

Task Team Update to the Workforce Board: TAP Legislative Agenda Development & RCW Budget Review

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Agenda for Today's Conversation

- Discuss request from Board members at the May Retreat for the TAP agenda & budget alignment.
- Update from the Task Team and preview of next steps.
- Review RCW governing TAP alignment for agency budget requests.
- Retrospective – TAP 2025 Agenda.
- Board discussion and direction to staff.



Board Member Requests for Legislative Actions

Board member requests at May Retreat:

- Return to the RCW-directed process for determining alignment with TAP for operating agencies of the workforce system. (RCW on slide 5)
- Engage all workforce development system partners in legislative agenda-setting process.
- TAP agenda requests are first reviewed by the Endorsement Committee before consideration of the Board.



Update from Task Team

- Task Team convened to develop parameters for the RCW review process and the development of the TAP Legislative Agenda.
 - Membership includes Board Co-Chairs, business, labor, SBCTC, and a local workforce development board.
- Still in process – early consensus on the value of a strict RCW interpretation for TAP alignment. Need for continued dialogue on the development of the TAP Legislative Agenda.
- Task Team will meet through mid-July to finalize parameters for both TAP alignment and for inclusion on the TAP Legislative Agenda. Board members will have a chance to review recommendations for the formal process prior to next steps.



RCW Review for TAP Alignment

RCW 28C.18.060(5): ***In consultation with the student achievement council, review and make recommendations to the office of financial management and the legislature on operating and capital facilities budget requests for operating agencies of the state training system for purposes of consistency with the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education;***

Staff Recommendation: Follow the RCW as written.

Parameters for determining alignment will be developed by the Task Team, with an opportunity for Board feedback.



Considerations for 2026 TAP Agenda

- Budget challenges are expected to continue at state and federal level.
- Office of Financial Management budget instructions for 2026 submissions: Agencies are directed to limit requests to only the highest priority items.
- TAP update due March of 2026.
- A short, limited agenda of top priorities could be unifying for the entire system – including emphasizing existing strong programs with high impact and benefit to the state.



2025 TAP Agenda - Retrospective

- **Digital Pathways** – No additional funding. Continued implementation of one-time funds from 2024 budget. Report forthcoming.
- **System Data Integration** – No infrastructure funding. Continued priority for the agency, with minimal ongoing funding for staffing.
- **Benefits Cliffs** – Some movement in expansion of benefits, including SNAP. Still more to be done.
- **Job Skills Program** – Core funding remained intact. No other legislative action.
- **Economic Security for All (EcSA)**
 - Funding reduced by 40%. Business navigator program did not receive continued funding. Impacts to enhanced EcSA benefits with reduction to Community Reinvestment Fund (CRF, 70% reduction).
- **WAVE** – Scholarship is suspended for the 26-27 Biennium.

Board Discussion and Directions to Staff

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