

The Washington State Board of Education

Governance | Achievement | High School and College Preparation | Math & Science | Effective Workforce

Title:	Understanding the Changing Workforce Needs in Washington State	
As Related To:	<input type="checkbox"/> Goal One: Advocacy for an effective, accountable governance structure for public education <input type="checkbox"/> Goal Two: Policy leadership for closing the academic achievement gap. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal Three: Policy leadership to increase Washington's student enrollment and success in secondary and postsecondary education	<input type="checkbox"/> Goal Four: Effective strategies to make Washington's students nationally and internationally competitive in math and science <input type="checkbox"/> Goal Five: Advocacy for policies to develop the most highly effective K-12 teacher and leader workforce in the nation <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Relevant To Board Roles:	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy Leadership <input type="checkbox"/> System Oversight <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Communication <input type="checkbox"/> Convening and Facilitating
Policy Considerations / Key Questions:	<p>How can the Workforce Board and the State Board of Education collaborate on the work of establishing effective career pathways for students? What are the key considerations?</p> <p>How can the State Board of Education effectively define the system's relative success or failure in meeting workforce demands through key data points? What data is the most important to track in this context?</p>	
Possible Board Action:	<input type="checkbox"/> Review <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt <input type="checkbox"/> Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Materials Included in Packet:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Memo <input type="checkbox"/> Graphs / Graphics <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Third-Party Materials <input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint	
Synopsis:	<p>Ms. Eleni Papadakis, the Executive Director of the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, will be presenting.</p> <p>The Workforce Board and the State Board are, by statute, required to collaborate regularly; a provision in SBE's statute. Accordingly, Ms. Papadakis was invited to come speak on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practices in integrating workforce exposure with the high school curriculum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implications for culminating projects and high school programs that weave in workforce exposures. ○ How to best match employers with high schools. ○ Opportunity to discuss House Bill 2170 – Career Pathways Act. • Defining the “workforce problem” in data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What key data points should the SBE be tracking? 	

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Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

Background

At the March Board meeting, the State Board of Education will host a presentation by Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director of the Washington Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board.

Statutory Duty to Coordinate

The presentation serves several purposes. By statute, the SBE is required to continue on-going collaboration with workforce representatives. RCW 28A.305.130 lists among SBE's duties the responsibility to "...Articulate with the institutions of higher education, workforce representatives, and early learning policymakers and providers to coordinate and unify the work of the public school system."

Discussion of Career Pathways Act – HB 2170

Additionally, the work of the Workforce Board is linked directly to the intent of HB 2170 – The Career Pathways Act. The Board has taken particular interest in this bill due to its inclusion of language pertaining to the “opt-out” procedures associated with Algebra II coursework and the third math credit graduation requirement. Section 403 of that bill states:

Graduation requirements established by the board may not impose additional administrative requirements or procedures, such as waivers or permissions, for students seeking a non-baccalaureate career pathway. (HB 2170, Sec 403)

Additional language contained in this bill also requires the State Board of Education to produce materials that “illustrate options and strategies for students to pursue any of multiple career pathways while meeting graduation requirements, including a clearly-articulated nonbaccalaureate pathway that may include career and technical education, enrollment in a skill center, or pre-apprenticeship.” What meaning can we take from this bill, and how does it affect our work going forward - whether it passes the Legislature or not? Our time with Ms. Papadakis will be an opportunity to discuss how policy boards and educational leadership organizations are coordinating to produce meaningful career pathways for students.

