



**Workforce Training and Education
Coordinating Board (Workforce Board)
2006 Budget and Policy Requests:
Current Status**

A. Workforce Board Requests

Expansion of Skill Panels – **Not Included in the Governor’s Budget**

The Workforce Board requested **\$1 million General Fund-State (GF-S) dollars in the 2005-2007 Supplemental Budget** for eight to ten new Industry Skill Panels. Over five years, Industry Skill Panels have changed the way employers, labor, and education work together to improve immediate and long-term workforce issues. These alliances are powerful, and continue to gain attention for their accomplishments. Despite this, there are still targeted industry clusters in Washington wanting to launch specific Industry Skills Panels important to their local economy. Enough funds have not been available to meet the need.

Private Career School Legislation – **Not Approved by the Governor**

Under current law, students attending private career schools in Washington may face undue burdens if their school or program closes. During the 2004-2005 school year, abrupt closures harmed hundreds of students. Proposed amendments to statutes regulating private vocational schools and programs would have provided new tools to help prevent closures, more warning to students of possible closures, and reasonable protections for students in the event of a closure, and would not have imposed unreasonable burdens on private vocational schools. The amendments would have also provided steps to help ensure that schools offer quality programs. Although this bill was not approved by the Governor, many of the provisions proposed by the Workforce Board have been incorporated into HB 2597 which has been introduced by Representative Kenney.

Health Care Personnel Supply Data – **Not Included in the Governor’s Budget**

The Workforce Board, with the support of the Department of Health (DOH), requested an appropriation of **\$236,000 GF-S dollars in the 2005-2007 supplemental budget**. The Health Care Personnel Shortages Task Force calls for the development of “a data collection and analysis system to assess health workforce supply and demand” and a key strategy is to “collect workforce supply information through methods such as surveys of licensed professional.” In response, the Workforce Board, in partnership with DOH, convened stakeholders, examined data collection and needs, identified gaps, and investigated alternatives. The Task Force recommends the state collect supply data for all licensed health care personnel regularly in order to address health workforce issues with the greatest effectiveness. This supply information is needed across a variety of state purposes, including emergency preparedness. Although this budget request was not approved by the Governor, Representative Cody and Senator Franklin have sponsored bills (HB 2399 and SB 6193, respectively) to create a survey of health care personnel.

B. Operating Agency Requests Endorsed by the Workforce Board

Navigation 101 – Partially Funded in the Governor’s Budget

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) requested \$3.98 million in GF-S dollars for FY 2006-2007 to support dissemination and replication of the guidance and counseling model developed by the Franklin Pierce School District. The proposal would have provided implementation funding to 100 districts. The request also included statewide curriculum development, the development and dissemination of parent and classroom materials, support for electronic portfolios, contracted technical assistance and professional development, development of a software package for districts to use to record student performance, and the creation of a Navigation and Guidance unit in OSPI to provide technical assistance to the implementing districts. In the Governor’s budget proposal, \$410,000 of GF-S monies are provided to the OSPI for dissemination of the Navigation 101 curriculum to all districts, including the development of electronic student planning tools and the development of a software package to analyze the impact of the implementation of Navigation 101 on student performance.

Applied Baccalaureate Programs – Funded in the Governor’s Budget

The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) requested \$904,000 in GF-S monies for planning (\$504,000) and one-time startup funds (\$100,000 per degree program) in FY 2007 for four applied baccalaureate degree programs at four community and technical colleges. In the Governor’s budget proposal, \$1,660,000 in GF-S dollars are provided for applied baccalaureate programs at selected institutions and for increased collocation programs with regional universities to bring upper-division course work to more community college campuses.

Funding to Accommodate Students with Disabilities – Not Included in the Governor’s Budget

SBCTC requested \$1.5 million in GF-S monies in for the costs associated with accommodating students with disabilities. Colleges are faced with substantial increases in costs to accommodate students with disabilities. Increases in these mandatory costs far outstrip growth in state and tuition funds. While cost increases are due in part to the larger number of students being served, the primary cause for cost escalation is the rising expense associated with providing interpreter services for deaf and hearing-impaired students. In 2004 expenditures totaled \$4.4 million, and 2005 expenditures were \$5.1 million.

C. Additional Workforce-related Items

Pre-Apprenticeship Program Grants – Funded in the Governor’s Budget

In response to a Washington Learns interim report recommendation, \$100,000 of GF-S monies are provided to OSPI for incentive grants for districts to develop pre-apprenticeship programs. Grant awards up to \$10,000 are to be used to support the program’s design, school/business/labor agreement negotiations, and recruiting high school students for pre-apprenticeship programs in the building trades and crafts.