BOARD MEETING AGENDA

April 3, 2026 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Meeting No. 282
Location: John A. Cherberg Building (JAC), Capitol Campus
304 15th Ave. SW, Room ABC,
Olympia, WA 98501
Remote access: Please register for a unique link here.

9:00 a.m. **Call to Order**
Welcome and Roll Call

9:05 a.m. **Chairs Report (ACTION)** **Tab 1**
Consent Agenda
- Minutes from February 20, 2026, Board Meeting
- State and WIOA Policy Updates Issued Since January 23, 2026
- WIOA Out of School Youth Expenditure Waiver
- Policy 1016 – One-Stop Assessment and Certification

9:10 a.m. **Executive Director Report** **Tab 2**
Maddy Thompson, Workforce Board

9:20 a.m. **High School Graduation Requirements Initiative** **Tab 3**
K-12 Future Ready Initiative - Mary Fertakis, Chair, Randy Spaulding, Alissa Muller, Arielle Matthews, State Board of Education

10:25 a.m. Comments from Chris Reykdal, State Superintendent, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

10:35 a.m. **Break**

10:45 a.m. **Coordination Update: HR1 SNAP Work Requirements** **Tab 4**
Emily Persky, Workforce Board

10:55 a.m. **Integrating Services: Agency Technology Initiatives** **Tab 5**
WAWorks and WorkSourceWA - Ismaila Maidadi & Lisa Kissler, Employment Security Department
Verification Hub – Ariel Pyrtek, Health Care Authority and Babs Roberts, Department of Social and Health Services
No Wrong Door – Kim Goutam & Liz Gallagher, Workforce Board

11:30 a.m. **Proclamations**
Larry Brown, Immediate Past Co-chair, Labor
Gary Chandler, Immediate Past Co-chair, Business

12:00 p.m. **Lunch**

PLEASE NOTE: Times above are estimates only. The Workforce Board reserves the right to alter the order and content of the agenda. For information regarding testimony, handouts, other questions, or for people needing special accommodation, please contact Michelle Pierce at michelle.pierce@wtb.wa.gov.

12:45 p.m.	**Public Comment** Please sign up via email at workforce@wtb.wa.gov by 9 a.m. on April 2, 2026.	**Tab 6**
12:55 p.m.	**Planning for Board Meetings and Future Work** Maddy Thompson, Workforce Board April Sims, Co-Chair Morgan Irwin, Co-Chair	**Tab 7**
2:00 p.m.	**WIOA Plan Finalization (ACTION)** Emily Persky, Workforce Board	**Tab 8**
2:25 p.m.	**Break**	
2:35 p.m.	**2026 Legislative Review** Nova Gattman, Workforce Board	**Tab 9**
2:50 p.m.	**Local Workforce Board Policies (ACTION)** Liz Gallagher, Workforce Board 1) Board Certification a. Policy 5614/1040 2) North Central and Northwest Workforce Development Boards a. Extend Direct Service Provider Status to June 2027	**Tab 10**
3:20 p.m.	**Workforce Pell Update** Maddy Thompson, Workforce Board Marie Bruin, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges	**Tab 11**
3:50 p.m.	**Executive Director Recruitment Update** April Sims, Co-Chair Morgan Irwin, Co-Chair	
4:00 p.m.	**Adjourn**	

Tab 1

Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

MEETING NUMBER: 282
MEETING DATE: 4/3/2026
TAB NUMBER: 1

Consent Agenda

PRESENTED BY: Workforce Board Co-chairs April Sims and Morgan Irwin

CHECK ONE:

☒ Action Item ☐ Possible Action ☐ Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

The consent agenda enables the Board to approve items listed without discussion or individual motions. If any Board member believes an item does not belong on the consent agenda, they may request the item be removed and considered for an individual discussion and vote at a later time, at the discretion of the Co-chair(s).

BACKGROUND:

This consent agenda includes:

- Minutes from Feb. 20, 2026 Board meeting
- State and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Policy Updates Issued Since Jan. 23, 2026
- WIOA Out of School Youth (OSY) Expenditure Waiver
    - OSY Waiver Cover Letter
    - OSY Waiver Renewal Request
- Policy 1016 – One Stop Career Assessment and Certification

STAFF GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATION:

Without dissent, the consent agenda items will be approved as drafted.

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 281
February 20, 2026

Board Members Present:
Morgan Irwin, Co-chair (in-person)
April Sims, Co-chair (virtual)
Wade Larson, Representing Business (virtual)
Todd Mitchell, Representing Labor (virtual)
Cherika Carter, Representing Labor (virtual)
Commissioner Cami Feek, Employment Security Department (ESD) (virtual)
Marie Bruin for Nate Humphrey, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) (virtual)
Becky Wallace for Superintendent Chris Reykdal, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) (in-person)
Miriam Halliday, Workforce Southwest Washington, Representing Local Elected Officials (virtual)
Babs Roberts for Secretary Angela Ramirez, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) (virtual)
Kairie Pierce for Interim Director Sarah Clifthorne, Department of Commerce (virtual)

Call to Order
Co-chair April Sims called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. The meeting was a hybrid meeting using Zoom for remote attendees. In-person attendees convened at the Workforce Board office at 128 10th Ave SW, Olympia, in the second floor Board room. Quorum was established.

Co-Chairs Report
Co-chair Morgan Irwin discussed the Perkins V State Determined Performance Levels (SDPLs). He noted there were no public comments received and the results were negotiated with SBCTC and OSPI.

MOTION-2025-281-01
A motion was made by Todd Mitchell to approve the consent agenda. Marie Bruin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Irwin shared an update regarding recruitment for the Workforce Board's Executive Director position. He noted he and Sims met with Franklin Plaistowe, Chief Operations Officer with the Governor's Office, on Feb. 19. He noted the plan is to create a small select committee to include both co-chairs, and at a minimum, two Board members, representing business and labor. The committee will work with the Governor's Office and Labor and Industries' (LNI) Human Resources Department [after the meeting this was clarified to be the Office of Financial

Management rather than LNI] to develop a job description. The committee will develop the core competencies for this position. The next step will be a paper job search. The committee will review the applications and interview the top five candidates. After completing these interviews, three finalists will be submitted to the Governor's Office for selection of the next Executive Director. The finalists will not be ranked, and only notes from their presentations will be provided.

Sims noted the Governor stated he wants to respect the independent authority of our Board in this process. She noted there is an urgency and the intent is to move quickly.

There was an inquiry regarding the timeline for this process. Sims noted an expectation this process would begin at the completion of legislative session. It was requested that the job posting be shared with the members of the Board to allow for full visibility within the state and nationally.

Legislative Update

Nova Gattman, Workforce Board, shared a mid-session update of the 2026 legislative session. She noted the ability to view tracked bills, testimony, budget materials, and federal issues on the Workforce Board's online Legislative Tracker. Gattman further shared the expectation of the House and Senate proposed budgets to be released on Sunday. She noted recent revenue forecasts from the state's Economic and Revenue Forecast Council show an $827 million increase in projected revenue for the current outlook, largely driven by real estate excise taxes, and over $1 billion growth projected for the 2027–2029 biennium. While this provides some added flexibility, budget conditions remain tight.

Gattman's presentation also highlighted several priority workforce bills, including:

- 2492/6282 – Apprenticeship/wellness
- 5963/2586 – Passport to careers program
- 2523/6275 – Community reinvestment program
- 6289 – Economic development strategic plan
- 1128/5062 – Child care workforce standards board
- 2410 – Commercial truck council
- 1923 – Passenger-only ferries

An additional bill was discussed after Gattman's presentation.

- 6260 – Implementing efficiencies and programming changes in public education

Performance Framework and Expected Performance Levels

Commissioner Cami Feek, Employment Security Department and Dave Wallace, Workforce Board, have been leading the Performance and Evaluation Work Group as part of the state strategic workforce plan, also known as Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP). A presentation regarding the draft performance framework and dashboard concept was shared with the Board. Feek noted this was an opportunity to get input from the Board and her belief the dashboard

was going to be a tool to not only understand performance and evaluation of the state plan but the system as a whole.

Wallace provided background on the work group. He noted the team set guiding principles for the dashboard: Focus on system-level data, align metrics with TAP priorities, prioritize existing data to minimize administrative burden, collaborate to fill data gaps, and clearly organize how measures are presented. The original concept included three tiers—landscape indicators, system-level measures, and activity-level tracking—but the final proposal focuses on the first two tiers. Landscape indicators reflect broad economic and workforce conditions, such as the Self-Sufficiency Index, state gross domestic product (GDP), labor force participation rate, unemployment rate, and median wage. System-level measures would track outcomes more directly influenced by the workforce system, including employment and earnings outcomes, measurable skill gains, credential attainment, job retention, business engagement, and employer satisfaction.

Wallace shared that a key feature of the proposed approach is aggregating and deduplicating participant data across programs to ensure individuals are not double counted. Wallace noted doing this will require enhanced data-sharing agreements and coordination among partners. Wallace outlined the programs where sufficient data is being collected. He also noted the programs with insufficient data. Wallace shared a timeline outlining foundational work that has been completed since April 2025 continuing with ongoing work with the expectation of the dashboard going live in August 2026. Wallace finished by briefly reviewing the expected performance outcomes that will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) as part of Title I and III negotiations.

