

Auditory Screening Rules Briefing - Chapter 246-760 **WAC**

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Overview

- Background
- Engagement and Rule Development
- Proposed Rule Changes
- Summary of Feedback
- Timeline and Next Steps



Overview of Washington Auditory Screening Rules

- Washington law requires that the Board make rules for the yearly hearing screenings done in Washington schools (RCW 28A.210.020).
- Chapter 246-760 WAC outlines the requirements for these screenings.
- Screenings are required for students in kindergarten, grades 1-3, and grades 5 and 7.
- Schools may expand these screenings to other grade levels if resources permit.
- The Board last updated the hearing sections of the rule in 2002 (vision screening sections were updated in 2017).

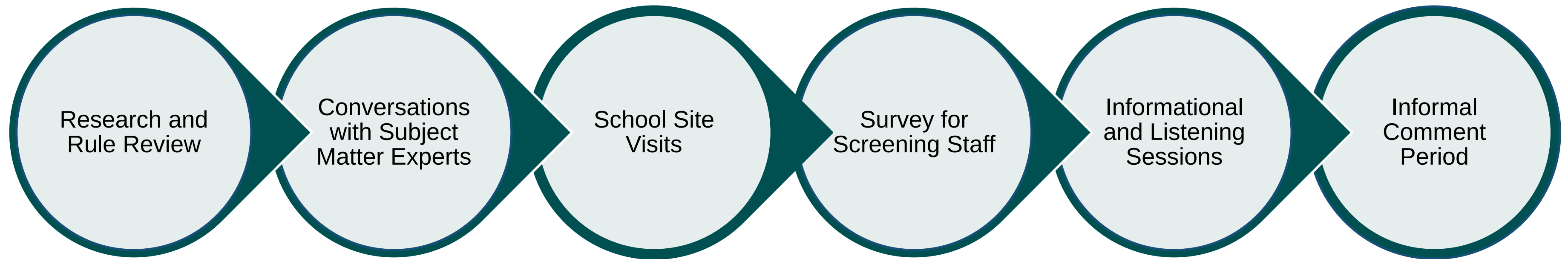


Rulemaking Background

- The Board received a petition for rulemaking from the Lake Chelan Lion's Club asking to add otoacoustic emission (OAE) screening technology to chapter 246-760 WAC.
- The Board accepted this request and directed staff to start the rulemaking process to explore options for possibly including OAE technology in the rule, and to make other technical or editorial changes.



Engagement and Rule Development



Proposed Rule Changes

Revisions to chapter 246-760 WAC include:

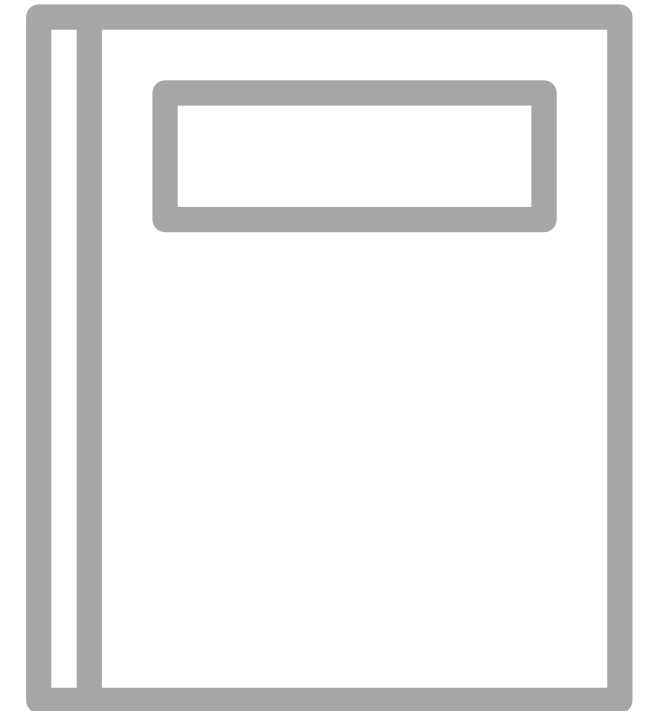
Updating hearing section titles and content to align with vision sections

