

Title	Strategic Action Plan – Council Approval of Recommendations
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Synopsis:	<p>The Ten-Year Roadmap plan is complemented with a short-term Strategic Action Plan, submitted in December of even-numbered years, establishing budget and legislative priorities necessary to implement the strategies identified in the Ten-Year Roadmap.</p> <p>The Strategic Action Plan will address the needs of high-priority Roadmap action items as well as needs related to other action items expected to emerge during the next biennium.</p> <p>During the August retreat, Council members considered program, policy, and budget recommendations for the 2014 Strategic Action Plan. The proposed recommendations stem from the work of three Council committees and stakeholder input.</p> <p>On September 9, members will continue to discuss recommendations for inclusion into the plan. The Council will adopt the final 2014 Strategic Action Plan at the November Council meeting. The Strategic Action Plan is due to the Governor and Legislature by December 2014.</p>
Guiding questions:	Does the SAP summary document accurately reflect the Council's priorities for the 2014 Strategic Action Plan?
Possible council action:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Accept <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Documents and attachments:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brief/Report <input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint <input type="checkbox"/> Third-party materials <input type="checkbox"/> Other

2014 Strategic Action Plan Summary of Recommendations

Make college affordable for Washington families.

- Guide legislative decisions related to tuition policy, appropriations to institutions and financial aid programs through a state higher education funding policy.
 - The Strategic Action Plan will include several options to approach higher education funding decisions which may include a shared responsibility approach, use of incentive funding or imposing tuition limits. (*The details of the options will be discussed at the 9/17 CFA meeting. SNG options that are selected will be incorporated.*)
- Advocate for postsecondary education investment that advance the state's educational attainment goals and meet workforce needs.
 - Support stable, predictable and dedicated funding for higher education.
 - Endorse specific proven strategies in postsecondary education that promote student success requested by education partners.
 - Leverage the capacity of the private institutions.

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

- Fulfill the commitment to fully fund State Need Grant eligible students through strategic biennial investments.
 - Provide an additional \$16 Million each year to close the gap by 2023 serving an additional nearly 4,000 annually.
- Fulfill the obligation to College Bound Scholarship students.

Provide greater access to work-based learning opportunities.

- Reinvest in the State Work Study program to restore to previous levels no later than 2023.
 - Provide an additional \$5 Million each year to serve 2,900 more students annually.

Provide increased support and resources to ensure the success of College Bound Scholarship and other underrepresented students across the educational spectrum.

- Provide intervention programs in middle and high school to include individualized Scholars Success Support for College Bound students with tutoring, mentoring and campus experiences through coordinated efforts with schools and partners and an established call center. (\$3M)
- Ensure underrepresented students, including College Bound students and returning adults, receive individualized support services at the postsecondary level. (\$1M)
- Develop collective impact coalitions to involve communities in addressing educational attainment with a focus on underrepresented and College Bound students. (\$1M)

Streamline and expand dual-credit and dual enrollment programs to create a statewide dual-credit system available to all high school students.

Remove barriers to participation in dual credit programs and allow high achieving students to earn college credit through course completion in a high school environment.

The Council will submit Agency request legislation that would:

- Create a streamlined funding structure for the state's dual enrollment programs that would fund College in the High School programs through an enhanced basic education allotment, thus eliminating tuition costs for students and reducing costs to school districts.

- Expand College in the High School to all academically qualified high school students, grades 9-12, through all public institutions of higher education which participate in College in the High School, including academic, career and technical coursework.



Policy Recommendation

Equal Access to Dual Enrollment Opportunities

The Strategic Action Plan

November 2014

The Recommendation

Reduce costs, remove barriers, and expand dual-enrollment options for Washington students. Develop a streamlined funding structure for the state's dual enrollment programs. Fund College in the High School programs through an enhanced basic education allotment, thus eliminating tuition costs for students and reducing costs to school districts. Allow academically qualified students in grades 9 and 10 to participate in College in the High School programs.

The Imperative

Dual-enrollment programs allow students to earn both high school and college credit. Research shows that participation in dual enrollment programs significantly increases students' likelihood to graduate from high school and earn college degrees. Students who participate in dual enrollment programs are less likely to take remedial math than those who do not. Dual enrollment programs not only improve students' academic preparation for college, they can also serve as a critical bridge for students' transitions between high school and college.



Quick Facts:

- Students who participate in dual enrollment programs in high school are more likely to graduate from high school, enroll in college, and earn a college degree than those who do not.
- Students who complete a rigorous high school curriculum, including advanced math and science courses, are better prepared to successfully complete a degree in a STEM or other high demand field of study.
- Opportunities like Running Start, College in the High School, and Tech Prep make postsecondary education more accessible to all students, especially those students impacted by the opportunity gap in low-income and rural areas.
- But in Washington, low income and underserved students are less likely to participate in dual enrollment programs compared to their peers. For example, 26 percent of College in the High School students are eligible from free or reduced price meals, compared to 43 percent for all high school students.

