

Title	Legislative Priorities	
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Synopsis	Sector members on the Council will present their legislative agendas for 2016, highlighting priorities that advance the state’s educational attainment goals and align with the Roadmap. The Council will discuss opportunities for collaboration.	
Guiding questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the legislative agenda advance the state’s Roadmap education attainment goals? • What opportunities exist for collaboration between the sectors and the full council? 	
Possible council action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Adopt <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Documents and attachments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brief/Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Third-party materials <input type="checkbox"/> Other	

2016 Legislative Priorities

Council Action

None required. For discussion purposes only.

Brief Description

Council members representing education sectors will present their respective legislative agendas for 2016 highlighting the elements that advance the state's Roadmap goals for educational attainment. Council members will have the opportunity to discuss opportunities for collaboration during the 2016 Legislative session. Council staff will review the Council's 2016 agenda to aid this discussion.

Overview

During the 2015 Legislative session, the state's Roadmap goals for educational attainment provided the foundation for WSAC's Strategic Action Plan. In addition, these goals were a key component of the rationale supporting many of the policy and budget requests of education and higher education agencies and stakeholders.

The Roadmap goals for Washington's educational attainment are:

- By 2023, all adults, ages 25–44, will hold a high school diploma or equivalent; and
- By 2023, 70 percent of adults, ages 25–44, will complete a postsecondary certificate or degree.

Review of WSAC's Legislative Priorities for 2016

At the August meeting, Council members selected strategies contained in the Strategic Action Plan to be pursued in the supplemental budget of 2016. The Council voted to request an additional \$19 million in State Need Grant funding to serve more eligible students and to support the College Bound program and enhancements for activities that improve the success of participants.

WSAC recommends that the Governor and Legislature:

1. Provide an additional \$19 million for State Need Grant to reduce the funding gap so an additional 4,500 students can be served. Over 27,000 students who were eligible did not receive a grant in 2014-15.
2. Maintain College Bound scholarship awards to meet the caseload forecast and provide \$531,000 to enhance outcomes for College Bound Scholarship students

While the tuition reductions directed in 2015 Legislation (SB5954) will permit an investment in State Need Grant (SNG) to serve additional students due to reduced award amounts, 27,000 enrolled students who are eligible for the grant remain unserved. These students will have increased loan debt and higher rates of part-time and part-year attendance. A commitment to the state's flagship grant program for low-income students of \$19 million in 2016 would serve an additional 4,500 students with critical financial aid.

The SNG also provides the funding foundation for the College Bound Scholarship (CBS). The CBS has shown promising results as a dropout prevention and postsecondary success program. Approximately 15,690 students will be eligible for scholarship payments in 2016-17 (as of June 2015). The program has grown exponentially and the Council serves as the central administrator to ensure quality and frequent communications are provided to students, families, schools, and nonprofit organizations. Legislation enacted in 2015 (SB5851) added requirements. To meet these expectations the Council must expand administrative activities in communications, research, and data exchange to monitor scholarship eligibility.

Per Office of Financial Management direction, the Council is limiting any administrative supplemental requests to only those that constitute a non-discretionary change in legally mandated workloads or high-level priorities that support *Results WA* goals. Council administrative requests for 2016 are to support STEM education initiatives, increased oversight in consumer protection activities, and expenditure authority for the Aerospace Loan program.

- The Council is requesting \$155,000 for the continuation of the STEM Alliance to advance STEM education initiatives and develop a web-based progress report. This work aligns with high-level policy priorities for Goal 1 in *Results WA*.
- The Council is charged with regulatory oversight providing students with consumer protection in the areas of degree authorization for out-of-state institutions doing business in Washington, monitoring of institutions participating in state financial aid programs, and oversight in the approval of Veterans Benefits. To provide resources to increase on-site technical assistance and outreach, the Council is requesting \$223,000.
- The Aerospace Training Student Loan Account permits administrative expenditures from the fund but requires an appropriation. To align with the intent for the fund to eventually be self-sustaining and provide resources to administer the growing program, the agency is requesting \$94,000 in expenditure authority.

Potential Questions for Council Members

1. Which legislative agenda items presented by education sector members on the Council advance the state's Roadmap goals?
2. What are the opportunities for collaboration among sector members and the Council to support education sector legislative agenda items?
 - a. How can the Council support agenda items of education sector members?
 - b. How can sector members support the legislative priorities of the Council?



WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL

Legislative Priorities:

1. WSAC's 2016 Agenda
2. Sector Members Legislative Priorities

Council Approved Legislative Agenda



Roadmap Related Items		
STATE NEED GRANT	Expand service level to additional eligible students.	\$19M
COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS AND COLLEGE BOUND INFRASTRUCTURE	Maintain current cohort	Maintenance Level
	Enhance communication and data sharing and meet expanded requirements.	\$531K
STEM	Improve STEM awareness and preparation for future careers from Pre-K to postsecondary per <i>STEM Alliance</i> recommendations.	\$155K
CONSUMER PROTECTION	Expand onsite oversight of institutions	\$223K



- Gil Mendoza, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Paul Francis, Executive Director, Council of Presidents
- Marty Brown, Executive Director, State Board for Community & Technical Colleges
- Vi Boyer, President & CEO, Independent Colleges of Washington