Adding a new section, "Auditory Screening," to align with WAC 246-760-070

Including definitions/abbreviations for auditory screening

Removing deficit-based terminology and updating language for clarity

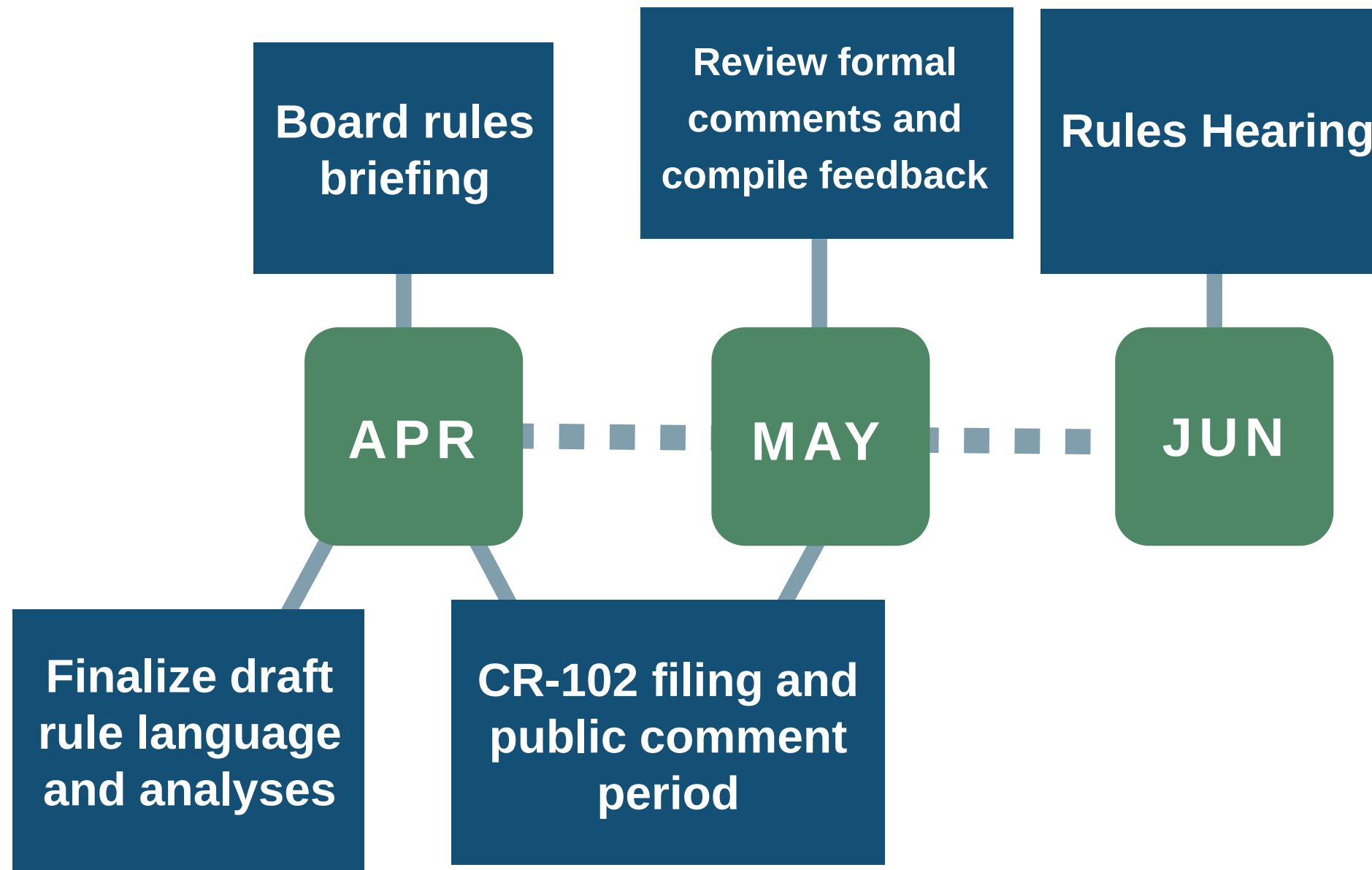
Updating ANSI standards for audiometers, and including OAE devices as an optional screening technology



Summary of Feedback

- Comments included:
 - Appreciation for OAE as an optional tool, not a requirement.
 - Disagreement with limiting OAE use to students who can't participate in pure-tone audiometry.
 - Suggestion to allow parents to defer screening for several years, provided they have documented specialist care, without requiring annual submission of paperwork.
 - Recommend adding a requirement for audiological evaluation reports to include hearing acuity measures for both ears.
 - Update the "decibel (dB)" definition in WAC 246-760-010 to include "hearing level (HL)" instead of "sound pressure level (SPL)."
 - Request to clarify language in WAC 246-760-030 and 040.
 - Recommend a minimum of 3 weeks between the initial and rescreen for resolution of middle ear dysfunction.
 - Suggest that referral letters include a checkbox to indicate the screening tool used.
 - Request to include the option of expanding hearing screening frequencies to 3000 Hz and 6000 Hz.

Timeline and Next Steps



THANK YOU

To learn more about this project, email Molly Dinardo at molly.dinardo@sboh.wa.gov

OR

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