



## Agency Recommendation Summary

WSAC has provided staff support to the Workforce Education Investment Accountability and Oversight Board (WEIAOB or “Board”) since fall 2023. After two years of facilitating quarterly meetings, issuing annual funding recommendations, and developing strategies to conduct stronger oversight of Workforce Education Investment Account (WEIA) expenditures, WSAC has identified multiple opportunities to streamline Board operations. This proposal will improve Board administration by extending co-chairs’ term lengths, allowing members to meet more frequently, eliminating unfunded mandates, and providing more time to issue annual funding recommendations. The proposal has no fiscal impact.

## Program Recommendation Summary

### **PCA - SAC-Policy Coord and Admin**

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## Fiscal Summary

<b>Fiscal Summary</b> <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	<b>Fiscal Years</b>		<b>Biennial</b>	<b>Fiscal Years</b>		<b>Biennial</b>
	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2025-27</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2027-29</b>
<b>Staffing</b>						
FTEs	0.0	0.0	<b>0.0</b>	0.0	0.0	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Operating Expenditures</b>						
Fund 001 - 1	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## Decision Package Description

WSAC has provided staff support to the Workforce Education Investment Accountability and Oversight Board (WEIAOB or “Board”) since fall 2023. Over the past two years, the Board has extensively discussed how to become more effective and provide annual funding recommendations to the Legislature that are timely, well-informed, and constructive for fiscal committee members to consider.

Carrying out Board duties—namely issuing workforce education funding recommendations and ensuring accountability for WEIA expenditures—has highlighted numerous areas for improvement within current Board operations. For example:

- **Board co-chairs must serve one-year terms**, meaning that leadership may switch in the middle of a biennium or before co-chairs have led the Board through both biennial and supplemental budget years.
- **The Board must meet four times a year**—as opposed to more often—which limits its ability to conduct thorough, meaningful reviews of WEIA expenditures.
- **The Board must consult data from the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (WTB)**, which is tasked with maintaining a public-facing data dashboard to track progress toward performance metrics identified by the Board. However, WTB no longer provides staff support to the Board, and the Legislature eliminated funding to maintain the data dashboard in its 2025-27 biennial operating budget.
- **The Board must report its annual funding recommendations to the Legislature by August 1**, but state agencies do not submit decision packages until mid-September and the Governor’s budget proposal is not released until mid-December. This timeline significantly inhibits the Board from issuing funding recommendations that are responsive to perspectives expressed by state agencies and the Governor’s office prior to the next legislative session.

Following the passage of legislation to increase WEIA revenue in the 2025-27 biennium, the Legislature's 2025-27 biennial operating budget relied on more than \$1.5 billion in WEIA expenditures—making it an increasingly large and influential piece of the state budget. **As biennial WEIA expenditures continue to rise, it is imperative for the Board to operate effectively and efficiently while conducting oversight of the Legislature's spending on workforce education priorities.** Accordingly, this proposal will improve Board administration by extending co-chairs' term lengths to two years, allowing members to meet more than four times a year, eliminating the now unfunded mandate to maintain a data dashboard, and providing until December 31 for the issuance of annual funding recommendations to the Legislature. The ideas listed above have not been submitted by WSAC or other state agencies in previous budget cycles.

Considering the problems described above, this proposal will benefit Board members—representing various business, higher education, labor, workforce, and student sectors and perspectives—by stabilizing Board leadership and creating additional time for discussion and evaluation of WEIA expenditures. It will also offer increased flexibility for the Board to utilize other data sources as it conducts oversight of WEIA expenditures and develops annual funding recommendations. Choosing not to approve this proposal will preserve various constraints on the Board's work, leading to more cursory analyses of WEIA expenditures and less comprehensive funding recommendations for the Legislature to consider each year.

WSAC receives \$356,000 in carryforward level funding from WEIA per biennium to provide staff support to the Board. Among other functions, this work involves facilitating quarterly meetings, planning and hosting frequent advisory committee meetings to develop funding recommendations and Board bylaws, and conducting detailed research on Workforce Education Investment Account (WEIA) expenditures dating back to the creation of WEIA in 2019.

This proposal will not expand, reduce, eliminate, or alter the existing cost of Board operations. It has no fiscal impact.

## Assumptions and Calculations

### ***Expansion, Reduction, Elimination or Alteration of a current program or service:***

This proposal does not expand, reduce, eliminate, or alter the existing cost of Board operations. It has no fiscal impact.

### ***Detailed Assumptions and Calculations:***

This proposal does not expand, reduce, eliminate, or alter the existing cost of Board operations. It has no fiscal impact.

### ***Workforce Assumptions:***

This proposal makes no changes to FTEs involved with Board operations and has no fiscal impact.