Marie Bruin, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, offered feedback, including a recommendation to consider customized training, industry-recognized credentials, and short-term programs eligible for Workforce Pell be incorporated into the framework.

Federal WIOA Combined Program Plan

Emily Persky, Workforce Board, presented on the draft mid-cycle update to Washington's Combined Program Plan, which is required under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The plan is due to the federal government at the end of April and is expected to be published for public comment by early March.

All states are required to submit this update to their four-year plans from 2024. It is an opportunity to revise goals and strategies in response to economic and labor market changes, update expected performance levels and ensure continued compliance across programs.

Persky explained that our state continues to submit a combined plan rather than a unified plan. A unified plan includes core programs under WIOA Titles I – IV, while a combined plan includes other federally funded programs administered by the U.S. Departments of Labor, Education, Health and Human Services, and Agriculture. The seven-section plan includes required prompts

and questions that states respond to. Sections I-V focus on the system while sections VI and VII include the plans for individual programs.

In early March, staff will publish sections I – V of the combined plan for public comment, along with plans for some of the programs in sections VI and VII. Not all program plans will go through public comment. This is because some programs have plans that already went through public comment or that have been published for public comment separately.

Persky noted things that are different about this update compared to the 2024 plan as well as things that are consistent. Key differences include more focused objectives, using the federal prompts to scope our responses and making the plan—especially the system sections—more cohesive and concise. The update also illustrates alignment with USDOL's five pillars, released in 2025. Consistent elements include alignment with the strategic priorities from 2024, programs included in the plan and collaboration with partners.

Persky shared highlights from sections I-V. For section III, Persky asked Board members and agency partners to ensure that any recent upgrades or system changes are reflected in the response about state operating systems and technology platforms.

Cherika Carter, Washington State Labor Council, asked if the No Wrong Door project was still included in the plan. Persky noted that implementation for that project is dependent on funding and that the project and focus will be to apply a "no wrong door" approach to implementation of HR1 work requirements. Persky also noted that a "no wrong door" vision is referenced in section IV of the plan, which focuses on coordination and alignment across the system. Carter clarified that she is interested in hearing more about where the No Wrong Door project stands, which staff noted for follow-up.

Persky outlined the next steps, which include finalizing drafts for public comment by late February or early March, ensuring all program partners have WIOA portal access and are prepared to upload final materials, and addressing public comments as they are received to allow for efficient revisions in April.

The goal is to submit the plan by mid-April. Following submission, USDOL and other federal agencies typically engage in follow-up questions before formal approval, which is anticipated by July 1. At the April 3 meeting, Board members will receive a summary of public comments and any resulting revisions for formal approval.

Persky concluded by acknowledging the significant cross-agency collaboration required to produce the plan. She thanked and recognized staff from partner agencies for their expertise, contributions, flexibility and guidance in navigating different federal planning and reporting requirements. Board members expressed appreciation for Persky's coordination and leadership in managing what they described as a complex and substantial undertaking.

The meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

WorkSource System and WIOA Title I-B policy activity since the January 23, 2026 Workforce Board Meeting

For WTECB acknowledgement (action) at the April 3, 2026 Meeting

Policies

Policy	Title	Date
1012-3	Customer Complaint Resolution and Handbook	1/30/26
1039-1	Employer Incentives Under the Apprenticeship Building America Grant	2/25/26
1026-1	Safeguarding Personally Identifiable Information (PII)	Public Comment thru 4/8/26
1035-1	State Policy Structure and Process	3/16/26
1016-2	One-Stop Evaluation and Certification	Public Comment thru 4/16/26
1040	Local Workforce Development Board Certification (formerly 5614)	Public Comment thru 4/17/26
1021-2	Management Information System Access and Data Sharing, Disclosure, and Security Administration	Public Comment thru 4/23/26

Workforce Information Notices (WINS)

WIN	Title	Date
0073-72	WIOA operating guidance issued to date by DOL through TEGLs, UIPLs, and TENs – adds TEN 10-23, Change 1	1/23/26
0073-73	WIOA operating guidance issued to date by DOL through TEGLs, UIPLs, and TENs – adds TEGL 07-25	1/27/26
0160	One-Year Extension of Local Plan Modification	1/28/26
0073-74	WIOA operating guidance issued to date by DOL through TEGLs, UIPLs, and TENs – adds TEN 05-25	2/5/26
0073-75	WIOA operating guidance issued to date by DOL through TEGLs, UIPLs, and TENs – adds TEN 06-25, TEN 07-25	2/17/26
0161	Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) January 2026 Investments	2/24/26
0073-76	WIOA operating guidance issued to date by DOL through TEGLs, UIPLs, and TENs – adds TEGL 10-23, Change 3	3/18/26
0152-3	Federal Stay on TEGL 10-23, Change 2	3/20/26

Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

MEETING NUMBER: 282
MEETING DATE: 4/3/2026
TAB NUMBER: 1

Renewal of WIOA Out-of-School Youth (OSY) Expenditure Requirement Waiver

PRESENTED BY: Liz Gallagher, Workforce Board

CHECK ONE:

☒ Action Item ☐ Possible Action ☐ Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

Board approval is requested to renew Washington's waiver of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requirement that at least 75% of Title I-B youth funds be spent on Out-of-School Youth (OSY).

If approved by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), this waiver will allow Washington to maintain a 50% minimum OSY expenditure requirement at the state, local, and statewide activity levels. This flexibility allows Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) to serve more In-School Youth (ISY) who are at risk of disengaging from school while continuing to prioritize services for OSY.

BACKGROUND:

WIOA Section 129(a)(4) and 20 CFR 681.410 require states to spend no less than 75% of youth formula funds on OSY. Washington has previously received approval from USDOL to operate under a waiver allowing a 50% OSY expenditure floor.

The waiver allows local areas to better align youth investments with the goals of Washington's Combined State Plan, which prioritizes improving education-to-career pathways and reducing barriers to employment for youth.

While Washington continues to meet federal youth expenditure requirements, the waiver provides flexibility for LWDBs to respond to local needs and expand early intervention strategies for youth who remain connected to the education system but are at risk of disengaging.

Under the current waiver authority, Washington has expanded service capacity for ISY while maintaining strong services for OSY.

Key outcomes include:

- A 7% increase in measurable skills gains during the first year of the waiver.
- A nearly 2% increase in the ISY-to-OSY enrollment ratio from program year 2023 to program year 2024.
- Approximately 10% improvement across core youth performance indicators between program year 2023 and program year 2024.

Several LWDBs, including Eastern, Seattle-King, Olympic, and South Central, have piloted new service strategies using OSY/ISY ratios approaching 50/50, strengthening partnerships with career and technical education programs, postsecondary institutions, and registered apprenticeship programs.

Rural regions, such as the Eastern and Olympic workforce areas, report this flexibility has improved access to workforce services for youth who may otherwise face barriers to education and employment.

Statewide reductions in youth formula funding beginning in program year 2025 may affect future outcomes.

Following this coversheet are two documents:

- **Item A - Transmittal Letter to USDOL**: This is the formal letter from the Workforce Board to USDOL requesting approval of the waiver on behalf of the Governor.
- **Item B - Waiver Request Narrative**: This is the full waiver request, including required federal elements such as the policy rationale, expected outcomes, and evidence of public comment. This renewal request will be embedded within Washington's WIOA Combined State Plan modification and submitted to USDOL as part of that plan, which is how USDOL will review and consider the waiver for approval.

STAFF GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATION:

Action: Workforce Board staff recommend approval of the WIOA OSY Expenditure Requirement Waiver Renewal Request for submission to USDOL as part of Washington's WIOA Combined State Plan modification.

STATE OF WASHINGTON
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
128 – 10th Avenue, S.W. • PO Box 43105 • Olympia, WA 98504-3105
Phone: (360) 709-4600 • Fax: (360) 586-5862 • Web: www.wtb.wa.gov • Email: workforce@wtb.wa.gov

April 3, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

The Washington Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board is requesting a renewal of the Out-of-School Youth Expenditure Requirement Waiver for PY 2026–2027 on behalf of Gov. Bob Ferguson. This renewal would continue to waive the requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Section 129(a)(4) and 20 CFR 681.410 that mandate that a minimum of 75% of youth program funds be used to serve out-of-school youth (OSY). The Workforce Board is requesting a waiver renewal to allow Washington to maintain the mandatory OSY expenditure floor at 50%, which will allow local areas to continue to respond more effectively to the needs of their youth populations. while maintaining OSY as a priority population.

This renewal request continues to support the policy priorities of both the U.S. Department of Labor and Washington's workforce development system, as described in the state plan, *Talent and Prosperity for All*, by:

- Increasing early intervention with in-school youth who are at risk of disengaging from secondary education.
- Strengthening partnerships between the workforce system, K-12 Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, and postsecondary institutions to improve education-to-career pathways.
- Expanding work-based learning opportunities and career pathway programs aligned with in-demand industries.
- Improving youth program performance outcomes, including measurable skills gains and credential attainment.