Context

In Washington, a range of dual enrollment programs are available to students, including Running Start, College in the High School, and Tech Prep. Despite these opportunities, significant barriers still prevent some students from participation. Specifically, low income and underserved students are less likely to participate in dual enrollment programs than their peers.

Inequities also exist in the funding structures for the state's various dual enrollment programs. Funding for students participating in the Running Start program is appropriated by the Legislature to OSPI as part of the basic education allocation. This means that Running Start students generally do not have to pay tuition costs, but they are responsible for books and transportation costs. Conversely, there is no specified funding source for the College in the High School program, which serves 17,000 students across the state. College in the High School programs typically rely on tuition revenue, meaning students who can't afford tuition costs are often excluded from earning college credit, despite the student's academic ability.

The Roadmap

These recommendations are directly aligned with the state's goals for increasing educational attainment by 2023 and the Council's Ten-Year Roadmap. Expanding students' access to dual enrollment programs is key step in both improving high school graduation rates and increasing the number of Washingtonians with a postsecondary degree or credential. In addition, the recommendations support the Governor's education agenda by taking an innovative approach to expand choices for students, support a rigorous senior year in high school and address inequities that contribute to the opportunity gap.



Policy Recommendation

Ensure Cost is not a Barrier for Low-Income Students

The Strategic Action Plan

November 2014

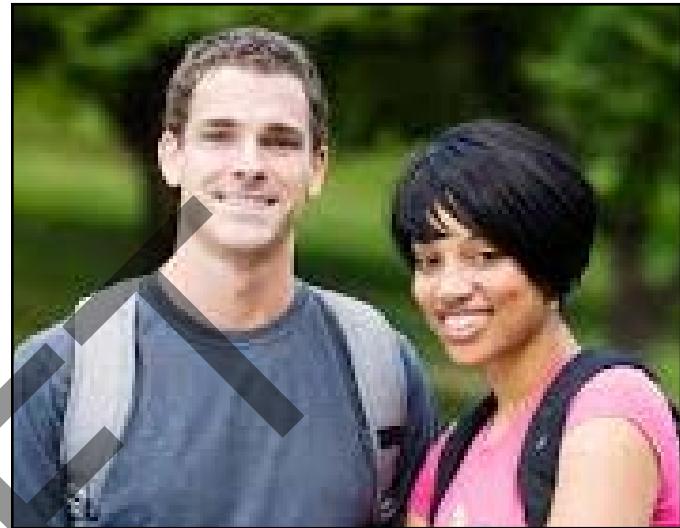
The Recommendation

Fully fund the State Need Grant program and maintain the commitment to College Bound Scholarship students.

Through strategic biennial investments of \$15 million a year through 2023, the state can close the State Need Grant funding gap and fulfill its commitment to our lowest income students who depend on financial assistance to enroll and persist in postsecondary education. Each \$15 million biennial investment would provide a grant award to an additional 4,000 students annually.

The Imperative

The State Need Grant program provides students from low-income families access to postsecondary education. Despite the state's longstanding commitment to providing need-based aid to low-income students, roughly one out of every three students eligible for the State Need Grant currently does not receive a grant due to lack of funds.



Quick Facts:

- In 2013-14, over 70,100 students received over \$303 million in State Need Grant funding. However, nearly 34,500 additional students were eligible, but un-served due to lack of funds.
- To qualify for the SNG, a resident undergraduate student's family income must be within 70 percent of the state Median Family Income (MFI), which is \$57,500 for a family of four.
- The maximum award values for full-time enrollment in 2014-15 range from \$1,412 to \$10,868, depending on the type of institution attended. Award values are based on the tuition and fee rates at Washington's public colleges and universities, and award amounts are prorated by income category and part-time enrollment.
- Currently 68 institutions of higher education participate in the State Need Grant program.

Context

In 2014, the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) evaluated outcomes of students receiving a State Need Grant award and found that for students with the lowest family incomes, the receipt of a Grant was directly associated with higher re-enrollment and completion rates. Additional national studies have shown that need-based grants increase the likelihood of enrollment, support campus engagement and full-time attendance, and improve retention and completion.

While tuition costs can be a barrier for many students, those from low-income families are the most vulnerable. Students without the State Need Grant have increased student loan debt, are more likely to attend part-time, and are more likely to work full-time, which can have an adverse effect on their academic success. They are also less likely to enroll and more likely to drop out if they cannot pay for their expenses.

The Roadmap

These recommendations are directly aligned with the state's goals for increasing educational attainment by 2023 and the Council's Ten-Year Roadmap. Fully-funding the State Need Grant program and maintaining the commitment to College Bound Scholarship will ensure all eligible low-income students have access to postsecondary education, which is a critical step toward realizing the state's educational attainment goals.