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NEW STANDARDS FOR NEW TEACHERS

OLYMPIA, WA – October 9, 2007 - The Professional Educator Standards Board

(PESB) has approved new and improved standards to ensure that beginning teachers have developed the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the classroom.

The approved standards, called Standard V, emphasize personalized learning for all K-12 students, strengthen cultural understanding, integrate math across the content areas, identify learner outcomes and shift to evidence-based standards requiring new teachers to demonstrate what students know and are able to do through student work and voice.

“A beginning teacher’s tool belt needs to be equipped with the core knowledge and skills necessary to hit the school ground running,” said PESB Chair Jill VanGlubt, an educator from the Lake Washington School District. “The new Standard V provides the assurance that newly minted K-12 teachers have received a quality preparation experience that positively impacts student learning.”

Standard V is one of five standards the PESB uses to evaluate the effectiveness and quality of teacher education programs at higher education institutions. The Board has the authority to approve or disapprove university programs based on how well programs meet the standards. Currently, 20 Washington public and private colleges and universities are approved to offer teacher preparation programs.

A committee of K-12 teachers, higher education institutions, and state-level agencies and associations reviewed and revised the standards over the last six months,

taking into account teacher education research, national teacher standards as well as Washington's student learning goals and expectations.

The implementation of Standard V across the higher education educator preparation programs will begin immediately with opportunities for university staff to participate in professional development as well as starting the process to review and revise the performance-based assessment used to assess an educator's instructional skills and methods. The PESB will also pursue legislative funding in 2008 to pilot full implementation of the standards with one or two universities.

Standard V is the first of five comprehensive standards that will be reviewed and revised for PESB approval over the next year.

The PESB is a state policy board whose scope of work covers every aspect of the educator profession – from recruitment, hiring, preparation and certification to mentoring, professional growth, retention, assessment and evaluation. The 21-member board is made up primarily of practicing educators from K-12 and higher education who are appointed by the Governor.

For more information about the PESB go to www.pesb.wa.gov.