Maintaining strong service delivery for OSY while allowing Local Workforce Development Boards the flexibility to align services with regional youth population needs.

Washington remains strongly committed to WIOA's vision. We continue to work closely with Local Workforce Development Boards to shape policies and waiver requests that support inclusive educational and employment opportunities for youth and young adults.

The Workforce Board submits this waiver renewal request after concluding a 30-day public comment period. The request reflects review and input from the State Workforce Board, the Employment Security Department, and policy staff from the Office of Governor Ferguson. Please reach out with any questions or requests for additional information.

Sincerely,

Madeleine A. Thompson
Acting Executive Director
Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

State of Washington Waiver Renewal Request
Out-of-School Youth Expenditure Requirement

Federal statutory/regulatory requirements to be waived: The Washington Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board is requesting renewal of the waiver of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Section 129(a)(4) and 20 CFR 681.410, which require that not less than 75% of Title I-B youth formula funds be expended on out-of-school youth (OSY).

Washington seeks continued flexibility to maintain a 50% OSY expenditure requirement at the state, local, and statewide activity levels. This flexibility allows the state to expand service capacity for in-school youth (ISY) while continuing to prioritize services for OSY.

Washington has consistently met federal youth expenditure requirements. However, this waiver allows Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) to respond to varying youth population needs and better align youth investments with Washington's Combined State Plan, *Talent and Prosperity for All*. The waiver supports reducing dropout rates, increasing secondary and postsecondary credential attainment, and strengthening career pathways aligned with in-demand industries. The goal is to remove structural funding constraints that limit early intervention with ISY who are at risk of disengagement, thereby improving long-term employment and credential outcomes.

Action for the removal of state or local statutory or regulatory barriers: There are no state or local statutory or regulatory barriers to implementation. State compliance policies meet federal requirements, and youth expenditure policies have already been aligned with the waiver following its initial approval on December 20th, 2024.

State strategic goals/U.S. Department of Labor priorities to be supported by waiver request: This waiver is intended to:

- Increase the ratio of ISY enrollment to OSY enrollment and strengthen engagement with secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and postsecondary institutions.
- Strengthen partnerships with K-12 school districts and postsecondary opportunities, such as registered apprenticeships, colleges, and universities, while expanding service provider participation.
- Maintain strong OSY service delivery while allowing flexibility in OSY/ISY ratios based on documented local need.

Quantifiable Programmatic Outcomes: Under the current waiver authority, Washington has increased the ratio of ISY to OSY enrollments, strengthened partnerships with K-12 CTE programs and postsecondary institutions, and improved youth performance outcomes.

In Program Year (PY) 2024, measurable skills gains and overall youth performance outcomes improved, including a 7% increase in measurable skills gains compared to the prior year. The ratio of ISY to OSY also increased nearly 2% compared to PY2023. PY2025 second-quarter data indicates the state remains on track to maintain a consistent ratio of ISY to OSY participants served. However,

a statewide 10% reduction in youth funding in PY2025 may affect these outcomes.

To date, five of the twelve LWDBs have utilized the flexibility provided by the waiver. Some local boards have expanded or shifted service providers to organizations better positioned to support higher caseloads of ISY.

Local boards, such as Eastern, Seattle-King, Olympic, and South Central, have piloted innovative OSY/ISY service ratios, some approaching 50/50, strengthening connections with CTE programs and postsecondary institutions. Youth in rural regions of the state, particularly Eastern and Olympic workforce areas, have benefited significantly from this flexibility.

Individuals, groups, or populations impacted by the proposed waiver: The waiver supports services for:

- ISY at risk of disengagement, particularly rural youth
- OSY requiring re-engagement services
- Local workforce development boards and youth service providers
- Secondary and postsecondary education partners
- Employers seeking entry-level talent aligned with regional workforce demand
- Families and communities benefiting from stronger education-to-employment transitions

Procedure for monitoring progress of waiver implementation/collection of outcome information: The Workforce Board and the Employment Security Department will continue monitoring waiver implementation through quarterly reviews of expenditure ratios, enrollments, and federal performance indicators using state and federal accountability systems. Local contracts and fiscal reviews will evaluate waiver utilization and outcomes.

Waiver results and expenditure data will be collected and reported through Washington's WIOA Annual Report, including measurable skills gains, enrollment ratios, and education-to-employment outcomes

Additional Assurances: The waiver renewal request will be incorporated into Washington's WIOA State Plan modification and made available for public review through the required 30-day public comment period. The complete plan, including this waiver request, will be posted on the Workforce Board website.

The state will circulate notice of the plan modification and waiver renewal through partner networks, including LWDB, state agency partners, businesses, organized labor, service providers, and training and education partners. Board members will also share notice through their professional networks to ensure broad awareness.

Public comments will be submitted through a standardized comment form linked from the WTB website and routed to a shared TAP email address for review by staff responsible for preparing the State Plan modification. This process ensures all feedback is received, tracked, and considered prior to submission.

MEETING NUMBER: 282
MEETING DATE: 4/3/2026
TAB NUMBER: 1

WorkSource System Policy 1016, Revision 2
One-Stop Career Center Assessment and Certification

PRESENTED BY: Liz Gallagher, Workforce Board

CHECK ONE:
☒ Action Item ☐ Possible Action ☐ Discussion Only

SUMMARY:
The federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires the state workforce board, in partnership with chief local elected officials and Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB), to review one-stop career center certification criteria at least once every two years. On behalf of the Workforce Board, staff worked with local workforce board staff to update WorkSource System Policy 1016, Revision 2. The updates clarify certification requirements, better align the policy with federal guidance, and revise the certification tool used by LWDBs. These changes support consistent statewide expectations for the WorkSource system while maintaining flexibility for local service delivery models.

BACKGROUND:

Key Policy Updates

The policy and certification tool are linked here for your review. As a summary, the policy includes updates on:

1. Clarifies certification expectations for offsite Title I-B facilities

The policy adds federal allowable flexibility when Title I-B services are delivered from a separate facility connected to a certified comprehensive or affiliate WorkSource site. These facilities do not need to be certified as one-stop sites if they:

- Are described in the local plan and detailed in memorandum of understanding,
- Contribute to infrastructure funding agreement costs, and
- Ensure customers can still access those services at or through a certified WorkSource one-stop site.

If customers must travel to the separate facility to receive services, the site must instead be evaluated for certification.

2. Updates expectations for connection sites

The policy clarifies Washington's expectations for WorkSource connection sites, which are self-service access points intended to expand public access to workforce information and services.

Updates include:

- Defining connection sites as primarily self-service entry points that supplement the one-stop system and should not regularly be used for staff-delivered services, except on an occasional basis.
- Clarifying accessibility expectations and requirements for providing alternative accessible locations when full ADA compliance is not feasible.
- Establishing evaluation expectations and documenting how connection sites should be recognized and reviewed by LWDBs.

3. Updates the certification tool for clarity and compliance

The accompanying one-stop site assessment and certification tool (Attachment A) has been revised to:

- Improve clarity and usability for local certification teams.
- Ensure all required federal elements are included.
- Align evaluation criteria with WIOA law, federal regulations, and U.S. Department of Labor guidance.

4. Removes outdated federal guidance

The revision removes references to rescinded federal guidance (TEGL 27-14) and updates citations to current federal regulations and guidance.

Why This Matters

These updates help ensure Washington's one-stop certification process:

- Remains compliant with federal requirements,
- Supports consistent service quality across WorkSource centers,
- Allows practical flexibility for local service delivery models, and
- Improves clarity for LWDBs responsible for evaluating and certifying sites.

STAFF GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATION:

Action: Workforce Board staff recommend the Board approve WorkSource System Policy 1016, Revision 2 – One-Stop Assessment and Certification, and the updated One-Stop Site Assessment and Certification Tool (Attachment A), contingent upon completion of the public comment period, for implementation across the WorkSource system.

Tab 2

Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

MEETING NUMBER: 282
MEETING DATE: 4/3/2026
TAB NUMBER: 2

Executive Director Report

PRESENTED BY: Maddy Thompson, Workforce Board

CHECK ONE:

☐ Action Item ☐ Possible Action ☒ Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

The Executive Director's Report provides the Board with an update on recent state and federal issues pertinent to workforce development. In addition, the report highlights selected initiatives under way in Washington's workforce system.

STAFF GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATION:

For discussion.

Executive Director Report
Board Meeting No. 282
April 3, 2026

Federal Updates

WA Met / Exceeded WIOA Performance Targets
The U.S. Department of Labor has released the Program Year (PY) 2024 WIOA performance assessments, confirming that Washington State met or exceeded all negotiated performance targets. This achievement comes despite increased expectations established in Training and Employment Notice (TEN) 01-25, which revised the methodology for setting state performance targets. The full federal assessment for Washington can be viewed here: https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ETA/opder/DoP/WIOA_Annual_Reports/2024/WA_PY_2024_WIOA_Performance_Assessment.html

Federal Approval of the 2026 Perkins Consolidated Annual Report
The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) officially approved Washington's annual Perkins report on February 26, 2026. This Consolidated Annual Report (CAR) serves as a mandatory performance review that every state must submit each January to demonstrate accountability and progress in career and technical education (CTE). The successful completion of this year's submission was made possible through the instrumental data collection and collaboration provided by our core partners at OSPI and SBCTC. Their contributions ensure that Washington remains in full federal compliance while highlighting our commitment to high-quality workforce development across the state.

