda.libsyn.com.

Note: See page two for results of WSSDA's Sounding Board pulse poll on Race to the Top participation.

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K-12 takes \$120m hit in new budget

State lawmakers used up all but one day of the 30-day special legislative session to arrive at a compromise plan to balance the budget for the remainder of the current biennium. For K-12 education, the end result is another round of spending cuts, this time to the tune of \$120 million.

The session ended April 13 with adoption of spending reductions and a revenue package designed to address a projected \$2.8 billion deficit in the state budget. Overall, the budget cuts about \$750 million from the 2009-11 state operating budget adopted last year, including \$120 million from K-12 education. Those reductions include elimination of the remaining I-728 student achievement funds, elimination of the last state-funded learning improvement day, and a reduction in funds for reducing class sizes in fourth grade.

Lawmakers did approve enhancements in some areas of K-12, most notably an increase of nearly \$22 million to raise Local Effort Assistance from the current 12 percent rate to 14 percent. Also approved was an additional \$8 million to maintain funding for the per pupil inflator at 4 percent and an additional \$5.1 million to implement Race to the Top education revisions and to begin implementation of K-12 funding formula changes under last year's Basic Education Finance Reform Act.

Another measure adopted this session will ask state voters to approve a \$505 million bond issue to provide grants for capital improvements of public facilities (school district and higher education buildings) for energy cost savings.

As noted in last month's *WSSDA Direct*, the 2010 legislative session also produced several major changes in K-12 policy, including adoption of a new accountability system that sets up a process of "required action" for low-performing schools and districts, and an increase in the levy lid for all districts in the state.

WSSDA is nearing completion of its End of Session Summary, which will include a full review of the 2010 Supplemental Operating and Capital Budgets, a comprehensive list of the many education-related bills that were adopted by this Legislature and a list of the many more education bills that were introduced but not adopted. The summary will be mailed to all school district Legislative Representatives and also will be posted on the WSSDA website (wssda.org).

Consolidation provision vetoed

WSSDA commended Gov. Chris Gregoire's veto of a state budget provision related to consolidating school districts. The provision, inserted in the budget during the closing days of the special legislative session, called for establishing a commission to develop recommendations to the Legislature for the "reorganization and reduction of Washington school districts" and possible reorganization of the state's educational service districts.

The governor vetoed the provision, saying consolidation would distract from current education reform efforts and the state's application for federal Race to the Top grants. She also expressed concerns about the makeup of the commission and the fact that a study is already in progress on school district size and operating costs.

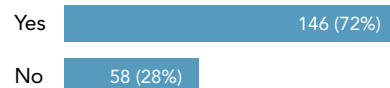
"School directors are heartened by the governor's veto," said WSSDA President Kevin Laverty (Mukilteo). "It's a relief to know our districts won't be distracted by the issue of forced consolidations when they are already grappling with substantial budget cuts, potential layoffs and evaluating their participation in Race to the Top."

Sounding Board: Race to the Top Participation

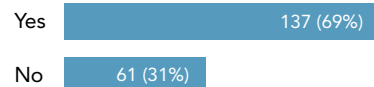
April 2010

Gov. Chris Gregoire recently urged all school districts in Washington to join in the state's forthcoming application for up to \$250 million in federal "Race to the Top" funds. In the past few weeks, the state has made a considerable effort to provide information on how districts can sign on to the application, including two K-20 network briefings, a webinar and an online resource center. The deadline for districts to sign on is May 17. Our Sounding Board questions:

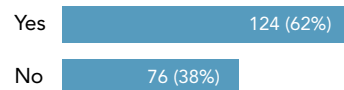
Have you participated in any of the briefings and/or reviewed the materials regarding the proposed state/district partnership on Washington's Race to the Top application?



Do you think your district will sign on to the state's Race to the Top application?



Do you think the state of Washington should submit an application for federal Race to the Top funds??



Sounding Board is a periodic "pulse poll" of school board members in the state of Washington. This poll was opened on April 23, 2010; results displayed here are current as of April 30. Results are unscientific and unofficial. Formal WSSDA positions on legislative and other issues are available on the association Web site at wssda.org under "WSSDA Information > Bylaws & Positions."

