

Committee for Student Support (CSS)

The Committee for Student Support will address issues related to student support services including programs that improve student outreach and support.

Action Items:

- Increase support for all current and prospective students.
- Increase awareness of postsecondary opportunities.
- Encourage adults to earn a postsecondary credential.

Scheduled Meeting

Thurs., July 16 – 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Weds., September 23
Thurs., December 10

Members

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WSAC Members

Council: Ray Lawton, Susana Reyes
Staff: Rachelle Sharpe, Weiya Liang

CSS Principles

1. Support proposals should be data-driven.
2. Services should be well-coordinated.
3. Strategies to address opportunity gaps should be intentional.
4. Leverage Ready, Set, Grad and the High School and Beyond plan wherever possible.
5. Coordinate activities including the work of GATE, Reach Higher, and key statewide partners.

Work Plan 2015-16

1. Develop communication strategies to share information with schools, nonprofit organizations, students, and parents.
2. Offer training and professional development that address student support across the educational spectrum.

AGENDA

As the Roadmap Update is developed outlining metrics related to educational attainment, the Committee for Student Support continues to evaluate the progress and gaps in student support areas. Some context related to current statewide efforts will be helpful as we address the 2015-16 work plan.

1. Communication strategies (10:40 – 11:00)

- a. WSAC communication plan related to College Access and Support division
- b. WSAC current plans for updates to *Ready, Set, Grad*

2. Mapping Support Services (11:00 – 11:20)

- a. WSAC and CSF approach to SB 5851 requirement to inventory support services in K12

3. Current Professional Development efforts (11:25 – 11:45)

- a. GEAR UP and College Bound Scholarship
- b. Counselor and College Access Professional Training

4. Other Updates (handout)

- a. College Bound sign-up; GEAR UP Camps; Education Development Institute training; FAFSA completion

Several student support related items were funded in the operating budget (handout). The Council will discuss possible FY 2017 budget requests at its August meeting.

5. WSAC Budget Request Discussion (11:45 – 12:30)

- a. What student support areas could be considered in a supplemental budget request?
- b. What agency related student support resources are needed?

6. Next Steps



COLLEGE ACCESS AND STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAM UPDATES – JULY 2015

FAFSA Completion Initiative

Thus far, nearly 60 percent of Washington school districts are eligible to access the FAFSA Completion Portal. According to our WSAC usability survey, the majority of respondents say they have used data from the FAFSA Completion Portal in conversations with students. This is a great example of how a statewide campaign can have individual student impact.

Our goal is to have 100 percent of eligible districts approved for Portal access (via a signed data usage agreement). Over the summer, we are connecting with the Washington College Access Network, ESDs, and other groups to help us meet this goal.

College Bound

The preliminary CBS sign-up rate for the Class of 2019 is now at 90 percent statewide—surpassing our 89 percent mark from last year. Though we've confirmed over 32,000 applications, with 79 percent delivered via our online portal, we expect additional applications through August. This electronic sign-up process grants middle school counselors and college access providers the ability to upload student applications directly to WSAC.

12th Year Campaign

12th Year Campaign planning is off to a great start for the 2015-16 cycle. We already have over 70 sites signed up for either the College Application Campaign, College Goal Washington, or both, and we expect an influx of sign-ups when school starts again in the fall.

In 2014-15, 67 percent of College Goal Washington attendees were representative of low-income, underrepresented, and first-generation students. We hope to expand our outreach in 2015-16.

GEAR UP Summer Camps

WSAC staff hosted two GEAR UP summer camps in the last few weeks (CWU on June 22-25 and WWU on June 28-July1). Over 80 high school students from GEAR UP schools attended each camp.

Campers engaged in curriculum led by faculty. Students also learned about admissions and financial aid. Additionally, the camp hosted a college fair—giving students the opportunity to interact with visiting college representatives from ten colleges and universities.

This was a unique and positive experience for student participants, and many left motivated to explore their postsecondary options.



COLLEGE ACCESS AND STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAM UPDATES – JULY 2015

GEAR UP Educator Development Initiative (EDI)

Each summer, WSAC/Washington State GEAR UP supports the GEAR UP Educator Development Initiative (GEAR UP EDI) at the University of Washington (UW) to offer professional development to educators in GEAR UP schools.

A strength of GEAR UP EDI offerings is that they include practitioner leaders in the delivery of trainings. GEAR UP staff, building leaders, and teachers appreciate learning best practices from their peers. This includes principals who have embraced a college-going culture in their school, teachers who are effectively increasing the rigor of their instruction, and GEAR UP staff who build positive relationships with their students and families.

The theme for summer 2015 was Teaching Today for College Tomorrow. 56 teachers representing 14 middle and high schools attended. Participants learned strategies to improve their instructional practice to support their students' academic success, and approaches to better align their curriculum with college expectations. The Institute included higher education faculty and graduate students, representatives from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, teacher presenters, and leaders in student support services for low-income students. Teachers left with revised lesson plans and a better understanding of how to support students' college aspirations