Partial Federal Government Shutdown
The partial federal government shutdown continues as Congress works to resolve funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Importantly, federal workforce programs are not affected by the current funding lapse. On February 3, 2026, the President signed into law a minibus appropriations package that included the Labor–Health and Human Services–Education (LHHS) division, which funds the U.S. Department of Labor's workforce programs, including WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth, Wagner-Peyser, and Apprenticeship, among others. As outlined in the bill text, several of these workforce funding streams remain available through June 30, 2027, allowing states to operate the full Program Year 2026 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027). As a result, federal workforce funding supporting Washington's workforce system remains stable, barring any further congressional action or rescissions. (See *H.R. 7148, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026, p. 65.)*

Proposed New Compliance Requirement from GSA
The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) has issued a draft revision to System for Award Management (SAM) registration requirements for entities receiving federal financial assistance.

The proposal updates the Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications that all applicants and recipients must agree to in order to access federal funding. These updates align with recent executive branch guidance and legal interpretations related to nondiscrimination and program compliance. As outlined in the notice, more than 220,000 entities nationwide, including school districts, colleges, and workforce partners, would be subject to these updated requirements.

Board staff will keep the Board up to date on this issue and if any action is needed by the Board. To date, the Governor's office has advised that the AGO is acting on behalf of Washington and state agencies on this issue. The public comment period ends March 30, 2026. To view related documents and public comment, use this link. On March 27, 2026 Attorneys General for several state sent a letter to the Federal Rulemaking Portal opposing the System for Award Management Registration Requirements for Financial Assistant Recipients. This letter can be found here.

Comment on Department of Education Rules
In early March, the Workforce Board's Health Workforce Council, submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Education on its proposed rule, *Reimagining and Improving Student Education*. The letter highlighted concerns that new federal borrowing caps, and a narrow definition of "professional programs", would limit access to graduate education in many high demand health and public health fields. Drawing on input from the Health Workforce Council, the Council urged the Department to align its definitions with the full range of modern health professions and to delay implementation to give students and institutions time to adjust. Washington's healthcare system relies on a steady supply of well-trained professionals, and federal financial aid policy plays a critical role in supporting that need.

Additional Perkins Program Updates

FY26 Funding for Perkins Finalized
Congress has finalized the federal fiscal year (FY) 2026 partial budget, with the House approving the Senate's proposal, and President Trump signing it into law. The LHHS funding bill provides about $79 billion for the U.S. Department of Education and avoids many of the significant cuts that were proposed earlier. Importantly, funding for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act state grant program remains level for FY26.

2026-27 Perkins State Plan and State Determined Performance Levels
At its February 20 meeting, the Workforce Board approved the State Determined Performance Levels (SDPLs) for the 2026–27 Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) state plan. The SDPLs set annual targets used to measure the performance of CTE programs, including indicators such as student achievement, credential attainment, graduation, and post-program employment outcomes. Data used to establish the proposed levels were provided by Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and were released for a required 30-day public comment period from January 12 to February 11, 2026. Because no

substantive changes are being made to the current Perkins state plan this cycle, only administrative updates will be included in the state's two-year update to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Combined State Plan, and the approved SDPLs will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education in April.

Workforce Board Program and Project Updates

Job Quality TAP
The Workforce Board, through its 2024-2028 statewide workforce plan, Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP), identified job quality as one of five strategic priorities for strengthening Washington's economy. During Phase One of TAP implementation (June 2024-October 2025), the TAP Job Quality Work Group conducted a survey, completed a literature review, a Phase One Report and finally developed a draft Job Quality Framework and definition to bring greater clarity, consistency, and accountability to this work. This draft framework is designed to turn a shared aspiration: good jobs, great careers, strong communities, into a practical guide for potential action.

The draft framework defines job quality across three interconnected pillars: stability, opportunity, and belonging. Together, these elements reflect both worker well-being and employer competitiveness, recognizing that thriving businesses and thriving workers go hand in hand. By establishing a common language and structure, the framework can be used to align policy, investment, and practice across the workforce system.

We are now inviting feedback on the draft framework and have created a one-page summary document to facilitate this work. The one-pager serves as a call to action for workforce system partners, employers, labor representatives, educators, and community members to review the draft and share their perspectives. Broad input will help refine and strengthen the framework before it is finalized, ensuring it reflects the diverse needs and experiences of industries and workers across Washington.

Career Bridge Modernization Project
Work to further improve and update the Workforce Board's popular, public-facing career and education platform, CareerBridge.wa.gov, continues. Agency staff teamed with developer RDI on a final list of improvements due before the June 30 project deadline. Key among these improvements is a collaboration portfolio feature that will enable counselors to easily track a student's or jobseeker's education and career searches, helping them complete key tasks. This legislatively funded project, a final piece of a broader update that began in 2022, is focused on finish-line tasks to make the site more user-friendly and architecturally up to date. In August of 2025, agency staff, led by Career Bridge Manager Julie Mix-Stark, successfully launched a comprehensively updated, mobile-friendly Career Bridge that continues to draw praise and an increasing number of users. Most recently, the site has recorded nearly 140,000 monthly page views.

Health Workforce Council
The 2025 Health Workforce Council Report examines the most pressing challenges facing Washington's health care workforce with a strong focus on rural communities. Including updated data on education and training trends and progress reports on statewide dental and nursing workforce efforts.

Key recommendations are:

1. Expand health care pathway opportunities for rural youth.
2. Address the affordability of health professional education.
3. Increase access to childcare for health care students and workers.

Long-Term Care (LTC) Workforce
The Workforce Board's Long-Term Care Collaborative, in partnership with the University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies (CHWS) has completed two research reports: Home Care Aides Workforce Challenges; and the Impact of Staffing Levels on LTC client Outcomes. The reports are posted to the LTC policy page of the Workforce Board website.

As part of the Direct Care Strategy Center and National Council on Aging's peer learning collaborative, Washington, along with 22 other states, is engaged in open discussion on meeting the direct care workforce needs. The work has focused on a range of topics related to workforce development, licensing, and regulations.

Clean Energy Technology Workforce Advisory Committee (CETWAC)
The Legislature eliminated funding for the Climate Ready Communities legislation, (HB 1176 passed in 2023) in the most recent state operating budget. The budget eliminated funding for the Climate Corps Network operated by OFM, as well as the staffing and research capacity of CETWAC at the Workforce Board.

In the last two years, CETWAC provided policy recommendations to the Governor and Legislature and conducted research in partnership with ESD. CETWAC recommended more childcare opportunities for workers, the removal of permitting barriers to increase project development, and strategies to increase the racial/ethnic and gender diversity of clean energy workers, among other recommendations.

Research products included:

- A landscape assessment of the current training and education programs in the state that lead to clean energy careers.
- Analysis of program enrollment data to better understand the demographics of program participants, including disaggregated data on the age, race, gender, and education level of our clean energy workforce.
- An assessment of the feasibility of a path to retirement for near retirement workers in the fossil fuel industries impacted by our state climate policies.
- Research regarding the benefits available to workers in the clean energy sector and the importance of those benefits to workers and employers.

The most recent research report issued by CETWAC can be viewed here. CETWAC staff will have a final research product available in early summer.

Research Update

Employment Security Department's EcSA Evaluation Report
The Employment Security Department (ESD) completed an evaluation of the state-funded Economic Security for All (EcSA) initiative. The findings highlight significant labor market gains and program efficiencies, reinforcing its status as a national best practice.

The June 2025 evaluation compared over 4,400 participants to individuals enrolled only in similar federal programs: WIOA Adult and Youth. The results show that EcSA participants consistently outperform those who only enrolled in traditional programs:

- Employment: Participants were 14.3% more likely to be employed and 21.5% increase in hours worked over eight quarters after program enrollment.
- Earnings & Wages: Participants saw a 27.9% increase in earnings over eight quarters after enrollment. On average, EcSA participants earned $12,000 more than their peers in WIOA Adult and Youth in the same period.
- Self-Sufficiency: Among employed participants, 63% reached their individualized self-sufficiently goal within eight quarters after enrollment.

You can find the full report here: Economic Security for All (EcSA) Evaluation Report.

Apprenticeship Building America Convening
Workforce Board staff will participate in an Apprenticeship Building America (ABA) meeting on April 6-7 hosted by the Employment Security Department. The event is meant to celebrate work by the many individuals and organizations that were involved in this apprenticeship expansion effort as well as to help Workforce Board in program evaluation efforts.

ABA represents an investment in equitable workforce development, and the state grant managed by ESD enhances this work in Washington. As part of this grant ESD asked the Workforce Board to evaluate the program effectiveness and focus groups will be conducted to gather learnings.

Occupational Data Forum
On April 23 at 10 a.m., there will be an Occupational Data Forum titled "New Data, New Possibilities: Reimagining Workforce Insights with Washington's New Occupational Data." The intent is to bring together those with interest in learning more about this newly available data and to spread the word to other regions and areas of research.

