

WEIAOB 2025 Legislative Priorities Workgroup Summary—September 18, 2024

Introduction and Workgroup Deliverables

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. Over the course of three meetings, the workgroup developed the following deliverables for consideration by the full Board:

- Proposed rubric for reviewing legislative proposals
- Proposed timeline for solicitation and review of legislative proposals
- Proposed format for workgroup to review legislative proposals

Previous Approaches to Determining Legislative Priorities

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

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

Key Topics and Questions for Workgroup Consideration

The workgroup used the following topics and questions to guide its discussions about how the Board should determine 2025 legislative priorities:

Topic	Questions
Alignment with Board principles and metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should the Board issue recommendations that center broad values, specific proposals, and/or other ideas?• How will the Board determine whether a proposal aligns with its existing principles and metrics?• Is there a limit on the number of recommendations the Board should issue?
Procedure for vetting ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When and how should the Board solicit ideas for consideration?• Who should be invited to share ideas with the Board? (i.e., members, sectors, external organizations, etc.)• How will the Board deliberate and agree on recommendations?
Engagement with legislature and external stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When and how should the Board communicate its recommendations to the legislature?• How should the Board engage with the Governor’s office?• Should the Board educate and/or communicate with external stakeholders who are learning more about the Board’s purpose and responsibilities?

Proposed Rubric for Reviewing Legislative Proposals

The following questions will be considered when determining whether the Board should recommend a proposal to the legislature:

- 1. Which of the Board’s guiding principles does the proposal address?**
 - a. Help achieve the goal that 70 percent of students in each cohort of Washington high school graduates complete a postsecondary credential
 - b. Provide support for equitable educational access and economic outcomes for systemically underserved students
 - c. Help Washington businesses fill the jobs of the future with qualified Washington students, including the current workforce
 - d. Improve statewide systems and/or test innovative approaches that can be replicated across institutions
- 2. How will the proposal help Washington residents do one or more of the following?**
 - a. Afford and enroll in a postsecondary program
 - b. Persist and complete a postsecondary degree or credential that aligns with industry and employer job needs
 - c. Obtain a good-paying job and/or access a high-quality career connected pathway or credential that will lead toward a good-paying job
- 3. Which of the Board’s performance accountability metrics will be used to measure the proposal’s success?**
 - a. Statewide Student Enrollment
 - b. FAFSA / WASFA Completion in Grade 12 (and others)
 - c. Washington College Grant-eligible Student Enrollment
 - d. Postsecondary Completion Rate
 - e. High School to Postsecondary Retention Rate
 - f. Time to Degree
 - g. Economic Outcomes
- 4. What postsecondary credentials and/or jobs will the proposal produce?**
 - a. Does the proposal intentionally target an area of need in the labor market?
 - b. Will the proposal expand degree/credential programs that are over capacity?
- 5. What is the estimated time frame by which the proposal will achieve its intended outcomes?**
- 6. How will the proposal address the diversity of Washington state?**
 - a. Does the proposal have a particular demographic or regional focus?
 - b. Will the proposal prioritize historically underserved communities such as American Indian or Alaska Native, Black, Latino, low-income, and/or others?

- 7. What is the scale and scope of the proposal?**
 - a. How much does the proposal cost?
 - b. Does the proposal focus on one higher education sector and/or industry, or is it inclusive of multiple sectors and/or industries?
- 8. How will the proposal spur innovation, create change, and/or move beyond the status quo?**

Proposed Timeline for Solicitation and Review of Legislative Proposals

The following timeline will be observed to help the Board determine 2025 legislative priorities:

Month/Date	Event and Details
September 18, 2024	<p>Fall 2024 Board meeting (9:00–11:00 a.m.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workgroup presents deliverables (proposed rubric, timeline, and format for workgroup to review legislative proposals) to Board for consideration
October	<p>Proposal solicitation and evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State and external stakeholders submit 2025 proposals • WSAC staff conduct initial review of proposals with rubric • <i>2024 Board report due to legislature—October 31</i>
November	<p>Workgroup evaluation of proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workgroup reviews proposals and WSAC staff summary, then prepares recommendations for full Board
December	<p>Communication to full Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSAC staff send out materials for January 2025 meeting, including workgroup recommendations
January 9, 2025*	<p>Winter 2025 Board meeting (10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.)*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board reviews Governor’s budget and WEIA balance • Board votes on final 2025 legislative priorities and communicates them to key legislators/committees

*tentatively scheduled

Proposed Format for Workgroup to Review Legislative Proposals

To help review legislative proposals, the Board will establish a workgroup. The workgroup should include representation from various sectors, such as below:

- One business representative
- One higher education representative
- One labor representative
- One representative from WSAC
- One student representative
- Optional: one legislator

Board members may express interest in joining the workgroup by emailing Joel Anderson, joela@wsac.wa.gov, by EOD next Friday, September 27. The Board intends to have 5–6 workgroup members participate.

The workgroup will perform an initial review of submitted proposals in collaboration with WSAC staff and the Board Chair, then recommend a package of proposals to the full Board. These proposals will be discussed and voted on during the Board’s January 2025 meeting.