Integrating School Work with Workforce Exposure – Link to Culminating Project

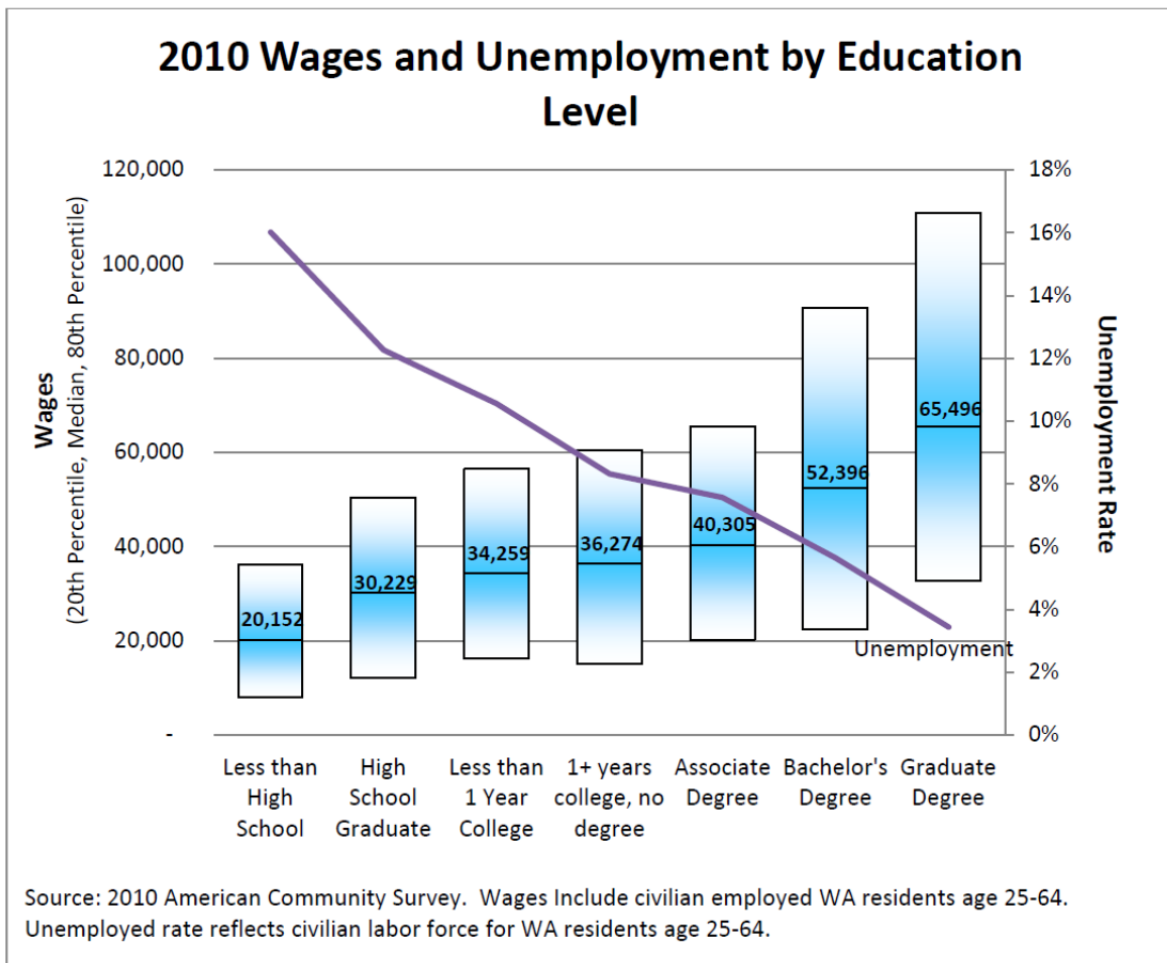
The Workforce Board places a high priority on weaving workforce experience into a student's high school coursework. Indeed, the Board is currently working on a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor designed to match schools with employers through a web-based database. The application takes the data submitted by employers and schools and performs a “match-making” service based on the preferences and opportunities specified by each.

Because the high school and beyond plan and the culminating project are key transition points for students as they begin to think about their post-secondary aspirations, it is worth giving some thought to culminating project “best practices” that facilitate this exploration most effectively.