Workforce Board staff, including Acting Executive Director, Maddy Thompson, will participate in the Forum. It will be a chance to share experiences working to get the 2020 occupational data law passed allowing collection of the data as well as how the new data has been used.

Net Impact Study to Start
The Workforce Board's Research Team is starting up its once-every-five-year Net Impact Study. The study, which is one of the agency's flagship products, compares outcomes for a number of workforce program participants against similar individuals who did not receive training. It allows agency research staff to help answer the question of how much the program affected employment and earnings of the participants. Stated simply, how many more people got a job, and how much more did they earn, because of the program. Agency research staff also make return-on-investment estimates that calculate the average net benefit of these programs for individual participants, taxpayers, and society overall. Return on investment is a key metric found from this analysis and is included in Workforce Board research products, including the annual workforce system poster, also known (at least internally) as "America's favorite matrix." The report should be finished late this year or early next year.

WIOA Performance Targets
The biennial U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) WIOA Performance targets process has recently started up. The first step was an assessment of whether the state sufficiently met program year 2024 and 2025 targets for all four WIOA Titles, and the answer was that all targets were met.

The next step was to submit our expected performance levels for Titles I and III for program years 2025 and 2027, which we did in early March. Following that, DOL has sent out what their statistical model expects for these levels. Both our expected levels and DOL's model estimates will serve as a starting point for the target negotiations. The negotiations are not scheduled yet but are likely to take place in May. The research team has begun preparing for these negotiations.

After federal-to-state negotiations are completed we will begin a similar process with local areas to negotiate Title I performance targets.

Conferences Attended / Meetings Convened

Pathways AI Project Convening at the Gates Foundation
Marina Parr, the agency's Director of Workforce System Advancement, attended a daylong conference at the Gates Foundation in Seattle on Thursday, Feb. 26 as part of a panel of stakeholders who shared perspectives on how a new AI tool can help solve career and education challenges that students, schools, and the broader workforce system are facing. Workforce Board Acting Executive Director Maddy Thompson also attended. The four-person panel in which Marina participated included questions about participants' own career and education pathways, with responses demonstrating that those paths often have their unexpected twists and turns. The panel was part of a larger convening focused on a new AI tool aimed at helping high school students make more informed career and education plans—with the hope that this might make for more direct, more informed, pathways to career and education goals. The tool, called an AI Guide, draws key postsecondary education information from a Career Bridge database, among other places. It's part of project that includes CampusEvolve, a nonprofit, Seattle-based tech company, in collaboration with a range of public partners, including the

Workforce Board, the Washington Student Achievement Council, and the state's Employment Security Department, in addition to the College Success Foundation. High school students from Yakima, Port Angeles, and the Highline School District (Burien), along with their parents, also attended the meeting and took the opportunity to test-drive a current iteration of the new AI tool.

Equity Impact Team Formed at the Workforce Board
The agency has established an Equity Impact Team (Impact Team). This team was created in late January 2026, and in accordance with RCW 43.06D and Executive Order 22-04.

The first duty of the team was to create a charter, which was completed and submitted to the Office of Equity in March. The purpose of the Impact Team is to make equity a regular part of how the agency operates, delivers services, and is led. The statement if purpose includes the following: "We strive to promote fair practices and systems at all levels of state government through adaptive leadership and effective change agents. We strive to cultivate accountability, build relationships, advance education, and guide or advise plans, policies, and actions within the Workforce Board."

Latest Workforce Newsletter Items

Gov. Bob Ferguson Signs Measure to Boost Wellness Training in the Building Trades

Gov. Bob Ferguson signed a measure to address escalating mental health and substance abuse risk in the construction trades on March 9. House Bill 2492, sponsored by State Rep. Greg Nance, D-Kitsap, requires state registered apprentices and journey-level workers in the building and construction trades to receive behavioral health and wellness training.

Overdose and suicide deaths now far outpace jobsite fatalities, the Center for Construction Research and Training reports. Ferguson called the measure an "important tool for empowerment and support" for Washingtonians who work in the trades. The Workforce Board supported the bill. The companion bill was sponsored by State Sen. T'wina Nobles, D-Fircrest.

New Where Are You Going Guides Available
The Workforce Board is also pleased to announce an updated 2026-29 Where Are You Going? career guide. This free booklet walks students & job seekers step by step through figuring out interests, exploring careers, and choosing a path after high school. It also includes information about high demand jobs, what they pay, and what education and training is needed to work in those careers. Order your copies today.

Veterans Education Group Creates New Scholarship in Honor of John Murray
The Western Association of Veterans Education Specialists (WAVES) has established a scholarship in honor of the late John Murray, who managed veterans education at the Workforce Board for many years.

Murray, an accomplished Navy veteran, led the Workforce Board's effort to ensure quality education and training offerings for military personnel, veterans and their families using their GI Bill® benefits.

Tab 3

Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

MEETING NUMBER: 282
MEETING DATE: 4/3/2026
TAB NUMBER: 3

State Board of Education Review of High School Graduation Requirements

PRESENTED BY: State Board of Education (SBE): Mary Fertakis, Chair; Randy Spaulding, SBE Executive Director; Alissa Muller, SBE Policy Director, and Arielle Matthews, SBE Associate Policy Director.

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), State Superintendent Chris Reykdal

CHECK ONE:
☐ Action Item ☐ Possible Action ☒ Discussion Only

SUMMARY:
The State Board of Education (SBE) is charged in state law to establish statewide minimum high school graduation requirements. SBE Chair Mary Fertakis, and SBE staff members, will present the current review of these requirements, known as the FutureReady initiative, and proposals under consideration.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Chris Reykdal (also a member of the Workforce Board and SBE), will provide comments on proposals under consideration from a workforce development perspective.

During this agenda item, Board members will have a chance to hear about the draft conceptual framework for new graduation requirements and be able to engage in discussion with the presenters regarding their thoughts on the draft framework.

BACKGROUND:

State Law Regarding Graduation Requirements

State law charges the SBE with responsibility for setting minimum statewide graduation requirements, regularly reviewing them, and proposing changes to the state Legislature (paraphrased from RCW 28A.305.130(4) and RCW 28A.230.090). In 2024 the SBE adopted its current strategic plan outlining an approach to revising the high school graduation requirements and plans to make recommendations to the Legislature in 2027. This initiative is called "FutureReady."

Relevance to Workforce Board's Mission

High school graduation requirements are relevant to the Workforce Board's mission, as they impact a Washington resident's ability to gain employment and/or obtain further education. In addition, they form the basic skills and knowledge that are considered important for a

person to be ready for work. Other stated purposes are: preparation of civic engagement (citizenship), lifelong learning (see RCW 28A.230.700), and meeting the goals of basic education (RCW 28A.150.210).

SBE's FutureReady Initiative

The FutureReady initiative is intended to update Washington's high school graduation requirements to better prepare students for the future. The goal is to empower students with the essential knowledge and skills they need to thrive in a changing world, while streamlining the graduation requirements framework to promote accessibility and equity. The FutureReady initiative was officially launched in Fall 2024 and will culminate with a legislative proposal anticipated for the 2027 Legislative Session. In December 2025, SBE released an interim report outlining the initiative's progress.

Among other requirements, RCW 28A.230.090 states that the SBE shall "(3)(a) Periodically reevaluate the graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board of education [and] (b) Reevaluate the graduation requirements for students enrolled in vocationally intensive and rigorous career and technical education programs..."

To help inform this work, the SBE convened a task force bringing together approximately 35 members representing students and families, community-based organizations, K-12 education, postsecondary education, employers, and policymakers.

The FutureReady initiative is designed to center the voices and needs of students and communities furthest from educational justice by intentionally embedding community voice throughout the process. This includes targeted outreach from staff and the inclusion of community liaisons on the task force who work to engage students, families and communities whose experiences are often left out of policy-making opportunities.

Phase 1: Visioning, Gap Analysis, & Scoping

In Phase 1, the SBE and task force completed visioning, gap analysis, and scoping to establish a shared definition of postsecondary readiness and identify gaps in the current graduation system. This work informed the scope of policy development and led to the creation of several subject-matter subcommittees for deeper exploration.

Please see SBE's October 2025 Board materials for more information on Phase 1.

Phase 2: Beginning of Recommendation Development

At the September 2025 task force meeting, members reviewed and critiqued the current components of the diploma — credit requirements, graduation pathways, and the High School & Beyond Plan and then completed a survey on the relevance, reliability, and purpose of each component. This feedback was used to guide staff in drafting mini

"strawman" proposals for both the SBE and task force to consider. These are small, conceptual proposals that focus on specific aspects of the diploma framework.

The SBE reviewed and provided feedback on these proposals during its October 2025 meeting. Based on this feedback, staff modified the strawman proposals and presented them to the task force during its November 2025 meeting for further feedback. Based on the December 2025 SBE meeting and January 2026 task force meeting, both groups have reached consensus that the current graduation pathway requirement is duplicative by requiring students to show English Language Arts and math proficiency that they already show through their courses and should be changed into something more meaningful for individual students. At the January 2026 task force meeting, members also discussed the strawman proposals through the lens of various student scenarios and suggested changes to the proposals to ensure they would best serve students.

