

Developing the Council's Agenda for 2022

This document summarizes a priority issues for the Council in 2022. It draws on the conversation at the November Council meeting and staff input and discussions with stakeholders. This list may be broader than the Council, staff and partners have time for in the next year.

Equity

Policy Development

- Develop core principles to regionalize our state metrics, including the definition of a region and how we support regional leaders to use this resource to work on shared goals
- Engage with regional BIPOC leaders at Council meetings to inform work
- Embed equity lens across all policy, data and practice work, with an initial look at financial aid processes

Data Development

- Apply the analysis of racial and ethnic gaps at a regional level
- Determine equity indicators or benchmarks to measure progress for each cluster

Related Practice Work with Partners and Stakeholders

- Explore and try out student design teams to shape work

Affordability

Policy Development

- Should there be a defined standard(s) for affordability based on household income levels that recognizes the effects of state subsidy, tuition policy and financial aid based on the total cost of pursuing a post-secondary education?
- Do students have reasonably similar experiences in applying for and receiving state financial aid across all institutions?
- Should the state encourage households at certain income levels to save for college costs? (possible joint conversation with WA 529 Committee)

Data Development

- Develop adult-specific financial aid metrics that mirror the role that "direct enrollment" and other metrics play in discussions about traditional age cohort coming out of high school
- Develop a financial aid utilization rate disaggregated by income and equity populations.

- Understand impact of current inflation patterns on institutions ability to maintain tuition policy

Enrollment

Policy Development

- Explore strategies that will increase the number of schools and community leaders making postsecondary pathways a priority
- How do we better understand the role of families in making college going decisions?
- How can we engage employers to support adult enrollment that can help meet their hiring and upskilling needs?

Data Development

- Conduct comprehensive look at enrollment to include analysis of dual credit, out of state, apprenticeship/training programs, traditional transfer, etc.
- Explore a dual credit data system that can help us measure its impact on enrollment, completion, time-to-degree, and tuition-savings, as well as the differential impacts resulting from different course-taking behavior.
- Explore more timely reporting on statewide enrollment to inform current and future discussions on enrollment

Related Practice Work with Partners and Stakeholders

- The newly developed guaranteed admission programs that include test-optional admissions
- SNAP (and other public benefit programs) pathway to state financial aid
- College & Career Compass

Student Supports

Policy Development

- What is understood about financial aid limits and a students' ability to receive support services?
- Can we help build a vision for campus and community that supports mental health and wellness needs?
- Can we help state leaders and the public better understand the immediacy of basic needs and how that impacts educational success and college going?

Data Development

- Does the WSAC/ERDC joint document create a baseline for future work and measurement?

Related Practice Work with Partners and Stakeholders

- Work with a student design team to build a vision for a supportive environment

Completion

Policy Development

- Should we establish completion goals as part of state policy to increase student success? What should be included in these goals?
- How can the state appropriately fund efforts to increase completion, including the first experiences of students arriving on our campuses (from K12, from the workforce, or another institution)?
- How can we increase alignment between quantitative academic coursework and skills/competencies from high school to postsecondary to the workforce?

Data Development

- How do we measure completion to focus attention on equity and student success?
- Should we measure post-completion impacts?