Defining the Workforce Problem Statement Through Data

Part of what Ms. Papadakis will address is the question of how to best define the “workforce problem” in key data points. This is apropos to the SBE’s work on system goals-setting. If policymakers want to track progress statistically, and focus policymaker attention to the problems most critical to improving Washington’s economic competitiveness, how can they do so?

The Workforce Board co-sponsored a study released in 2011 entitled *A Skilled and Educated Workforce*. A slide from that report is included below, which illustrates the clear inverse relationship between education level and unemployment.





Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

What We Do

The Workforce Board is a customer-focused advocate for Washington's workers and employers, ensuring through strict performance accountability that public dollars spent on worker education and training programs provide a return on investment.

Business and Labor Guide the Board

Two-thirds of the voting seats are held equally by business and labor representatives. Remaining seats are held by major service providers. This means customers have a direct, influential voice in all decision-making. With business and labor at the table, we get a real-world view of our challenges and opportunities—and take action on them.

Workforce System Customers

Our workforce customers have a broad range of ages, abilities and backgrounds—from high school students who require relevant, applied learning to stay in school, to low-skilled working adults who need more education to earn a living wage, to the recently laid off retooling for new careers. We advocate for lifelong learning so all workers become better educated and better skilled—keeping our workforce, and our state, competitive.

The System We Oversee

The Workforce Board oversees 17 workforce programs, administered by seven agencies. We measure the performance of 12 of the state's largest programs, which account for more than 90 percent of the federal and state dollars spent on our workforce development system—or roughly \$920 million.

Our Staff

Researchers, policy analysts and managers prepare and analyze our detailed reports on everything from worker skill gaps to how effectively our state's programs train workers to fill jobs. Staff members have expertise in a wide range of disciplines but specialize in outreach and building partnerships.

Why We Exist

In 1991, the Legislature set about eliminating the four state boards that supervised the state's tangled training system. The Workforce Board replaced these boards and created a coordinated and more accountable workforce system. Our strategic plan, *High Skills, High Wages* details the state's opportunities and workforce objectives while our performance reports enforce strict accountability measures that go beyond federal requirements, ensuring the state's education and training programs receive an objective evaluation, meet Washington's high performance goals, and offer a return on investment for taxpayers.

Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

A Closer Look at What We Do

- **Strategic Planning** –Through evidence-based, wide-ranging citizen input, *High Skills, High Wages, 2008-2018*, is the state’s 10-year strategic plan for workforce development.
- **Performance Accountability** – *Workforce Training Results 2010* and the Workforce Board’s other reports detail how our state’s workforce development programs perform, using a common set of measures, stricter than federal requirements. Our research has led to investments in the Training Benefits Program for unemployed workers, the Worker Retraining Program for dislocated workers, High Demand college programs and the nationally recognized Integrated Basic Education Skills and Training program (I-BEST).
- **Innovation/Research & Development** – The Workforce Board looks for ways that promising practices can benefit Washington. In some cases, we have pioneered concepts such as Industry Skills Panels, Navigation 101, Lifelong Learning Accounts for employers and employees and school and community partnerships for dropout prevention and retrieval.
- **Health Care Shortage Solutions** –The Health Care Personnel Shortage Task Force, staffed by the Workforce Board, created strategies to close the gap on the severe current and projected shortages of trained health care workers in Washington.
- **Career Guidance and Consumer Protection** – The Workforce Board brings together career counseling, job demand information and training program performance results through its CareerBridge.wa.gov website so that youth and adults can chart education and career paths that lead to in-demand jobs.
- **Career & Technical Education** - The Workforce Board focus on Career & Technical Education programs in Washington’s high schools and community colleges has elevated the quality and status of these programs so that they provide a smart career path. The Workforce Board also administers the Washington Award for Vocational Education (WAVE) two-year tuition scholarship.
- **Private Career School Licensing & Veterans Programs** - The Workforce Board protects students from training scams by inspecting and licensing private career schools that meet the state’s requirements. The Workforce Board also approves education and training programs that quality for Veterans Educational Benefits.

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