2027 Legislative Agenda Draft

Presented by: Legislative Oversight Committee Members and Staff

WASHINGTON Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

Workforce Board Legislative Agenda Item #1

Prepare youth for success in college and careers:

- (1a) Support initiatives to **increase financial aid completion rates** and **maintain funding sources for state financial aid** such as the WA Grant.
  - The Workforce Board **endorses** Governor Ferguson's proposal to make **completion of the FAFSA or WASFA** – with a clear and accessible **opt-out process** – a graduation **requirement**.
- (1b) **Retain one credit of CTE as a core** high school graduation requirement.

Workforce Board Legislative Agenda Item #2 (1/2)

Support proposals that create pathways to self-sufficiency for Washington's workforce by reducing the economic mobility gap for Washington's most vulnerable populations and disadvantaged communities.

- (2a) **Retain investments** in programs that **prevent students from dropping out of high school, emphasize work-based learning, and increase credential attainment** for youth and adults.

Workforce Board Legislative Agenda Item #2 (2/2)

- (2b) Support **integrated service delivery** in workforce and social services to assist individuals receiving basic food and health benefits in **meeting federal work requirements** and more easily **accessing education and training services to obtain good-paying jobs**.
- (2c) **Continue the investment** in **programs that support pathways to work** such as Economic Security for All (**EcSA**) and the Community Reinvestment Program (**CRP**) that have **shown to increase the economic mobility and self-sufficiency** of individuals served. **Leverage federal funding, where possible, to expand capacity**.

Workforce Board Legislative Agenda Item #3 (1/2)

Promote policies that give Washington workers the skills and training needed to drive a thriving state economy.

- (3a) **Maintain or expand capacity in workforce programs** to meet **student, worker, and employer needs**. These programs include:
  - CTE in middle schools, high schools, and skills centers,
  - Community and technical college professional technical programs,
  - Associate and bachelor's degree programs,
  - Traditional and non-traditional registered apprenticeships, and
  - Incumbent worker training, such as the Job Skills Program.

Workforce Board Legislative Agenda Item #3 (2/2)

- (3b) Identify models and **industry sector partnerships** where **labor and business can more directly inform** workforce, education, and training partners, **reducing redundancies and encouraging stronger alignment** of education and training programs with employer needs.
- (3c) The Workforce Board will continue advising and supporting **development of implementation of Workforce Pell** in Washington to enable federal financial assistance for short-term training and credentialing opportunities, **allowing easy access for workers to upskill or reskill** in high-demand industries and occupations.

Workforce Board Legislative Agenda Item #4

Analyze policy proposals on workforce impacts of AI for Washington students, workers, and businesses — specific to training for responsible use, evolving job competencies, and education and training system readiness.

MOTION: Legislative Agenda Action

- Legislative Agenda approval (**MOTION**)
  - **Option 1**: The Board votes to **approve the agenda today**.
  - **Option 2**: The Board will **provide direction on areas for adjustment** and **delegate** final approval to the Board-appointed **Legislative Oversight Committee**.

Board Deliberations (Optional)

- Board members and their designees have 15 minutes to meet **in affinity groups in breakout rooms** to discuss the agenda.
  - Room 1: Business Board members
  - Room 2: Labor Board members
  - Room 3: ESD, OSPI, SBCTC Board members
  - Room 4: Commerce, DSHS, Local Government Board members
- All other meeting participants will have a **15-minute break** while the Board deliberates.
- Board members may raise any items of concern, request for edits, or questions when they return.

QUESTIONS?

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