### ***Historical Funding:***

This proposal does not expand, reduce, eliminate, or alter the existing cost of Board operations. It has no fiscal impact. To provide staff support to the Board, WSAC currently receives the following funding:

FY2026

- FTE = 1.0 FTE
- Total Funds = \$178,000\*
- Near General Fund = \$178,000 (WEIA)
- Other Funds = \$0

FY2027

- FTE = 1.0 FTE
- Total Funds = \$178,000\*
- Near General Fund = \$178,000 (WEIA)
- Other Funds = \$0

\*WSAC received a biennial, carryforward level appropriation of \$356,000 from WEIA in the 2025-27 biennial operating budget. It is assumed that these funds will be split evenly across FY2026 and FY2027.

## Strategic and Performance Outcomes

### ***Strategic Framework:***

This proposal relates to the following goal areas from Results Washington:

- Goal 1: World-class Education
- Goal 2: Prosperous Economy
- Goal 5: Efficient, Effective, & Accountable Government Metrics

Goal 1 is supported by the focus on improving oversight of WEIA expenditures, which ensures that they are effectively increasing student success and career readiness to help more Washingtonians earn a postsecondary degree or credential. This outcome consequently supports Goal 2 by enhancing high-demand degree production and cultivating a more credentialed workforce in Washington State. Streamlining Board operations directly relates to Goal 5 and allows WSAC to provide targeted support for Board members who want to identify key workforce education priorities for the Legislature to fund from WEIA.

This proposal supports WSAC's 2026 Strategic Action Plan by making it easier for the Board to engage in continuous and long-term assessments of targeted intervention programs and to monitor Washington State's progress toward its postsecondary attainment goal. It also allows the Board to better advocate and prioritize funding for access to postsecondary education, particularly among students of color, low-income students, and other students from historically excluded populations.

### ***Performance Outcomes:***

This proposal will not expand, reduce, eliminate, or alter the existing cost of Board operations. It has no fiscal impact. Streamlining the Board's administration will improve its capacity to conduct oversight of WEIA expenditures, to ensure that they are producing intended results and effectively increasing student success and career readiness.

## Equity Impacts

### ***Community Outreach and Engagement:***

Given the technical nature of this proposal, it was not shared at WSAC's annual stakeholder engagement sessions where hundreds of state agencies, organizations, and other partners provide direct feedback on potential decision packages and agency request legislation. However, it was discussed extensively by Board members who represent various business, higher education, labor, workforce, and student sectors and perspectives. Among other guiding principles, the Board seeks to help 70% of students in each cohort of Washington high school graduates complete a postsecondary degree or credential and provide support for equitable educational access and economic outcomes for systemically underserved students.

### ***Disproportional Impact Considerations:***

This proposal will benefit students from historically excluded populations by improving the Board's capacity to conduct oversight of WEIA expenditures, to ensure that they are producing intended results and effectively increasing student success and career readiness.

### ***Target Communities and Populations:***

The Legislature's 2025-27 biennial operating budget included more than \$1.5 billion in WEIA expenditures, with nearly all funding going to Washington State's higher education and workforce development priorities. These investments directly enable more than 110,000 students and apprentices to pursue a postsecondary degree or credential through the Washington College Grant (WA Grant) while also supporting other initiatives related to postsecondary enrollment, affordability, completion, and basic needs.

Students of color, low-income students, and other students from historically excluded populations benefit significantly from improved access to postsecondary education and, consequently, increased financial security and economic mobility. By streamlining Board operations, this proposal will benefit these communities further by improving the Board's capacity to conduct oversight of WEIA expenditures, to ensure that they are producing intended results and effectively increasing student success and career readiness.

### ***Community Inputs and Incorporation:***

This proposal was discussed extensively by Board members who represent various business, higher education, labor, workforce, and student sectors and perspectives. Feedback from the Board enabled WSAC to identify key administrative changes that will streamline the Board's operations and improve its capacity to conduct oversight of WEIA expenditures.

## Other Collateral Connections

### **HEAL Act Agencies Supplemental Questions**

N/A

### **Puget Sound Recovery:**

N/A

### **State Workforce Impacts:**

N/A

### **Intergovernmental:**

N/A

### **Stakeholder Impacts:**

This proposal has support from Board members, who represent various business, higher education, labor, workforce, and student sectors and perspectives. No opposition is anticipated.

### **State Facilities Impacts:**

N/A

### **Changes from Current Law:**

Draft agency request legislation amending RCW 28B.77.310 is attached. The legislation would amend:

- Subsection (3) to extend co-chairs' term lengths from one to two years and require biennial co-chair elections instead of annual elections.
- Subsection (4) to allow the Board to meet more than four times a year.
- Subsection (7) to require the Board to consult data from WSAC instead of WTB and eliminate the requirement for WTB to maintain a public-facing WEIAOB data dashboard.
- Subsection (8) to change the annual due date for the Board's legislative report to December 31 from August 1.

### **Legal or Administrative Mandates:**

N/A

### **Governor's Salmon Strategy:**

N/A

## Reference Documents

[Z-0430.1.pdf](#)

### IT Addendum

***Does this Decision Package include funding for any IT-related costs, including hardware, software, (including cloud-based services), contracts or IT staff?***

No

### Objects of Expenditure

Objects of Expenditure <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2026	2027	2025-27	2028	2029	2027-29
Obj. N	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

### Agency Contact Information

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