Finalists identified for WSSDA executive director position

The WSSDA Board of Directors has identified three finalists for the position of WSSDA Executive Director. The finalists were identified through board acceptance of the recommendations of the association's Executive Director Search Committee. The finalist applicants are:

Jonelle Adams Adams is currently the executive director of the Washington Alliance for Better Schools, a non-profit consortium of 12 member school districts from Marysville to Federal Way that supports school reform and professional development for principals and teachers. Adams' previous experience includes 12 years with the Boeing Company with responsibility for supporting school reform through effective business partnerships and providing leadership training to more than 150 school principals.

Justin King King is currently president of the Education and Associations Division of Global Behavior, a Michigan-based organization that focuses on assisting students, parents and teachers with increasing student academic performance and decreasing dropout rates. King retired from the 4,600-member Michigan Association of School Boards in 2008 after a 21-year tenure as executive director. King also served eight years as the executive director of the Nebraska Association of School Boards.

Steven E. Leahy Leahy is currently a principal in Leahy Consulting, assisting government clients, start-up businesses

and non-profit organizations on economic development, marketing and fundraising. Leahy retired in 2009 after serving 30 years with the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce, including seven years as president and CEO. In this position he worked with business and education leaders, elected officials and policy makers to garner support for increased student achievement and improved workforce quality.

The WSSDA board will interview the candidates on Saturday, May 22, in the Board Room of North Thurston Public Schools at 305 College Street NE in Lacey. Interview times for the individual candidates will be announced in the near future. The public is invited to attend these interviews and provide input to the Board to inform its decision.

In other action from the April 23-24 WSSDA board meeting:

- The board voted to establish a WSSDA task force on urban/suburban schools issues. The specific charge to and membership of the task force will be determined at upcoming meetings.
- The board affirmed its recommendation to the State Board of Education that the WSSDA board be responsible for identifying appointees to fill vacancies in SBE positions elected by school directors.
- The board approved a resolution endorsing Arts Education Month in May (see related article page 4).

Golden re-elected to governing board of National Schools Boards Association



Golden

Anne Golden (Walla Walla) has been re-elected to the board of directors of the National School Boards Association. Golden was chosen during the NSBA Delegate Assembly, which held its annual business meeting last month in Chicago.

Golden serves on the 25-member NSBA board as an at-large representative for the association's Pacific Region, which is made up of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, Utah and Washington. She was re-elected to a three-year term.

NSBA is a national federation of state school boards associations that represent more than 95,000 school board members nationwide. NSBA's governing body is the board of directors, which carries out the policies and positions adopted by the association's 150-member delegate assembly.

Golden has served on the Walla Walla school board since 1987. She previously served as WSSDA president and is currently an ex-officio member of the WSSDA Board of Directors. She has led numerous association committees and most recently served as chair of the WSSDA Student Achievement Task Force. She also trains school board members in strategic planning and professional development.

Steele to take WASA position



Steele

Dan Steele, WSSDA's Assistant Executive Director of Governmental Relations, will leave the association to take a similar position with

the Washington Association of School Administrators, it was announced this month.

"Dan has performed exemplary work over the past 13 years as an advocate for school boards and public education," said WSSDA Interim Executive Director Harry Frost. "We wish him every success as he assumes his new position with WASA."

Steele will be leaving WSSDA effective June 30. Frost said a process for recruiting and selecting a successor will begin in the coming weeks.

WSSDA seeks Annual Conference session proposals

Help shape the ideas and strategies that inform public school directors' efforts to improve student learning.

Submit your 2010 WSSDA Annual Conference session proposal focused on what school directors need to know to be effective in their governance role.

Proposals that recharge school board members' knowledge and abilities through cutting-edge information or replicable practices and programs are specifically encouraged. The target audience consists of school directors and superintendents from rural, small districts to urban, large districts.

Find complete information and proposal submission forms at wssda.org/conference. The deadline for session proposals is Thursday, July 1, 2010. The Conference takes place Nov. 17-20 in Spokane.

WSSDA Board supports Arts Education Month

WSSDA's Board of Directors has approved a resolution proclaiming May as Arts Education Month.

In support of this, ArtsEd Washington has assembled resources for school districts and school directors (www.artsedwashington.org/) outlining requirements for arts education and documenting the important role the arts play in areas such as closing the achievement gap and providing extended learning opportunities for students.

WSSDA's resolution stresses that the arts are the embodiment of much of the accumulated wisdom, intellect, and imagination of humankind; and that learning in the arts enhances and enriches students' lives and improves their creativity and problem-solving skills. The resolution called upon schools and communities to provide all children with the quality arts education they deserve.

