

K-12 Advisory Committee Meeting

October 19, 2005

Staff Notes

The K-12 advisory committee members participated in two joint meetings the morning of October 19.

JOINT EARLY LEARNING/K-12/HIGHER EDUCATION MEETING

The K-12 advisory committee met with the Early Learning Council and Higher Education Advisory Committee members to hear a presentation of the overall Washington Learns Work plan and another presentation on the Education Pathways in Washington State.

JOINT K-12 AND HIGHER EDUCATION MEETING

The K-12 advisory committee met with the Higher Education Committee to consider draft recommendations related to transition issues. The four areas under consideration included: Student Planning for College and Career, High School Pre-Apprenticeships, Dual Credit Options, College Readiness and Admissions. In table conversations with members from both committees participating, feedback was discussed and shared with the group as a whole. This information will be folded into the recommendation considerations that are forwarded to the Steering Committee for their consideration.

The two advisory committees also heard a panel discussion entitled "College readiness and admissions." Participants shared their views on necessary changes to college admission requirements and high school graduation requirements as well as their views on the necessary supports the systems need if change is to occur. Additionally presenters shared their thoughts on the scope of the issues that need to be addressed.

K-12 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

In the afternoon the K-12 Advisory Committee met to focus on K-12 finance programs. The goal of the session was to provide a common understanding of the basic workings of the funding system for K-12.

Kristen Fraser, Counsel with the House Appropriations Committee began by presenting background information on the constitutional framework for education in Washington and reviewed related court cases.

The rest of the afternoon was spent in working groups learning about the major funding streams that exist in our current funding system. There were six areas of focus:

- General Apportionment and transportation

Washington Learns

K-12 Education Advisory Committee

- Compensation
- Levies and local effort assistance
- Learning assistance program and bilingual education
- Special education
- Education reform and initiative 728

The committee will pick up on this conversation at its next meeting on November 29. Additionally committee members have an assignment for the next meeting to review the executive summaries of recent studies by state organizations that have focused on funding issues. The studies are:

General K-12 Funding area:

Ample School Funding Project, Wa Association of School Administrators
Subcommittee on Education Finance Structures, House of Representatives
K-12 Finance Workgroup, House of Representatives

Washington State School Finances: Does Every Child Count?, Wa St PTA
What Will It Take?, Rainier Institute

*Realities of Education Funding in Washington State: Why Schools Are Skill
Struggling After the Passage of Two Education Initiatives*, League of Ed
Voters

K-12 Finance and Student Performance Study, JLARC

Transportation

Ample School Funding Project, Wa Association of School Administrators
K-12 School Bus Bidding and Purchasing Study, JLARC

Compensation

Getting and Keeping the Teachers We Need: Paying for What We Value; PESB
Review of K-12 Regional Cost Issues, Office of Financial Management
K-12 Supplemental Contracts, JLARC

Levies / Local Effort Assistance

Joint Task Force on Local Effort Assistance, Legislature

Learning Assistance Program

Ample School Funding Project, Wa Association of School Administrators
Learning Assistance Program: Options to Revise the State Funding Formula, Wa
St Institute for Public Policy

Bilingual Education

Ample School Funding Project, Wa Association of School Administrators
English Language Learners in K-12: Trends, Policies, and Research in Washington State, Wa St Institute for Public Policy

Special Education

Ample School Funding Project, Wa Association of School Administrators
Special Education Study, JLARC
Washington State's Special Education Safety Net: Final Report of the 1995-96 Safety Net Process, Wa St Institute for Public Policy
Special Education Fiscal Study, JLARC and Wa St Institute for Public Policy

Education Reform / Initiative 728

Washington's Initiative 728: Examining the First Year of Implementation, UW Educational Leadership and Policy Studies