WASHINGTON STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL
EDUCATION · OPPORTUNITY · RESULTS

917 Lakeridge Way Southwest
Olympia, Washington 98502
360.753.7800
wsac.wa.gov

Framework to guide discussion at WSAC January 13 meeting

The reason for this conversation

With each passing month that Covid-19 affects students, families and school operations, the evidence grows that college going is on the decline – and that negative trend in enrollment may last far longer than the pandemic itself. Most of this damage falls on students of color and low-income families.

While January's meeting may be too soon to make specific decisions, we can launch fast track conversations among partners and stakeholders to address this challenge together. These conversations may need to distinguish between short term vs. long term collaborations to help the high school class of 2021 quickly.

Note: This framework is meant to help start participants' thinking in advance of the meeting. It may or may not be used as a sequence of topics to discuss; and is not meant to limit the conversation. The outcome of this meeting may help shape future Council agendas on enrollment in March and dual credit in July.

Key question

How can colleges and universities work with local schools to increase college going and college readiness in order to counteract the negative impact of Covid-19 and close longstanding gaps for students of color?

College going

Should we think about different supports for students based on where they are in their path to high school graduation and college going?

- 12th grade
- 11th grade
- 7th – 10th grade

How can we improve the applications/admissions experience to support increased college going?

- Change the process to remove barriers, emphasize inclusion over exclusion, etc.
- Provide additional support to students in the applications process.

How can we increase the confidence of students and family that they can pay for college?

- Build a stronger message for WA College Grant as "free college" for many students.
- Increase awareness of all readily available financial aid programs.
- Make the financial aid application process as "user friendly" as possible.

How can peer and near peer supports help students overcome the barriers?

- Federal and state work study programs could pay college students to work in school districts, community-based organizations and/or campus-based programs.

What expertise and resources can various offices and academic disciplines within institutions bring to the effort to improve the effectiveness of communications campaigns?

- Cultural competency
- Financial support for targeted communications to students of color and low-income families

College readiness

How can programs currently delivered by colleges and universities change in order to help close learning gaps developing during Covid-19?

- Dual enrollment
- Summer programs
- Online learning tools

Are there new models for partnerships between high schools and colleges/universities to support academic programs across the full range of school districts without regard to size or location?

Can faculty across secondary and post-secondary sectors lead an effort to map curriculum pathways to mitigate learning loss and accelerate college readiness?