NEWS BRIEFS

The National Center for Education Statistics has released *The Digest of Education Statistics 2009*, and *Mini-Digest of Education Statistics, 2009*. The publications compile statistical information covering American education from pre-K through graduate school. They provide data on topics such as the number of schools and colleges, teachers, enrollments, and graduates, in addition to educational attainment, finances, and federal funds for education, libraries, and international comparisons. Access this document at www.nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2010013.

E-Learning 2010: Assessing the Agenda For Change, an online report published last month by Education Week, examines progress made in the e-learning arena as well as the administrative, funding, and policy barriers that some experts say are slowing the growth of this form of education. "Local districts, in particular," states the report's introduction, "are finding that a mix of face-to-face classes and online-only courses, an approach called blended or

hybrid learning, is proving to be effective because it plays to students' strengths and weaknesses." The 16-page report can be accessed free of charge at www.edweek.org/media/educationweek_e-learning_2010_specialreport.pdf.

A memorandum of understanding signed last month by OSPI and the Académie de Nantes in France, establishes a two-year formal agreement to consider partnerships, such as sister school programs, that could benefit students at every grade level. The agreement will help students from France and Washington learn about the language, history and culture of each of their countries. The Académie de Nantes is composed of about 3,600 schools serving the city of Nantes, located about 200 miles southwest of Paris.

An additional goal of the collaboration is to incorporate international dimensions and comparative approaches in teaching, learning, training and research, and the evaluation of these areas. Full goals of the agreement are outlined at www.k12.wa.us/Communications/PressReleases2010/Agreement.aspx

Panel submits recommendations on Core 24

An advisory group established by the State Board of Education has submitted a series of comprehensive recommendations regarding implementation of Core 24, the framework for new high school credit requirements in Washington state.

The recommendations, developed by the Core 24 Implementation Task Force, were delivered to the SBE in mid-April. The report will be reviewed by the State Board at its next meeting May 13-14 in Spokane.

Approved by the SBE in July 2008, Core 24 spells out new credit requirements for students to graduate from high school. The board proposed that the framework be phased in over four years starting with the class of 2013. In approving Core 24, SBE emphasized that implementation would be contingent on funding from the Legislature.

While agreeing that more demanding requirements will benefit students, the task force expressed reservations about the implementation of Core 24, citing strong concerns about full and sustainable funding. The report also notes the challenges Core 24 will pose related to arts and science facilities, the sup-

ply of qualified teachers, and the impact on students who need more time and support to meet academic requirements.

The report provides recommendations in ten areas, including the phase-in timetable. Once funding has begun, the task force said, it will take six years to fully implement Core 24—one year for planning and five years to make the needed changes. The task force emphasized that the ultimate success of Core 24 will depend on funding systemic changes throughout the K-12 system, not just at the high school level.

The report also cites the importance of providing multiple pathways for students to meet the requirements, and the need for flexibility at the district level. One recommendation calls for eliminating the current requirement for 150 hours of instructional time per credit while maintaining provisions allowing students to earn credits based on competency. Another proposal would allow students to earn a credit by meeting standard on state-approved end-of-course assessments, even if they fail the class.

The task force report and other materials related to Core 24 can be viewed online at www.sbe.wa.gov.

Schools selected for federal improvement grants

A total of 18 schools will receive federal School Improvement Grants for the 2010-11 school year. A total of 41 schools from 21 districts applied for the grants.

OSPI released the list, including the amount of money awarded to each school, as well as projections for the second and third years of the grants.

Selected schools demonstrated a strong commitment to innovation and turnaround; grant monies will give them the opportunity to do so, while establishing models for other schools in the state.

Recipients are required to use one of four intervention models:

turnaround, restart, closure or transformation. The overall goal of the program is to understand which practices produce the most significant improvements in student achievement, particularly in diverse schools serving low-income students, children of color and English language learners.

The 18 schools represent nine districts. Initially, 19 schools were identified, but the Yakima School District opted to serve three of its four eligible schools.

The grants total \$50 million for three years, or about \$47.7 million after administrative costs are subtracted. Of that amount, 40 percent will be disbursed in the first year (2010-11), 35

percent in the second and 25 percent in the third year. For the 2010-11 school year, the total money awarded is about \$19 million.

Districts not receiving grants will work with OSPI to find alternate services to help them, such as district-level reviews, math and reading program reviews, coaching for instructional leaders and online classroom data collection.

For more information on the program, and to view a list of awardees and unfunded district applications visit www.k12.wa.us/Improvement/SIG/default.aspx.

