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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Board of Education to Approve Biology End of Course Assessment Cut Scores

Olympia, WA – The Washington State Board of Education's August 6 meeting at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction building in Olympia, Washington, will include a discussion and decision on cut scores for the biology end of course assessment. "Cut scores" delineate tiers of student performance, including the score required to pass the assessment.

Passing the biology end of course assessment is a graduation requirement for the class of 2015. The classes of 2013 and 2014 are not required to pass a state science exam for graduation.

Washington students typically take biology in their sophomore or freshman year of high school.

The Board will also review cut scores for the Washington Alternative Assessment System Portfolio. This assessment system provides access to standardized testing for students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

The Board meeting will begin Monday, August 6, at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting agenda is now posted at www.sbe.wa.gov. Materials discussed during the meeting will be available by 5:00 p.m. on August 6.

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About the State Board of Education: The State Board of Education provides advocacy and strategic oversight of public education. The Board is comprised of 16 members: five are elected by school board directors, seven are appointed by the Governor, two serve as student representatives, and one serves as a private school representative. The Superintendent of Public Instruction is also a member. The Board's recent work includes the approval of a new career and college-ready graduation requirements framework and developing the first Washington state intervention policy into our persistently lowest-achieving schools.

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