The SBE and task force will continue to discuss and iterate the concepts in the strawman proposals and work toward building out a conceptual proposal before moving into Phase 3.

Phase 3: Legislative Proposal Development & Beyond
During Phase 3, the SBE - working closely with the task force and subcommittees - will focus on developing proposed updates to Washington's graduation requirements. Much of 2026 will be dedicated to this work. The SBE anticipates reviewing a conceptual proposal at their April 2026 SBE meeting and a technical proposal in June 2026, though these timelines may shift as needed.

Throughout this process, the public will continue to have opportunities to provide feedback to refine the proposals. The SBE expects to approve a final set of recommendations in Fall of 2026, which will then be brought forward during the 2027 Legislative Session.

For more details on the initiative and to sign up to receive updates please visit: https://sbe.wa.gov/our-work/futureready

---

STAFF GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATION:

Discussion purposes only.

This agenda item is intended to educate Board members on work conducted by the SBE to date, and to begin considering how these requirements impact individuals as they enter civic life, the world of work, and further education. The Workforce Board could also consider how these requirements impact employers when hiring and employing workers.

The Workforce Board could consider developing a formal position on the State Board of Education's proposed and final recommendations to state policymakers, once the proposals are final.

Possible questions:

- What are issues with the current graduation requirements, and why is a review needed?
- How has the SBE used input from various communities, including employer and labor organizations, to develop proposals?
- How could the various proposals impact access to career and technical education offerings in high school, and dual credit opportunities?
- How could proposals impact access to work-based learning opportunities?

SBE would like feedback from the Workforce Board on:

- What would industry like to see regarding how students are prepared to talk about what skills they have gained?
- What do you appreciate about the draft proposals for new requirements?
- Is there anything missing from the draft proposal for new requirements?

Tab 4

Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

MEETING NUMBER: 282
MEETING DATE: 4/3/2026
TAB NUMBER: 4

Coordination Update: HR1 SNAP Work Requirements

PRESENTED BY: Emily Persky, Workforce Board

CHECK ONE:

☐ Action Item ☐ Possible Action ☒ Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

The Board will receive an update on implementation of work requirements for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food assistance in the workforce development system. This is an opportunity for Board members to ask questions and offer suggestions.

BACKGROUND:

Federal legislation (HR1) established new work requirements for SNAP and Medicaid, a joint federal and state program that provides free or low-cost health coverage. SNAP work requirements took effect on February 1, 2026. At the January meeting, partners asked the Board to help coordinate implementation across the system.

Since then, staff have convened two coordination meetings, one office hours session, and several smaller group discussions to surface and clarify issues. Department of Social and Health Services staff have drafted a policy FAQ to address common questions and are vetting a crosswalk of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) services and countable activities for SNAP. These will be foundational resources for identifying operational needs and informing technology and data requirements.

Staff have also met with the Health Care Authority's (HCA) policy manager and project manager for Medicaid work requirements. Coordination with HCA will begin later this spring. Medicaid work requirements take effect January 1, 2027.

STAFF GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATION:

Staff ask for confirmation that progress is on track and meeting expectations. If not, staff ask for clarification to adjust course. Staff also encourage Board members to bring forward questions, concerns, suggestions, and resources from their constituencies related to HR1 implementation for SNAP and Medicaid, including:

- Navigating barriers (administrative, operational, communication, resourcing, and employment).
- Identifying alternative sources of food assistance for workers, students, and job seekers.

Tab 5

Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

MEETING NUMBER: 282
MEETING DATE: 4/3/2026
TAB NUMBER: 5

Integrating Services: Agency Technology Initiatives

PRESENTED BY: Ismaila Maidadi and Lisa Kissler, Employment Security Department
Ariel Pyrtek, Health Care Authority
Babs Roberts, Department of Social and Health Services
Kim Goutam and Liz Gallagher, Workforce Board

CHECK ONE:

☐ Action Item ☐ Possible Action ☒ Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

Board members will learn about technology projects at several agencies that are all aimed at improving customer experience and data integrity:

- WAWorks and WorkSourceWA – Employment Security Department (ESD)
- Verification Hub – Health Care Authority (HCA) and Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)
- No Wrong Door – Workforce Board

BACKGROUND:

One of the priorities of Governor Ferguson's administration is to improve state agency customer service to Washington residents. Several important initiatives are under way that align with this purpose, and the Board will hear about three initiatives that serve customers in the workforce system.

WAWorks and WorkSourceWA

In May 2026, ESD will launch WAWorks, a replacement to the Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) case management system, and a new WorkSourceWA, a replacement for the state's Labor Exchange platform. WAWorks and WorkSourceWA will have enhanced intake functionality, streamline navigation, and coordinated case management at WorkSource centers.

Verification Hub

HR1 has expanded work requirements for SNAP and new work requirements for Medicaid beneficiaries. To remain eligible for benefits, participants must now engage in approved education, workforce training, employment, or volunteer opportunities. SNAP work requirements took effect in July 2025; the Medicaid work requirements will take effect at the start of 2027.

HCA and DSHS's priority is to establish a verification hub, so people can more easily apply and recertify for Medicaid while also reducing the administrative effort needed for this new workload.

No Wrong Door

Workforce Board staff will provide an update of work on the No Wrong Door Service and Data Integration project, which is intended to support coordinated navigation and service across the state workforce system. This is an opportunity to take stock of barriers and challenges so the Board can recalibrate as needed in the short term and ensure partners have a shared long-term vision.

STAFF GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATION:

Staff request discussion and guidance. Board members can raise any questions, concerns, or provide direction on the workforce system objective to create more seamless services and support HR1 implementation, including identifying and navigating challenges or barriers to supporting this work (funding and other resource constraints, regulatory, operational, etc.).

Tab 6

Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

MEETING NUMBER: 282
MEETING DATE: 4/3/2026
TAB NUMBER: 6

Public Comment Period

PRESENTED BY: Workforce Board Co-chairs Aprils Sims and Morgan Irwin

CHECK ONE:

☐ Action Item ☐ Possible Action ☒ Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

A public comment period is important to ensure transparency, accountability, and meaningful public participation in government decision-making, as reflected in RCW 42.30.240. Providing an opportunity for the public to submit comments allows members of the public to share perspectives, raise concerns, and inform the Workforce Board's deliberations.

BACKGROUND:

The Washington Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), codified in chapter 42.30 RCW, mandates that all meetings of governing bodies of public agencies, including cities, counties, and special purpose districts, be open to the public. This law ensures transparency and public access to government meetings, allowing citizens to observe and participate in the decision-making process.

Those wanting to submit a public comment may do so via email. These requests must be made 24 hours in advance of the scheduled Board meeting. All requests will be added to the Board packet the morning of the Board meeting.

STAFF GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATION:

For discussion.

Tab 7

Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

MEETING NUMBER: 282
MEETING DATE: 4/3/2026
TAB NUMBER: 7

Board Planning

PRESENTED BY: Maddy Thompson, Workforce Board and Workforce Board Co-Chairs, April Sims and Morgan Irwin

CHECK ONE:

☐ Action Item ☐ Possible Action ☒ Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

This agenda item is intended for the Board to provide staff with direction on:

- Identifying major agenda items for Board meetings during 2026 to meet deadlines for budget and policy recommendations for the 2027-2029 biennium.
- The process for identifying industry-driven priorities to add to the Board's recommendations for 2027-2029.

During this agenda item, Board members will discuss the essential work needed to meet the charge to provide recommendations each year, and review staff recommendations for how to organize work for a compressed timeline (April to October) to create a strategy and identify priorities for 2027.

BACKGROUND:

The Workforce Board is charged in state statute to recommend workforce development budget and policy priorities to the Governor and Legislature each year. The Board's strategic planning, partner engagement, and research work form the basis for informing the development of these priorities and recommendations.

Workforce Board Priorities Adjusted in 2025

During 2025, Workforce Board members adjusted the state strategic plan priorities for workforce development, Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP), to respond to the state budget shortfall, and new work requirements for SNAP and Medicaid eligibility imposed by the federal government.

1. Implement Workforce Pell to expand access to high-quality, short-term training.
2. Implement No Wrong Door (dependent on funding), working with state and local partners to help people meet H.R.1 work requirements for SNAP and Medicaid.
3. Connect service integration to performance to create systemwide feedback loops.
4. Deliver cross-industry, demand-driven recommendations through strengthened industry engagement and analysis.