WSSDA seeks officer candidates for 2011

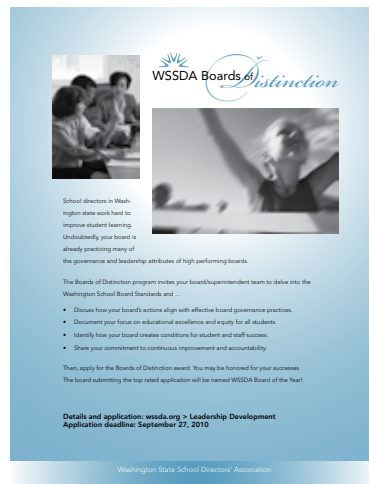
School directors are asked to pay particular attention to the mailing *WSSDA seeks officer candidates for 2011*, explaining the procedure for becoming—or recommending—a candidate for WSSDA President-elect and Vice President.

For 2011, the position of President-elect is open to candidates from throughout the state. The position of Vice President is open to candidates from the east side of the Cascades. Both positions will be voted upon at the WSSDA Annual Conference in November.

Information may be submitted on paper using the forms in the packet, or electronically through the WSSDA website, wssda.org. Suggestions for nominees are due by May 28 and candidate applications are due June 14.

If you have questions, please contact your Director Area representative on the WSSDA Nominating Committee; a roster is available on the WSSDA website under “WSSDA Information.” Or, contact Martha Rice, Nominating Committee Chair, at 509.910.0708. In the WSSDA office, contact Terri Eixenberger, 360.252.3002.

Boards of Distinction



WSSDA’s Boards of Distinction program invites your board/superintendent team to delve into the Washington School Board Standards, discussing and documenting how your board’s actions align with effective governance practices.

The Boards of Distinction, piloted in 2009, has been simplified for a more refined focus, greater

ease in application (less paperwork for school boards), and more equity for districts of all sizes—small, medium and large.

Each board which meets the criteria will receive recognition as a Board of Distinction. The board submitting the top rated application will be named WSSDA Board of the Year. Watch for the mailer pictured above, or visit wssda.org > Leadership Development for complete details and the application. Applications are due Sept. 27, 2010.

Spring push for College Bound Scholarship sign-ups

With the end of the school year comes the final push to sign up eligible students for the College Bound Scholarship. This is particularly important for 8th graders whose deadline is June 30.

Last month, superintendents and middle school principals received district and school sign-up numbers. Schools may request a list of 7th and 8th grade students who have signed up by calling the Higher Education Coordinating Board, 360.596.4808, or emailing collegebound@hecb.wa.gov. By comparing this data to lists of students eligible for free and reduced price lunch, schools may target the remaining eligible students.

Each ESD has a counselor from the College Success Foundation to assist schools’ sign-up efforts. They are available to help fill out pledges, plan events, organize phone-a-thons, etc. Contact your counselor via www.hecb.wa.gov > Paying for College > College Bound Scholarship > School Personnel.

Signing-up students requires perseverance, creativity, and commitment. “Tools for Schools,” at the College Bound website provides suggestions, forms, and checklists. Brochures, applications in Spanish and English, posters, as well as PowerPoint presentations are available to help you explain College Bound and the importance of attending college.



Tacoma schools are the “poster child” for the College Bound program in Washington state. They have put a great deal of effort into signing up and tracking their students. Kurt Miller (center, seated), school board member from Tacoma, is pictured at a College Bound sign-up event last year. Miller has had extensive involvement with “Tacoma is College Bound,” a collaborative effort of the Tacoma Public Schools, HECB, Tacoma Community College, Metropolitan Development Council, Tacoma Housing Authority and College Success Foundation.



Proposals sought for WSSDA positions

Each year school boards are invited to submit their ideas for WSSDA's permanent and legislative positions.

Legislative positions: WSSDA's Legislative Committee develops the association's legislative positions by requesting proposals from school boards. The Legislative Representative on each school board has been sent instructions for recommending proposals and positions for WSSDA to bring to the 2011 legislative session. Legislative Representatives are asked to schedule time on their board's agenda to discuss legislative proposals. Each proposal submitted, unless withdrawn, will be presented to the total membership at the WSSDA 2010 Legislative Assembly Sept. 24-25 in Vancouver, where they will be considered for passage and prioritization.

