

12 STRATEGIES TO INCREASE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

ENSURE ACCESS

1. Ensure cost is not a barrier for low-income students.

- Fully fund College Bound and State Need Grant.

2. Make college affordable.

- The Council will identify and recommend a funding policy to guide investments in postsecondary education.

3. Ensure high school graduates are college and career ready.

- Continue efforts to implement Common Core State Standards and Smarter Balanced Assessment, e.g. Improving Student Learning at Scale Collaborative (ISLS grant).
- Provide additional academic supports for students who have been out of high school for a year or more.



4. Streamline and expand dual-credit and dual-enrollment programs.

- The Council will convene a statewide workgroup to develop a coordinated dual-credit and dual-enrollment system to ensure statewide access and funding.

5. Increase support for all current and prospective students.

- The Council will collaborate with partners to identify/promote strategies that ensure access to student services.
 - Effective High School and Beyond Plans for 8th graders.
 - Graduation specialists for high school seniors.
 - Mentoring and sponsorship programs for underrepresented students.
 - Training for advisors, counselors, and mentors at all levels.
 - Designated staff support for underrepresented students at postsecondary institutions.
 - Online advising system for students, parents, and advisors.

ENHANCE LEARNING

6. Align postsecondary programs with employment opportunities.

- The Council will convene a statewide workgroup to review, align, and enhance existing employer feedback mechanisms.

7. Provide greater access to work-based learning opportunities.

- Increase investments in the State Work Study program.
- Create an online clearinghouse of work-based learning opportunities to facilitate matching of students with employers.

8. Encourage adults to earn a postsecondary credential.

- Provide tailored information regarding continuing education and provide supports to adults with some postsecondary credit but no credential.

9. Leverage technology to improve student outcomes.

- Create a statewide educational technology consortium that will identify strategies to:
 - Increase use of technology to deliver workplace-based programs and share open educational resources.
 - Provide training opportunities and facilitate professional learning communities.
 - Develop a voluntary compact to enhance purchasing options and securing statewide licensing for educational materials and technologies.
 - Establish competitive grant and award programs to encourage innovation and effective practices utilizing technology.

PREPARE FOR FUTURE CHALLENGES

10. Respond to student, employer, and community needs.

- The Council will develop a process for assessing institutional capacity, in response to needs from students, employers, and communities, that is consistent with the Council's statutory responsibility relative to system design. Capacity assessment will include:
 - Forecasting model to assess impacts of Roadmap strategies on student demand.
 - Process to assess postsecondary educational needs of students, employers, and communities.
 - Assessment of institutions' programmatic, physical, and technological capacity to provide lifelong educational opportunities.
 - Identification of best practices for improving effectiveness and efficiency within existing resources.
 - Assessment of state's overall return on investment (ROI) in postsecondary education.

11. Increase awareness of postsecondary opportunities.

- Ensure all Washingtonians have access to a one-stop shop for information about postsecondary education opportunities and career requirements, in addition to assistance with completing applications for enrollment and financial aid.
 - The "Ready, Set, Grad" website will be continually updated and translatable into more than 60 languages by mid-2014.

12. Help students and families save for postsecondary education.

- The Council will develop a savings incentive pilot program for the Legislature's consideration.

