



Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

What we do

The Workforce Board provides evaluation, accountability and strategic direction to help keep Washington's workforce system on a high impact, continuous improvement path. The Board advocates for employers who depend on skilled workers and workers who need access to living wage jobs.

Key duties

The Board:

- Evaluates the performance and return on investment of Washington's \$1.5 billion public workforce system.
- Supports K-12 career and technical education.
- Coordinates across multiple agencies, services and programs, and convenes system stakeholders to ensure efficient use of tax dollars.
- Advises the Governor, Legislature, and Congress on workforce development needs in all industry sectors and all communities across Washington.
- Leads creation and implementation of state strategic workforce plan, *Talent and Prosperity for All*, or TAP.

Business and labor guide the board

The Board is co-chaired by business and labor leaders. Six of the nine voting members represent business and labor. This structure ensures the Board is focused on current, real-world solutions through a dual customer-focused lens: employers and workers.

Workforce supports economy, quality of life

Employers in all industries report an ongoing skilled labor shortage. Washington's economic development and quality of life depend on a strong workforce. The Workforce Board is committed to working with employer and worker organizations to advance practical solutions and investments that make a positive difference in all Washington communities.

Our agency

The agency includes 37 employees focused on policy, research, consumer protection, career and technical education and key Washington industries grappling with workforce issues, including healthcare and clean energy, among others. The agency also supports a nine-member Workforce Board representing business, labor and state agencies that deliver direct workforce services. Voting Board members are appointed by the Governor.

Board Members

Co-chairs

Gary Chandler
Larry Brown

Labor

Jane Hopkins
Cherika Carter
Todd Mitchell

Business

June Altaras
Wade Larson

State Agencies

Chris Reykdal
Chris Bailey
Cami Feek

Participating Officials

Cheryl Strange
Mark Mattke
Joe Nguyen

Executive Director

Eleni Papadakis



128 - 10th Avenue SW
PO Box 43105
Olympia, WA 98504-3105
(360) 709-4600

wtb.wa.gov
Email: workforce@wtb.wa.gov

A Closer Look at What We Do

- **Performance accountability** – The Workforce Board produces detailed reports and analyses that measure the effectiveness of Washington’s publicly funded workforce system. Workforce Training Results and a printed workforce system poster (matrix) provide a report card for key workforce programs, measuring wages and employment rates of participants and return on investment to taxpayers. Surveys for employers, workforce system customers and job seekers provide an on-the-ground look at impact on Washington workers and businesses.
 - **Consumer protection** – Job seekers need solid information before investing in education and careers. The Workforce Board combines career exploration tools, projected job growth and pay, and employment and earnings results for thousands of Washington postsecondary programs through the CareerBridge.wa.gov website. The Board also regulates more than 300 licensed private career schools that serve more than 35,000 students. Schools are required to meet state standards that protect students from scams and illegal activity. Additionally, the Board oversees and approves education and training programs that serve veterans.
 - **Support K-12 career and technical education** – The Workforce Board is designated by state statute to oversee funds received through the federal Carl D. Perkins Strengthening Career and Technical Education (CTE) for the 21st Century Act --a \$26 million federal grant that helps educators better prepare students for the workplace through hands-on, career focused teaching and other strategies. The Board also administers the Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) scholarship, a merit scholarship for the state’s top career and technical education students.
 - **Workforce solutions** – The Workforce Board creates strategies and policy recommendations to support a robust workforce in high demand sectors, in every corner of the state. Currently and in the recent past, targeted sectors include healthcare and health subsectors (i.e., long-term care, behavioral health), child care, clean energy, communications and information technology, manufacturing, retail, and outdoor recreation. The Board convenes stakeholders to help develop navigable career pathways and produces data reports and policy recommendations annually on these issues.
 - **Strategic planning** – The state strategic workforce plan, *Talent and Prosperity for All* or TAP, was developed with broad community and stakeholder input. The plan focuses on six key priorities, including Job Quality, Industry, Credentialing, System integration and Efficiency, Youth, and Performance Accountability. Three guiding principles drive TAP development and implementation: close economic disparities for people and communities, use a holistic approach to help customers meet their workforce development goals, and focus performance accountability on integrated service delivery rather than any one program.
 - **Innovation and research** – The Board is focused on creative solutions to ongoing challenges, including the Integrated Data Sharing project, which explores creating a “No Wrong Door” intake system for customers who use state services. Over the past 15 years, some of the models that emerged from the research and demonstration work of the Board include Lifelong Learning Accounts, Industry Skill Panels, occupational data reporting, career-connected learning models, Integrated Adult Education and Training that combines basic education with job-specific skills, and community partnerships with schools and organizations as part of high school drop-out prevention and retrieval. The Board also provides sponsored research and demonstration activities in response to critical questions from the Governor, Legislature or other funders, such as regarding youth employment, the credential marketplace, artificial intelligence, LPN Apprenticeship, Digital Literacy, and the future of work.
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