Legislative proposals must be received in the WSSDA office by May 28, 2010. For instructions visit wssda.org > Legislative Information. To avoid duplication, refer to WSSDA's standing legislative positions found at wssda.org > WSSDA Information > Bylaws and Positions. For more information contact Sheila Chard at 360.252.3011.

Permanent positions: Delineating WSSDA's beliefs, positions and values as viewed by its members, WSSDA positions are advisory to school boards as well as to other organizations and stakeholders. School directors will be mailed a WSSDA Resolution Proposal Form in June which must be submitted by Aug. 16; forms will also be posted online at wssda.org. School directors are invited to submit positions to be considered for adoption by the Delegate Assembly during the Annual Conference in November. The call for submittals of permanent positions is coordinated by the WSSDA Resolutions Committee.

Power up! Online conference and hotel registration opens May 3 for WSSDA's Annual Conference, which will take place Nov. 17-20, 2010 at the Spokane Convention Center and DoubleTree Hotel.

The Annual Conference Planning Committee is developing an intriguing line-up of speakers, workshops and other events to help empower you in your challenging role of publicly elected school director.

Recharge your leadership and governance skills as you strive to improve student achievement in your district. Re-energize as you discover fresh ideas, new perspectives and innovative solutions to the challenges facing school districts and public education. Reconnect with fellow school directors from around the state to share and learn from one another. And set an example of lifelong learning for your students.

Register at wssda.org/conference. You save money by registering early. Check the online site for information on conference scholarships as well.

Proposals for workshop sessions and presentations are accepted online beginning May 4 (see related article, page 4).

WELCOME, NEW SCHOOL DIRECTORS!

Congratulations and welcome to the following new school directors:

Donald Baker, *Cape Flattery*
Clint Kirry, *Chewelah*
Anna Dodge, *Easton*
Pete Ploeger, *Easton*
Paul Lund, *Lake Stevens*
Patsy Haber, *Lopez Island*
Phillip Caldwell, *Mount Pleasant*
Richard Solberg, *Oroville*
Sandra Wilson, *Skamania*
Fred Terry, *Winlock*

Thanks and best wishes to those who have recently left board service:

Dudley Eubank, *Cape Flattery*
Tim Rowe, *Chewelah*
Brandy Audette, *Mount Pleasant*
Steve Sultemeier, *Naselle-Grays River Valley*
Keith Whitaker, *Orcas Island*
Timothy Whiteaker, *Oroville*
Patrick Barrett, *Rainier*
Bren Curtis, *Ritzville*
Mel Locke, *Skamania*

Follow WSSDA on Twitter and Facebook

Sign up for a Twitter account and receive WSSDA's "tweets"—brief updates on education news and association activities. Visit twitter.com/wssda.

Find us at Facebook.com/wssda and click on "Become a fan." (You must be a Facebook member: Sign up to be a member at Facebook.com.)



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Kevin Laverty, *President* 206.498.8726
 Deborah Heart, *President-elect* 509.773.6334
 Mary Fertakis, *Vice President* 206.767.6053
 Harry Frost, *Interim Executive Director* 360.252.3001
 David Brine, *Communications Director* 360.252.3013
 Kate Vikstrom, *Communications Specialist* 360.252.3015

WSSDA DIRECTORY

General Information 360.493.9231
 Association Services 360.252.3002
 Leadership Development Services 360.252.3009
 Governmental Relations 360.252.3011
 Communications 360.252.3011
 Policy and Legal Services 360.252.3019
 Toll Free (In-State) 800.562.8927
 E-Mail mail@wssda.org

221 College Street N.E.
Olympia, WA 98516-5313

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- State Board of Education, Spokane May 13-14
- Leadership WSSDA, Olympia May 14-15
- Learning First Alliance, Olympia May 19
- Professional Educators Standards Board
Olympia May 19-20
- WSSDA Board of Directors, Olympia May 22
- Memorial Day May 31
- Board of Natural Resources, Olympia June 1
- WSSDA Legislative Committee, Olympia June 18-19
- WSSDA Board of Directors, Olympia June 25-26
- WASA/AWSP Summer Conference, Spokane June 27-29
- Independence Day Holiday July 5
- State Board of Education, La Conner July 13-15
- WSSDA Legislative Committee, Olympia July 23-24

For event details, visit wssda.org, "Calendar of Events."

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

- WSSDA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Vancouver, Washington: Sept. 24-25
- NSBA T+L
Phoenix, Arizona: Oct. 19-21
- WSSDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Spokane: Nov. 17-20