

Committee for Academic Affairs & Policy (CAAP)

The Committee for Academic Affairs and Policy addresses issues related to academic policy. This includes the seven Roadmap action items below. It also discusses issues related to the Council's responsibilities regarding consumer protection, the Disability Task Force, and diversity issues.

Action Items:

- Ensure high school graduates are career and college ready.
- Streamline and expand dual-credit and dual-enrollment programs.
- Align postsecondary programs with employment opportunities.
- Provide greater access to work-based learning opportunities.
- Leverage technology to improve student outcomes.
- Ensure cost is not a barrier for low-income students.
- Help students and families save for postsecondary education.

Scheduled Meeting Times

Friday, September 19 – 1:00 to 2:30 PM

Thursday, October 30 – 1:00 to 2:30 PM

Members

Council of Presidents: Jane Sherman

Independent Colleges of Washington: Violet Boyer

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction: Mike Hubert, Gil Mendoza

State Board for Community and Technical Colleges:

Alison Grazzini, Jan Yoshiwara,

State Board of Education: Linda Drake

Student Representative: Akua Asare-Konadu, Aviance Tate

Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board:

Nova Gattman, Justin Montermini, Eleni Papadakis

WSAC Members

Council: Jeff Charbonneau, Scott Brittain, Rai Nauman Mumtaz

Staff: Randy Spaulding

AGENDA

1. Summarize WSAC Strategic Action Plan (Randy)
2. Update on the use of Smarter Balanced (Noreen) <http://www.wsac.wa.gov/college-readiness>
3. Disability Task Force Update (Randy / Anne)
4. Residency Rules (Jim West)
5. Fall/Winter Reports Update (Jim West)
 - Residency - Student Enrollment Report (DREAMers)
 - Prior Learning Assessment Report - 2014
 - 2015 Transfer Report: A Review of Improvements in Transfer
6. Prioritize work ahead (Randy)

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 existing capacity of Washington's 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.
- Ensure underrepresented students, including College Bound students and returning adults, receive individualized support services at the postsecondary level.
- Develop collective impact coalitions to involve communities in addressing educational attainment with a focus on underrepresented and College Bound students.

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.

WHAT COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS AND SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENTS MEAN TO YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS

Today's students are preparing to enter a globally competitive world requiring more skills and knowledge than ever before. In our own state, we have 25,000 unfilled jobs for highly skilled workers — and that number is projected to grow to 50,000 by 2017.

To ensure all students are ready for success after high school, Common Core State Standards were established. They provide clear, consistent guidelines for what every student should know and be able to do in math and English language arts from kindergarten through 12th grade. The Smarter Balanced assessment system, which is aligned to the new standards, provides a way for teachers to measure student progress on those standards throughout the year and make adjustments and interventions as necessary to ensure students are on the pathway to success. The assessments are administered in grades 3 – 8 and 11.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- **What are Smarter Balanced assessments?**

Smarter Balanced is a high-quality assessment system - aligned to Common Core standards - that provides accurate information and tools for teachers and counselors to help students succeed. The new assessments are better at measuring what students really know and can do. They emphasize how students apply the math and English concepts they are learning to real world problems and rely less on memorization of facts. The Smarter Balanced assessment system includes formative and summative assessments to measure student growth and adjust classroom lessons to student learning needs. Smarter Balanced end-of-year assessments will be administered in the last 12 weeks of the school year.

- **What does college- and career-ready mean?**

Being college- and career-ready means that a high school graduate has the skills needed to qualify for and succeed in credit-bearing college courses and/or in the postsecondary job training necessary for their chosen career. Common Core helps ensure students are ready for either path.

- **What do the Smarter Balanced scores mean?**

Students are scored on a 1 to 4 scale. Students who score a 3 or 4 are on target to be college- and career-ready by the end of 12th grade. The timely information can be used to help prepare and plan so students can be successful throughout their education, including the often-challenging transitions to high school and college.



- **What happens if an 11th grade student earns a high score (3 or 4)?** A score of 3 or 4 means students are likely to avoid remedial, or pre-college courses in college, saving money and time. They may enroll in specific credit-bearing college level courses in English or math.
- **What happens if an 11th grade student earns a low score (1 or 2)?** A score of a 1 or 2 does NOT disqualify a student from attending college. Students can reduce the time and expense of remediation by working hard during 12th grade and taking advantage of transition courses designed to get students on a path to college- and career-readiness.
- **What happens if an 8th grade student earns a high score (3 or 4)?** They're on the college- and career-ready path. It's important they stay on that trajectory by taking more rigorous courses including opportunities to earn college credit through Running Start, Advanced Placement, or other dual-credit options, in their later high school years.
- **What happens if an 8th grade student earns a low score (1 or 2)?** Low scores are a sign a student might need extra help to be on the pathway to college- and career-readiness. Students should work with their high school counselor to ensure they are enrolled in a course of study that will get them college- and career-ready by the end of 12th grade.
- **How can parents and guardians stay involved in preparing their students for college- and career-readiness?** The High School & Beyond Plan is designed to bring parent/guardians, educators, and students together to develop each student's personalized pathway toward college- and career-readiness. Each student maintains a plan that outlines education and career goals, and the courses, exams, and experiences necessary to get them there. This is a great way for parents to stay involved in the key decisions shaping their student's postsecondary options.
- **What is the timeline?** Common Core standards were fully implemented in Washington school districts in the 2013-14 school year. Beginning in 2014-15, students will take Smarter Balanced assessments in math and English language arts that are aligned to Common Core.
- **How will Smarter Balanced scores compare to current state exams?** Smarter Balanced assessments are measuring new college- and career-ready standards, which are generally higher than previous standards. As a result, scores may initially seem lower but the assessments will give teachers much better information about both what students know and how to better help them achieve success along their chosen pathway.

RESOURCES:

The websites below provide more information about Common Core, Smarter Balanced, and the skills that students need to succeed:

- Ready Washington: www.readywa.org
- Ready, Set, Grad interactive college planning website: www.readysetgrad.org
- OSPI's Common Core section: www.k12.wa.us/CoreStandards
- Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium: www.smarterbalanced.org
- Common Core State Standards: www.corestandards.org
- Implementing Common Core and the role of the school counselor: www.achieve.org/files/RevisedCounselorActionBrief_Final_Feb.pdf
- Informative three-minute video and Myths & Facts about Common Core: www.corestandards.org/about-the-standards/myths-vs-facts
- Career Guidance Washington: www.k12.wa.us/SecondaryEducation/careerCollegeReadiness

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