

**WEIAOB 2025 Legislative Priorities Workgroup Information—August 22, 2024**

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***Introduction and Workgroup Objectives***

On June 20, 2024, the Board agreed to form a workgroup for the purposes of developing key questions, language, and/or procedures to help determine 2025 legislative priorities. The workgroup will meet three times before the Fall 2024 Board meeting on September 18:

Date/Time	Event	Intended Deliverable
<b>Thursday, August 22, 3:00–4:00 p.m.</b>	Meeting #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Process for evaluating proposal alignment with Board principles and metrics</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday, August 29, 2:00–3:00 p.m.</b>	Meeting #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Process for soliciting and vetting proposals</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday, September 4, 2:00–3:00 p.m.</b>	Meeting #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Process for engaging with legislators and external stakeholders</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday, September 18, 9:00–11:00 a.m.</b>	<i>Fall 2024 Board meeting</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Discuss and adopt recommendations with full Board</i></li> </ul>

***Background Information: WEIAOB Guiding Principles and Performance Accountability Metrics***

In 2021, the Board adopted four guiding principles to help shape annual recommendations for workforce education priorities that should be funded from WEIA:

- Help achieve the goal that 70 percent of students in each cohort of Washington high school graduates complete a postsecondary credential
- Provide support for equitable education access and economic outcomes for systemically underserved students
- Help Washington businesses fill the jobs of the future with qualified Washington students, including the current workforce
- Improve statewide systems and/or test innovative approaches that can be replicated across institutions

Additionally, the Board approved seven performance accountability metrics to further inform these recommendations:

- Statewide Student Enrollment

- FAFSA / WASFA Completion in Grade 12 (and others)
- Washington College Grant-eligible Student Enrollment
- Postsecondary Completion Rate
- High School to Postsecondary Retention Rate
- Time to Degree
- Economic Outcomes

**Previous Approaches to Determining WEIAOB Legislative Priorities**

Over the past two years, the Board has utilized different approaches to determine legislative priorities:

Legislative Session	Approach	Observations
<b>2023 (WTB)</b>	Online survey for sector decision packages (DPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided detailed overview of DPs and identified some alignment with Board principles and metrics</li> <li>• Felt redundant to formal DP submission process via OFM</li> </ul>
<b>2024 (WSAC)</b>	Higher education sectors (COP, SBCTC, ICW, and WSAC) presented DPs to Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allowed Board to endorse <u>specific proposals</u> instead of broader goals or statements</li> <li>• Produced long list of priorities—including some that the legislature did not pass or fund</li> <li>• Limited to higher education sectors</li> </ul>

**Key Questions for Workgroup Consideration**

Given the context provided above, the workgroup may want to consider the following topics and questions as it supports the Board’s determination of 2025 legislative priorities:

Topic	Questions
<b>Alignment with Board principles and metrics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should the Board issue recommendations that center broad values, specific proposals, and/or other ideas?</li> <li>• How will the Board determine whether a proposal aligns with its existing principles and metrics?</li> <li>• Is there a limit on the number of recommendations the Board should issue?</li> </ul>

<p><b>Procedure for vetting ideas</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When and how should the Board solicit ideas for consideration?</li> <li>• Who should be invited to share ideas with the Board? (i.e., members, sectors, external organizations, etc.)</li> <li>• How will the Board deliberate and agree on recommendations?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Engagement with legislature and external stakeholders</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When and how should the Board communicate its recommendations to the legislature?</li> <li>• How should the Board engage with the Governor’s office?</li> <li>• Should the Board educate and/or communicate with external stakeholders who are learning more about the Board’s purpose and responsibilities?</li> </ul>

**Appendix A: Key Dates for WEIAOB 2025 Legislative Strategy**

The following table contains an abbreviated summary of key dates in 2024 and 2025 that the workgroup may want to consider as it supports the Board’s determination of 2025 legislative priorities. Please click [here](#) for a more comprehensive list of dates.

Date	Event
<p><b>September 10, 2024</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agency 2025–27 biennial budget requests due to OFM</li> </ul>
<p><b>September 18, 2024</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fall 2024 WEIAOB meeting (9:00–11:00 a.m.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>October 31, 2024*</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024 WEIAOB report due to legislature</li> </ul>
<p><b>November 5, 2024</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Election (new Governor elected)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mid-December 2024</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gov. Inslee’s 2025–27 biennial budget proposals released</li> </ul>
<p><b>Early January 2025</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter 2025 WEIAOB meeting (date/time TBD)</li> </ul>
<p><b>January 13, 2025</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First day of 2025 legislative session (tentative)</li> </ul>
<p><b>January 2025</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Governor’s 2025–27 biennial budget proposals released</li> </ul>

*\*deadline extended from August 1, 2024, by Rep. Slatter and Sen. Nobles*