

**WASHINGTON STATE
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
MEETING NO. 146
MARCH 15, 2010**

HIGH SKILLS, HIGH WAGES 2010 UPDATE

As required in state statute, the Workforce Board, creates the state comprehensive plan for workforce development, *High Skills, High Wages*, and updates the plan every four years. The last strategic plan was completed in 2008 and approved by the Legislature during the 2009 Legislative session. The statute does not preclude the Board from doing updates in a shorter time frame should the economy or other conditions change.

The economy and job situation have changed dramatically in the last year and a half, and there are several workforce development issues that deserve greater focus within the current climate.

The process for updating *High Skills, High Wages* usually includes broad research, analysis and stakeholder input, drawing from local, state, national and international sources. The process itself triggers action. The thoughtful discussion among work group members and at public forums, and the reflective nature of this process, serves as a catalyst, spurring the various entities to undertake new projects to improve policies and programs.

The final plan, approved by the Board and Legislature, guides all partners towards the same goals. The plan includes chapters that describe the state's economy, demographics, performance management system, and a chapter that includes the actual plan. The plan also provides one of the avenues of accountability by naming the entities that have committed to implementing each strategy, and via the annual progress report to the Governor and Legislature.

While a comprehensive update of *High Skills, High Wages* is not yet due, staff recommends an update focusing on the changed economy and strategies that are pertinent in the current economic climate.

At the March meeting, the Board will discuss whether they would like to update *High Skills, High Wages* and if so, the focus and process for the update.

This tab includes:

1. Options for the Board.
2. Examples of topics that could be opened for discussion.
3. A possible process to complete a 2010 Update of *High Skills, High Wages*.

Board Action Required: Adoption of recommended motion.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

WHEREAS, The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board is directed in state statute RCW 28C.18.080 to develop the state comprehensive plan for workforce development, *High Skills, High Wages*, and the Board last updated the plan in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the economic climate has changed dramatically since 2008; and

WHEREAS, Board members want to update *High Skills, High Wages* to reflect the changed economy, including additional strategies that address the changed circumstances;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board approves the proposed process on page 4 for the 2010 update of *High Skills, High Wages* in order to address the new economic conditions.

Options for Board Consideration

1. The Board decides not to do a 2010 update for *High Skills, High Wages*.
2. Board staff updates the economy chapter of *High Skills, High Wages* to take into account the latest information on the economy.
3. The Board updates the strategies in *High Skills, High Wages* to address the changed economy, and also updates the chapter on the economy. (Note: Changes to the strategies will require the Board to go back to the Legislature for concurrence.)

Examples of Possible Topics for 2010 Update Related to the Economy

1. Support for worker retraining: training capacity, income assistance, other support services.
2. Business retention and layoff aversion.
3. Entrepreneurial training and business start-up assistance.
4. Labor market information on employment opportunities.

Proposed Process for the 2010 Update of High Skills, High Wages

Timeline in 2010	Action
February to April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct research on topics opened for update: drawing from local, state and international sources, including advice from experts and practitioners • Create work group(s) to provide expert policy advice including business, labor, education, government and community-based entities, and may include legislative and Governor's office representatives
June 24 Board Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Board staff present draft economy chapter to the board for discussion / approval
May to August	<p>Convene work group(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold two or more meetings for each work group • A special teleconference process is created to ensure feedback from local Workforce Development Council representatives • Workforce Board staff present research to work group members, and offer collection of strategies from various sources for consideration and to spur discussion and strategy development
September 23 Board Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board discuss update development and reviews preliminary draft • Board (with agreed to changes) approves release of draft for broader public review
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elicit broad public feedback on draft updated plan reaching to all areas of the state via web conferencing
November 18 Board Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated plan presented to the Board for approval with changes from public feedback process
December through beginning of 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and dissemination of updated plan • Presentation to Legislature for concurrence