

Steps to Tackle Washington's Dropout Problem

High Skills, High Wages 2008-2018

Policy and Funding

- Explore changes in educational policy and school funding that will provide incentives to serve at-risk youth.

Prevention and Intervention

- Expand implementation of the best practice guidance system, *Navigation 101* across the K-12 system.
- Work with the State Board of Education to create policy links to comprehensive career guidance.
- Identify support services for at-risk youth and their parents, implement action steps.
- Expand the *Building Bridges* grant program to create more school/community partnerships that support at-risk youth *before* they drop out.

Dropout Reengagement

- Re-engage youth 21 years of age and under to reconnect with education and obtain a high school diploma.
- Connect unemployed youth to expert “navigators” who can guide them to postsecondary resources and work experience opportunities.
- Develop I-BEST opportunities that blend basic skills with job skills, specifically for older youth.
- Connect disadvantaged youth to AmeriCorps and Service Corps opportunities.

Collaboration

- Collaborate with education and social service partners to develop state-level performance measures and targets.
- Build more school/family/community partnerships that support youth at risk of dropping out and re-engage youth who have dropped out of school.

Multiple Pathways

- Increase the number of students who complete a CTE sequence (such as through course equivalencies and offerings in high-demand fields).
 - Expand pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship opportunities for youth.
 - Provide opportunities for all youth to connect to the workplace, including mentorships, job shadows, internships.
 - Develop and implement best practice models (I-BEST) to help basic skills deficient immigrant youth succeed in high school.

Performance Management

- Develop state-level performance measures and targets for reducing the dropout rate, increasing the on-time graduation rate and increasing successful re-entry and achievement for students who have dropped out.
- Establish a process to identify, develop and replicate best practices statewide.