Policy Options:
Affordability, Technology, and Alignment

Washington Student Achievement Council
July 16, 2013

- The state and students are faced with the challenge of funding postsecondary education.

- Students are making hard choices about work hours, enrollment level, and debt load.

Affordability – Policy Options

Policy Option	Outcome(s)
Increase state investments in public institutions.	Limit tuition increases for all students. Maintain quality and ensure students are getting the maximum value for their money and time.
Provide full funding for the SNG program.	Each eligible enrolled student receives SNG funding.
Develop a comprehensive plan regarding SNG targeting.	SNG is efficiently targeted.
Evaluate the effectiveness of state financial aid programs.	Improve program performance and outcomes.
Invest in State Work Study.	Additional students gain work experience and reduce student loan debt. Additional employers participate in the program and subsidize student wages.
Restructure the former Educational Opportunity Grant program.	Ensure more students with intent to transfer and credits accumulated complete their baccalaureate degree.
Identify a savings incentive program.	Increase the amount families and individuals are saving and, as a result, increase postsecondary participation rates.
Promote flexible payment methods.	Additional institutions offer flexible payment options to allow students to cover their tuition throughout the term.

Technology – Policy Options

Policy Option	Example Activities or Outcomes
Develop a statewide P20 educational technology consortium	• Collaborate: identify employer needs, develop joint programs, share open educational materials, capitalize on work of other regional or national efforts. • Information Sharing: about best practices and emerging models through websites, conferences, and other venues. • Professional Development: provide access to or develop opportunities, facilitate professional learning communities and mentoring. • Financial: develop a voluntary compact to enhance purchasing options by leveraging buying power and securing statewide licensing for educational materials and technologies.
Provide incentives to support and adopt innovation	Incent innovation and support wide-spread use of proven technologies and strategies including incentive funding grants, encouraging sabbaticals or release time, and award programs.
Scale up successful innovations to create national assessment models	Partner with businesses who have experience with "big data" to better utilize data collected by learning management systems in order to provide students with real time assistance and instructors with meaningful, real-time information about student learning.

Alignment – Policy Options

Policy Option	Example Activities or Outcomes
Fully implement Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC).	The Council should convene partners to develop a mechanism for K-12 and postsecondary faculty and staff to understand the CCSS and use the 11th grade Smarter Balanced Assessment to inform 12th grade course selection.
Establish a task force to enhance student planning resources and improve alignment of coursework requirements to ensure students are prepared for a variety of postsecondary options upon completion of high school.	Recommend revision of the third-year math requirement for high school graduation and college admission.
	Develop a Direct Entry Certificate Agreement awarded based on district guidelines consistent with the state minimum college admission requirements.
	Develop recommendations for focused and targeted requirements for the High School and Beyond Plan and resources to expand and improve advising and student support in grades 6-12.
Leverage 12th grade to propel student success.	Develop a Senior Year Counts information campaign.
	Develop targeted and rigorous coursework in 12th grade to ensure students are ready for college-level courses.
	Align funding models, student fees, and incentives across dual-enrollment programs to fully support Launch Year.
	Simplify the process to receive college credit in the Tech Prep program.
	Recommend new approaches to dual credit.

Washington Student Achievement Council

Alignment – Policy Options

Policy Option	Example Activities or Outcomes
Align professional development efforts and provide curricular materials and support for implementation of Common Core State Standards (CCSS).	Support development of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium digital library.
	Support cross-sector professional learning communities.
	Align and support professional development activities for in-service teachers and administrators to support implementation of the CCSS and college and career readiness.
	Ensure that preparation programs for pre-service teachers and administrators support implementation of the CCSS and college and career readiness.
	Develop a better understanding of educator needs in Washington.
Measure progress and celebrate success.	Ensure students, parents, teachers, and school and district leaders know what students need to close achievement gaps and successfully meet standards.
	Adopt state level metrics to assess improvement in high school to college alignment.
	Measure and celebrate the success of schools and districts that help students grow and achieve academically.