In addition, the Workforce Board legislative priorities for 2026 returned to a focus on key customers: youth, adults, and industry and the charge laid out in statute that identified the following priorities in alignment with the updated strategic plan priorities:

1. **SNAP and Medicaid work requirements:** Support initiatives that respond to changes in federal programs to support Washington residents in meeting expanded work requirements to remain enrolled in critical basic supports to receive food (SNAP) and healthcare (Medicaid).
    - Specifically, this included requests for funding for both the WorkSource Integrated Technology (WIT) system at the state's Employment Security Department (ESD) and the No Wrong Door Workforce Service Efficiency project at the Workforce Board.
2. **Restore funding in specific industry programs**: Restore funding for discrete programs that meet specific industry needs such as Core Plus and wraparound supports for state registered apprentices.
3. **Preserve investments in postsecondary and poverty reduction:** Preserve investments in postsecondary programs and associated student supports.
    - This item called for maintaining state investments in the Economic Security for All (EcSA) program at ESD and the Community Reinvestment Project (CRP) at the Department of Commerce.
4. **Youth initiatives:** Support initiatives that help to inform secondary students about their options for multiple pathways to education and career opportunities.
    - Initiatives referenced here include the High School and Beyond Plan platform at OSPI and passage of a Washington Student Achievement Council bill allowing for automatic eligibility for the Washington College Grant for Passport to Careers students.

Preparing for 2027-2029 Board Priorities and Recommendations

Looking ahead to 2027, staff propose to continue work on the implementation of updated priorities identified by the Board as follows:

1. Workforce Pell: Participate in the Governor's cross-agency steering committee to support implementation.
2. H.R.1 SNAP and Medicaid work requirements: Coordinate implementation for the workforce development system.
3. No Wrong Door: Recalibrate to address barriers and collaboratively prioritize ways to improve customer experience.
4. Performance Evaluation – Create a dashboard using existing data that gives a fuller picture of system performance for our state.

In addition, Board staff recommend bringing a number of items before the Board to consider adding to the priorities for 2027. These could include recommendations of the

Industry Advisory Committee, and workforce education and training system proposals brought forward by agency partners, among others.

These activities will be part of our regular work for the foreseeable future, but we also need to incorporate industry-driven strategies and elevate best practices across the system.

STAFF GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATION:

Discussion purposes only.

The Board discusses the essential work needed to develop priorities for the 2027 Legislative Session and the 2027-2029 budget and policy priorities. The Board provides direction to staff to prioritize work in 2026 and when developing agenda items for the remainder of 2026.

Tab 8

Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

MEETING NUMBER: 282
MEETING DATE: 4/3/2026
TAB NUMBER: 8

WIOA Combined Program Plan

PRESENTED BY: Emily Persky, Workforce Board

CHECK ONE:

☒ Action Item ☐ Possible Action ☐ Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

Before voting to approve Washington's federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Combined Program Plan for submission to the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), staff will brief the Board on the public comment period. Public comment opened March 3 and will close April 4.

BACKGROUND:

Board members reviewed a final draft of the plan at the February meeting and had an opportunity to provide feedback before the public comment period began. USDOL granted an extension to accommodate timelines across multiple programs included in the combined plan; the final submission is due April 30.

Since March 3, staff have been collecting and reviewing public comments. Once the Board approves the plan, program leads will update their sections in the WIOA portal and mark them as complete. USDOL has advised states to expect follow-up questions and requests for additional information through July 1, when formal approval is typically issued.

STAFF GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATION:

Action: Motion to conditionally approve Washington's federal WIOA Combined Program Plan for submission to the USDOL.

Conditions for approval: The Board would need to hold a special meeting in April to approve the plan if all of the following occur:

- Public comment is received on the day of the Board meeting (April 3).
- The comment is thematically different from others received and shared with the Board.
- Incorporating the comment would substantively change systemwide objectives.

Tab 9

Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

MEETING NUMBER: 282
MEETING DATE: 4/3/2026
TAB NUMBER: 9

2026 Legislative Review

PRESENTED BY: Nova Gattman, Workforce Board

CHECK ONE:

☐ Action Item ☐ Possible Action ☒ Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

Workforce Board staff will provide an overview of the recently completed Legislative Session as it relates to the workforce system.

BACKGROUND:

Workforce Board staff will share details about budget items and bills that passed the Legislature impacting the workforce system. This presentation will include insights from the organizations represented on the Board.

STAFF GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATION:

Information and discussion only. The Board may request additional information on items that relate to workforce development.

Tab 10

Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

MEETING NUMBER: 282
MEETING DATE: 4/3/2026
TAB NUMBER: 10

WorkSource System Policy 1040
Local Workforce Development Board Certification

PRESENTED BY: Liz Gallagher, Workforce Board

CHECK ONE:
☒ Action Item ☐ Possible Action ☐ Discussion Only

SUMMARY:
WorkSource System Policy 1040 establishes the process used by the Workforce Board and the Governor to certify Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) as required under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The policy also includes Attachment A, a certification tool used to collect documentation demonstrating that LWDBs meet the statutory requirements necessary to maintain certification.

This revision updates and replaces former WIOA Title I-B Policy 5614 – Local Workforce Development Board Certification. The policy number has been changed to reflect that LWDB certification is a system-wide governance requirement rather than a requirement specific to Title I-B programs.

The updated policy clarifies statutory requirements, updates the certification timeline to better align with the local planning cycle, simplifies the certification review process by removing the Workforce Board Certification Committee, and improves documentation and transparency in the certification process through updates to the certification tool.

BACKGROUND:
Section 107(c)(2) of WIOA requires the Governor to certify one LWDB for each local workforce development area in the state. The Governor has designated the Workforce Board as the entity responsible for conducting the LWDB certification, recertification, and decertification processes.

Local workforce boards play a central leadership role in the public workforce system. WIOA identifies 13 functions of LWDBs in Section 107(d) that must be carried out to maintain certification. These functions guide how local boards convene partners, engage employers, support workforce development strategies, and oversee the operation of the local workforce system.

In practice, these responsibilities include:

- Create and update the Local Workforce Plan.
- Study local job trends and worker needs.
- Bring partners together to improve workforce services.
- Work with employers to understand hiring needs.
- Help build training pathways that lead to good jobs.
- Share ideas that improve workforce programs.
- Use technology to make services easier to access.
- Oversee job centers and providers to ensure proper use of funds.
- Track results and improve program performance.
- Select programs and providers while supporting customer choice.
- Work with education partners and ensure accessible services.
- Oversee the workforce budget and spending.
- Check each year that job centers are accessible to people with disabilities.

Policy 1040 updates the previous certification policy to improve clarity, accuracy, and alignment with current workforce system practices. Key updates include:

- Renumbering the policy from Title I-B Policy 5614 to WorkSource System Policy 1040 to reflect that LWDB certification is a system governance requirement.
- Clarifying that the certification criteria evaluating LWDB functions originate in WIOA Section 107(d).
- Updating certification timing language to better align with the local workforce development plan cycle.
- Removing the requirement for the Workforce Board Certification Committee and assigning initial review and recommendations to Workforce Board staff.
- Detailing the appeals process, including timelines and procedures for LWDBs requesting review of certification decisions.
- Updating Attachment A, the LWDB Certification Tool, to better align with WIOA statutory requirements and current system practices.

Because LWDB certifications must occur prior to June 30, 2026, this revision focused on updates necessary to implement the upcoming certification cycle. Additional improvements were considered but deferred due to time constraints. Staff anticipate revisiting this policy near the end of winter 2027 to incorporate those additional updates and revise the certification timeline language to explicitly reflect certification occurring in odd-numbered years, ensuring full alignment with the local plan cycle.

STAFF GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATION:

Workforce Board staff recommend that the Board approve, contingent on public comment, WorkSource System Policy 1040 – Local Workforce Development Board Certification and the updated Attachment A Certification Tool, located here.

Approval of this policy will:

- Align the certification process more clearly with WIOA statutory requirements.
- Simplify the certification review process while maintaining Workforce Board oversight.
- Improve documentation used to verify LWDB compliance.
- Increase transparency and consistency in certification decisions.

Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

MEETING NUMBER: 282
MEETING DATE: 4/3/2026
TAB NUMBER: 10

Request to Extend Direct Service Provider Status for SkillSource and Northwest Workforce Council

PRESENTED BY: Liz Gallagher, Workforce Board

CHECK ONE:

☒ Action Item ☐ Possible Action ☐ Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

The Workforce Board is being asked to approve an extension of direct service provider (DSP) status for the North Central Local Workforce Development Board (known as SkillSource) and the Northwest Local Workforce Development Board (known as the Northwest Workforce Council).

Both local boards currently provide federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I-B services for adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs in their respective workforce areas and have requested approval to continue operating as DSPs. Letters acknowledging these requests and explaining the Workforce Board review process were sent to both local boards on Feb. 11, 2026.

Staff recommend extending DSP approval for both local areas through June 30, 2027, to maintain service continuity while the state finalizes updates to the WorkSource System Procurement Policy (Policy 1015) and transitions to the updated local plan cycle.

BACKGROUND:

Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB) may serve as the DSP for WIOA Title I-B programs if certain conditions are met and the arrangement is approved by the Workforce Board.

In June 2025, Workforce Board staff conducted a detailed review of the North Central and Northwest local areas. This review included analysis of:

- Participant enrollment levels.
- Fiscal performance and fund management.
- Federal WIOA performance outcomes.
- Local labor market conditions.
- Funding levels and service delivery capacity in each region.

Based on this review, both LWDBs demonstrated strong program performance and sound fiscal management. Staff have continued to monitor the performance of both areas, and

nothing significant has changed since the June 2025 review. Both areas continue to perform well across enrollment, fiscal management, and federal performance outcomes.

