

The Roadmap Report FAQ

1. What is the Roadmap Report?

The Roadmap outlines goals to increase educational attainment and recommends strategies for achieving those goals over a ten-year period.
2. Who developed the Roadmap?

The Roadmap was developed with tremendous input from the Roadmap workgroups, comprised of stakeholders from the state's other education agencies –the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, the Workforce Education Training and Coordinating Board, the Education Research and Data Center, the Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction, the Department of Early Learning, the State Board of Education, the Professional Educator Standards Board– as well as numerous other organizations dedicated to increasing educational attainment.
3. What problems does the Roadmap address?

The report addresses two imperatives:

The demographic imperative: The state's increased racial and ethnic diversity brings unique opportunities and challenges. Most of Washington's future population growth is expected to come from groups that are less likely to participate in and complete postsecondary programs.

The economic imperative: Employers are expressing increasing concern over difficulties finding Washington employees with the necessary skills to fill critical job openings. By 2016, nearly three-fourths of available jobs will require at least a postsecondary credential.¹
4. What are the goals of the Roadmap?

The report has two overarching attainment goals:

 - All adults in Washington will have a high school diploma or equivalent.
 - At least 70 percent of Washington adults will have a postsecondary credential.
5. What are the recommendations of the Roadmap?

The report includes twelve recommendations:

Ensure Access

 1. Ensure cost is not a barrier for low-income students.
 2. Make college affordable.
 3. Ensure all high school graduates are career and college ready.
 4. Streamline and expand dual-credit and dual-enrollment programs.
 5. Increase support for all current and prospective students.

Enhance Learning

 1. Align postsecondary programs with employment opportunities.
 2. Provide greater access to work-based learning opportunities.
 3. Encourage adults to earn a postsecondary credential.

4. Leverage technology to improve student outcomes.

Prepare for Future Challenges

1. Respond to student, employer, and community needs.
2. Increase awareness of postsecondary opportunities.
3. Help students and families save for postsecondary education.

6. When will the recommendations be implemented?

Implementation of the Roadmap is under way. The Council has already requested funding for the State Need Grant and the College Bound Scholarship for FY 2015 to meet the financial needs of low-income students. The Council – along with our many partners—is also currently engaged in efforts that support the implementation of the following action items: ensure all high school graduates are career and college ready; encourage adults to earn a postsecondary credential; respond to student, employer, and community needs; provide greater access to work-based learning opportunities; encourage adults to earn a postsecondary credential; and increase awareness of postsecondary opportunities. In early 2014, the Council will begin leading an effort to develop a state funding policy for postsecondary education to help make postsecondary education affordable. The remaining Roadmap actions will be prioritized during the development of the 2014 Strategic Action Plan, which will also outline policy and funding needs for the 2015-17 biennium.

7. How will progress on the Roadmap goals be measured?

The Council is committed to monitoring progress towards the educational attainment goals and to tracking the implementation of each action item through the Roadmap website and through regular progress reports. The educational attainment goals – all Washingtonians have a high school diploma or equivalent and at least 70 percent of Washingtonians have a postsecondary credential by the year 2023 – will be assessed annually using the following metrics:

- The number and percentage of adults in Washington completing a high school diploma or equivalent.
- The percentage of the population enrolled in a postsecondary certificate, apprenticeship, or degree program.
- The number of postsecondary certificates, apprenticeships, or degrees awarded annually.

For the twelve action items, the Council will develop appropriate progress metrics and implementation plans. To assess the improvement of participation and success for underrepresented groups, the Council will disaggregate data to the greatest extent possible.

8. How often will the Roadmap be updated?

Beginning in early 2015, the Council will revisit the goals, objectives, and actions in this Roadmap report, making necessary adjustments in response to changing circumstances.

As part of that update, the Council will consider the needs of Washingtonians not addressed directly by the twelve actions in the Roadmap – particularly adults without high school diplomas and adults with limited English-speaking abilities.

ⁱ Washington Student Achievement Council, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, & Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Forthcoming). A skilled and educated workforce. Olympia, WA: Washington Student Achievement Council.