

# WEA Board of Directors Report

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WEA Fourth  
Corner Uniserv

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## Building the Plane While in Flight?

As reported to the WEA Board, during a school reform issues update, the 10th grade WASL Assessment Options for students who have failed the WASL at least twice, is like **building the plane while in flight**. In 2005, WEA and the PTA both stated that the WASL graduation requirements needed "an adjustment". The "stay the course" group consisted of OSPI, Washington Roundtable, majority of legislators, State Board of Education and associations representing administrators, principals, superintendents and school boards. Now all groups have joined the WEA and PTA position of adjusting the graduation requirements, except for OSPI and the Washington Roundtable. The State Board of Education is caught in the middle.

### What is the current status of students?

- 82,500 10th graders took the WASL
- 36,500 passed the spring WASL
- 45,000 failed the spring WASL
- 12,000 took the summer WASL
- 3,000 passed the summer WASL
- 9,000 failed the summer WASL and are now eligible to take the **Alternative Assessments** which are currently being developed. These options will include; Collection of Evidence, Industry Certification, WASL/GPA Comparison and ACT/SAT/PSAT math assessments.

The State Board of Education held a public hearing in late October concerning the WASL graduation requirements. WEA and the other groups were united in expressing their common frustrations.

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## It's Been a Busy Fall of WEA Activities

If you have felt really busy, it may be because collectively we have accomplished a lot this fall. The I-920 campaign was successfully defeated because of 2 ads, 3 direct mails, 50,000 phone calls, 500,000 door hangers and 70,200 postcards sent to pro-ed voters. WEA Fourth Corner alone sent out 10,001 postcards! The six WEA-targeted legislative races resulted in six pro-education winners. Our **Take the Lead** campaign has resulted in ads, brochures and local uniserv committee presentations. Many WEA members attended and/or gave input to the **Washington Learns** task force. WEA held several conferences this fall including; Small & Rural Locals, 1st Annual Bargaining Conference and Board Certification. Evergreen University, as of 10-31-06, joins a growing list of universities with union rights. Last but not least, the WEA-PAC drive is in full swing!

### Topics of Interest:

- Cross-Cultural Competency Trainings are available starting this winter for locals or uniserv councils.
- November 14th, Washington Learns Final Report is released.
- By December 17th, Governor releases her budget.

## What is the “Collection of Evidence?”

After a 10th grader fails the WASL two times, they become eligible for an alternative assessment. Although the COE concept was designed for 650 students as an option, as a result of the summer WASL, 9,000 10th graders are now eligible to participate. The system is clearly

not ready.

School principals are to receive further information concerning the COE requirements by November 8th for implementation. Rules and regulations are said to include 5-12 samples of work covering the standards, signed by students and teachers stating it is the stu-

dent’s work. The total collection is then signed by the principal. State funding will be about \$600 per high school for implementation, which one principal stated would only pay for a filing cabinet.

Guidelines are created by OSPI and then approved by the State Board of Education.

### Thought for the day

#### How does your school district spend I-728 funds?

During the 2004-05 school year, school districts, on the average, spent monies in the following ways;

- 57% to lower class size
- 18% for staff development
- 11% for extended learning including full day kindergarten
- 14% for other

## What Does the COE Mean for Teachers?

State funding for the implementation of the “Collection of Evidence” alternative assessment for 10th graders is predicted to be about \$600 per high school. The workload for classroom teachers will be impacted significantly.

These expectations may include;

- Meeting with eligible students to plan for COE.
- Participate in COE staff development.
- Identify course activities and performance tasks that may be used within

the collection.

- Review student work, sign and date appropriate forms.
- Assist with timely submission of student collection.
- Follow procedures to keep the COE materials secure.

## Board Motion: Gain Sharing & Organizing

In order to bring about a meaningful, timely and strategic member involvement to advance pension improvements in the context of the overall 2007-09 legislative agenda, the WEA Board of Directors, adopted the following organizing plan.

- Each council will be assigned a lobbyist.
- Each council president is to identify at least three member contact persons representing affected pension plans.
- Contact members will be paired by a member from

the Life-Long Compensation Task Force by the first week of December.

- Organizing activities around pension improvements will be incorporated into the overall member lobby and organizing efforts during the legislative session.