At the same time, the state is currently updating WorkSource System Policy 1015 – Procurement of Title I-B Services. Because this policy is still under development, local boards will be required to formally request DSP status once the updated policy is finalized.

Additionally, LWDBs will not be required to submit updated local workforce development plans until summer 2027 as part of the transition to an odd-year local planning cycle.

Extending DSP approval at this time will allow the two local boards to continue operating without interruption while the updated procurement policy and planning cycle changes are implemented.

STAFF GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATION:

Workforce Board staff recommend the Board approve an extension of DSP through June 30, 2027, for:

- SkillSource (North Central LWDB)
- Northwest Workforce Council (Northwest LWDB)

Extending DSP approval will:

- Maintain continuity of workforce services in both regions.
- Allow the updated procurement policy to be finalized and implemented.
- Provide time for local boards to submit DSP requests consistent with the pending updated policy requirements.
- Align DSP request approval timelines with the updated local plan cycle.

Once Policy 1015 is finalized and approved by the Workforce Board, both local boards will be required to formally request DSP status in accordance with the updated procurement policy.

Zach Williams, Chair
Stemilt Growers
Wenatchee

Tad Hildebrand, Vice Chair
Pilot Rock Consulting
Moses Lake

Ryan Beebout
Sabey Data Centers
East Wenatchee

Randy Curry
IBEW
Wenatchee

Crystal Gage
Omak Clinic
Omak

Augustine Gallegos
Teamsters 760
Moses Lake

Faimous Harrison
Wenatchee Valley College
Wenatchee

Julie Helligso
Cascade Veterinary Clinics
Wenatchee

Annette Herup
Genie/Terex
Moses Lake

Roni Holder-Diefenbach
Okanogan Economic Alliance
Omak

Ken Johnson
Johnson's Glass & More
Othello

Nate Mack
LiUNA Local 348
Wenatchee

Brant Mayo
Grant County EDC
Moses Lake

Kyle Neihenke
Adams County Dev. Council
Ritzville

Irasema Ortiz-Elizalde
DSHS Community Service Office
Moses Lake

Anthony Popelier
Oroville Reman & Reload
Oroville

Michelle Price
NC Educational Service District
Wenatchee

Sara Thompson Tweedy
Big Bend Community College
Moses Lake

Pablo Villarreal
Division of Voc. Rehabilitation
Omak

Todd Wurl
Employment Security Dept
Wenatchee

SkillSource

December 5, 2025

Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board
Attn: Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director
PO Box 43105
Olympia, WA 98504-3105

Dear Members of the Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board:

On behalf of the SkillSource Regional Workforce Board, I respectfully request an extension of our current authorization to directly deliver WIOA Title IB Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth services through the conclusion of our existing four-year strategic plan on June 30, 2028.

SkillSource submitted a request to the Board on May 15, 2024, seeking approval to provide these services for the full duration of the 2024–2028 Regional Strategic Plan. The Board granted an extension through June 30, 2026. As that date approaches and the revised WorkSource System Policy 1015 remains under review, we ask the Board to approve an extension consistent with the timeframe originally outlined in our application—through June 30, 2028.

Both the SkillSource Regional Workforce Board and the Forum of County Commissioners reviewed updated information and reaffirmed this request at their respective meetings on December 2 and December 5, 2025.

Approval of an extension through June 2028 would:

- Maintain continuity of services and operational stability across our five-county region by avoiding mid-program disruptions;
- Enable SkillSource to continue exceeding performance outcomes and advancing regional workforce strategies; and
- Provide sufficient time for completion of the Policy 1015 revision process while avoiding unnecessary procurement activity in the interim.

We appreciate your consideration of this request. SkillSource remains dedicated to delivering high-quality, compliant, and comprehensive workforce services throughout our region. Thank you for your ongoing partnership. Please do not hesitate to reach out if any additional information or documentation is needed.

Sincerely,

Lisa Romine

Lisa Romine, CEO
SkillSource Regional Workforce Board

cc:

Zach Williams, Chair SkillSource Regional Workforce Board
Jay Weise, Chief Elected Official
Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director, Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

Docusign Envelope ID: A3889337-F5AB-4B5B-8FBA-DEF1045BBE16

NORTHWEST WORKFORCE COUNCIL
WWW.NWBOARD.ORG

ISLAND
265 NE Kettle St., Ste. 102
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
360.675.5966

SAN JUAN
540 Guard St., Ste. 160
(PO Box 1696)
Friday Harbor, WA 98250
360.378.4662

SKAGIT
2005 E. College Way
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
360.416.3600

WHATCOM
101 Prospect Street
(PO Box 2009)
Bellingham, WA 98225
360.676.3241

November 24, 2025

Washington State Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board
Attn: Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director
128 10th Avenue SW
Olympia, WA 98501

Re: Request to Extend Direct Service Delivery Approval through June 30, 2028

Dear Members of the Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board:

On behalf of the Northwest Workforce Council (NWC), I am writing to formally request an extension of the Council's approved authority to directly provide WIOA Title IB Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth services through the end of our current four-year strategic plan- June 30, 2028.

As background, NWC submitted a request in November 2024 to continue delivering program services directly. Our original application requested a term that aligned with the full duration of our 2024–2028 Regional Strategic Plan. While we appreciate the State Workforce Board's approval through June 30, 2026, we are now approaching that timeline without final resolution of the revised WorkSource System Policy 1015. As such, we respectfully ask the Board to honor the original timeframe proposed in our application.

An extension through June 2028 would:

- Ensure continuity and stability in service delivery across our four-county region by avoiding disruption mid-program year;
- Allow NWC to maintain focus on program performance and alignment with regional strategies; and
- Provide additional time for the state to complete the Policy 1015 revision process without requiring unnecessary procurement cycles in the interim.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and remain committed to delivering high-quality, compliant workforce services to our region. Thank you for your continued partnership and consideration of this request. Please let us know if any additional documentation is needed.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
9AADFB6EE6F6470...
Marissa Cahill
Executive Director
Northwest Workforce Council

DocuSigned by:
Satpal Sidhu
1192C7C18B664E3...
Executive Satpal Sidhu
Chief Elected Official
Northwest Workforce Council

Signed by:
Mark Vorobik
947855984F1B42A...
Mark Vorobik
Board Chair
Northwest Workforce Council

Tab 11

Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

MEETING NUMBER: 282
MEETING DATE: 4/3/2026
TAB NUMBER: 11

Workforce Pell Update

PRESENTED BY: Marie Bruin, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and Maddy Thompson, Workforce Board

CHECK ONE:

☐ Action Item ☐ Possible Action ☒ Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

Implementing Workforce Pell, a new federal financial aid program for short-term, job-focused training, is a priority for the Workforce Board as outlined in the state's strategic plan for workforce development, Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP).

At the January 23 Board meeting, Heather Hudson, Governor's Deputy Policy Director for Childcare, Education and Workforce, and a panel of agency staff presented on Workforce Pell. At today's meeting (April 3), Board members will learn about progress made by the Cross-Agency Steering Committee.

The Governor's Office and Cross-Agency Steering Committee held a webinar attended by nearly 800 industry, labor, government, and education partners and others on March 20. Today's presentation will cover the contents of that presentation and next steps.

BACKGROUND:

Federal House Resolution (H.R.) 1, signed into law in July 2025, created Workforce Pell to provide financial aid to eligible students enrolled in short-term education and training programs that prepare them for in-demand occupations and meet defined performance and accountability standards. The act directed state governors, after consultation with their state workforce board, to determine criteria for program eligibility.

Federal law outlines many parameters for program eligibility, including:

- Must be at least eight weeks and less than 15 weeks long (or equivalent clock hours).
- Must have a minimum completion rate of 70%.
- Must have a minimum employment rate of 70%.
- Must have minimum earnings of at least 150% of the federal poverty level (around $24,000 for a single person).
- Must be stackable toward a degree; OR: be the only credential for a certain type of occupation.
- Must prepare students for occupations that are in demand.
- Must have been in operation for at least one year.

The Governor's Office has convened a Cross-Agency Steering Committee to develop state-level criteria for program eligibility and a timeline for implementation. The committee includes:

- Governor's Policy Office
- Workforce Board
- State Board for Community and Technical Colleges
- State Apprenticeship and Training Council
- Employment Security Department
- Washington State Department of Commerce

The Governor's Office and Cross-Agency Steering Committee hosted a webinar to inform partners across the state about Workforce Pell and action to date, and to begin to seek input on eligibility criteria for Washington state.

STAFF GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATION:

This item is before the Board to provide an update on work to date. Board members are invited to reaffirm the current direction or raise any concerns.

Key questions for consideration:

- Will implementation in Washington expand access to education and training for young people and adults (across abilities, genders, and racial/ethnic groups) so they can obtain quality jobs?
- Will this program help employers better meet their need for a skilled and educated workforce?
- What are the benefits and challenges of connecting non-credit programs to credit-bearing pathways?
- What unintended consequences could result from this program?
    - For example: potential impact on federal Pell Grant eligibility, such as students exhausting their available Pell funding earlier than expected.