

The Information Services Board

2003 Members

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Director, Department of
Licensing

Senator James West

Statutory Authority

The Information Services Board (ISB) is the entity to which the Legislature has delegated IT acquisition, policy development, planning and oversight authority over the agencies of the executive and judicial branches.

Washington is committed to using technology to improve information and service delivery; accordingly, there is much IT policy development occurring to guide the rapid changes. While the statutory responsibility for the acquisition and management of IT resources rests with agency heads, the ISB establishes policies that guide those activities.

Under 43.105.041 RCW the ISB has the power and duty to:

- Develop statewide or interagency technical policies, standards and procedures.
- Develop standards governing the acquisition and disposition of equipment, proprietary software and purchased services, and confidentiality of computerized data.
- Purchase, lease, rent or otherwise acquire, dispose of and maintain equipment, proprietary software and purchased services, or to delegate to other agencies and institutions of state government, under appropriate standards, the authority to purchase, lease, rent or otherwise acquire, dispose of and maintain equipment, proprietary software and purchased services.
- Review and approve standards and common specifications for new or expanded telecommunications networks proposed by agencies, public post-secondary education districts, educational service districts or statewide or regional providers of K-12 information technology services; and to assure the cost-effective development and incremental implementation of a statewide video telecommunications system to serve public schools, educational service districts, vocational-technical institutes, community colleges, colleges and universities, state and local government, and the general public through public affairs programming.

Membership

The ISB's 15 members are drawn from the executive, judicial, and legislative branches, education and higher education, an agency headed by a statewide elected official other than the governor, and the private sector. The governor appoints eight of the members.

Portfolio Management

Technology as a statewide investment

Washington's information technology projects have earned a success rate three times the national average. In order to ensure continued investment in information technology remained strategic and successful, in 1999 the ISB introduced a portfolio-based management strategy for IT investment.

Portfolio management became standard procedure after winning unanimous support of legislators and the governor. More than 95 percent of all executive-branch information technology spending is now covered by this new management approach.

Portfolio management activities that meet 43.105.172 RCW:

- Portfolio management directs agencies to manage their information technology investments – computer systems and telecommunications equipment, for example – in the same way that real estate and stock investments are managed.
- Each proposed investment is examined in the context of an agency's current and planned investments, as well as in the context of the state's overall information technology holdings and the agency's business needs.
- By statute, each agency head is responsible for the acquisition and management of that agency's IT resources. To do so, they are, guided by the IT portfolio management policies and principles. Agency IT portfolios are considered components of the statewide IT portfolio.
- Portfolio management was developed in consultation with the DIS Customer Advisory Board and was approved by the ISB.
- The portfolio model has been extended to multi-agency communities of interest involved in digital government, criminal justice, education, and geospatial information. These initiatives are coordinated by the Executive Management Group, the K-20 Network Board, and the Washington Geographic Information Council, respectively. All of these entities are either under the authority of, or cooperate with, the ISB.

For more information:

**Nancy Jackson,
Communications Director**

**Washington State Department
of Information Services**

1110 Jefferson Street SE
Olympia, WA 98504-2445

360-902-3553

nancyj@dis.wa.gov

dis.wa.gov

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management
directs agencies to
manage their IT
investments in the
context of the
state's overall
technology holdings*