

WIOA Task Force/Subcommittee	Technology and Access Task Force
<p>Recommendation <i>(State the recommendation you are asking the Steering Committee to consider and adopt)</i></p>	<p>Section 1.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The state Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Board) shall form a standing committee to examine accessibility issues across the state’s workforce development system. The committee shall be called the state “Access and Barrier Solutions Advisory Committee” (ABSAC). (2) The state ABSAC shall provide a forum for sharing best practices and developing statewide guidance on improving accessibility throughout the workforce development system, advocate for resources to make recommended systemic changes, and to assist local WDCs in recruiting effective members to local board advisory groups on access. The state ABSAC shall have the ability to report to the Board at regularly scheduled meetings and to advise the Board on issues related to access for populations with barriers at one-stop centers and will advise the full Board on strategies to improve accessibility and generate better outcomes among populations with barriers. (3) The state ABSAC shall be consulted in the development of the state technology plan for workforce development and any elements of the state strategic plan(s) for workforce development that address accessibility issues. (4) The state Board chair shall designate the ABSAC chair and members of the committee. Members of the state ABSAC should consist of experts in access issues for populations with barriers, drawn from agency and system partners. <p>Section 2.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Each WDC may establish a local committee modeled after the state ABSAC, or will designate another advisory group that informs the local board on issues related to access in the workforce development system and at one-stop centers, including but not limited to accessibility issues for people with disabilities. The advisory group utilizes data gathered by the WDCs on populations with barriers and will make recommendations on how to improve services, collaborate with key stakeholders to recommend solutions to remove access barriers in the system, and develop universal access solutions for all. (2) Each WDC may establish procedures for designating an advisory group chair, as well as the length of term of service for advisory group members, if appropriate. The advisory group should consist of representatives of community and agency partner programs that serve people with potential access barriers, reflecting the broad spectrum of local communities served by the WDC. The communities should include, but are not limited to:

- a. People with physical disabilities;
- b. People with sensory disabilities (blind and low-vision, deaf and hard of hearing);
- c. People with behavior or mental health disabilities;
- d. People with cognitive disabilities;
- e. Economically disadvantaged communities;
- f. English Language Acquisition (ELA) or bilingual communities;
- g. Disadvantaged youth;
- h. Long-term unemployed;
- i. Community college disability specialists; and
- j. A representative from a certified one-stop in the local area.

The listed communities above will serve as a guideline for recruiting members to local advisory groups. Local areas are not required to have an advisory group that always includes representation from each listed community. To the extent local areas have difficulty identifying and recruiting advocates for any of the listed communities, the state ABSAC shall assist local areas in recruiting representatives from those communities.

- (3) In the event a local WDC has difficulty recruiting advisory group members from communities listed in Section 2(2), the local WDC may request assistance from the state ABSAC in identifying and recruiting potential members.
- (4) The advisory group should have the ability to report to the WDC at regularly scheduled meetings of the local Board and to advise the Board on issues related to access for populations with barriers.
- (5) The advisory group will produce an annual report to their WDC Board outlining and discussing:
 - a. Issues, accomplishments, and deliverables as they relate to the WDC's local strategic plan;
 - b. Concerns and challenges faced by populations with access barriers, as seen from the advisory group's perspective;
 - c. A work-plan containing recommendations for improving accessibility in the coming year; and
 - d. A progress report on recommendations for improving accessibility that have been previously issued by the advisory group.

Section 3. The advisory group will submit their report on an annual basis to the state ABSAC, on a timeline to be designated by the state ABSAC. The state ABSAC shall examine the advisory groups' reports and incorporate the findings and strategies within into the ongoing development of statewide strategies to improve access.

Section 4. At the time of certification, the Board and state ABSAC may inquire about the progress local WDCs have made to establish a local

	<p>advisory group pursuant to Section 2 above, and whether the local WDC would like additional assistance from the state ABSAC in recruiting members to their local advisory group that represent the communities listed in Section 2(2).</p>
<p>Background <i>(Please provide the background information that was considered and the action leading to this recommendation and the problem or issue solved.)</i></p>	<p>WIOA reenacts and strengthens the non-discrimination requirements of WIA’s Section 188 and requires one-stop career centers to provide physical and programmatic accessibility to individuals with disabilities. WIOA allows local area boards to establish standing committees to work on issues specifically faced by individuals with disabilities, including Section 188 and ADA compliance, ensuring equal programmatic and physical access to services, and appropriation staff training on providing services for, accommodations to, and finding employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. However, WIOA does not affirmatively require local areas to create these standing advisory committees.</p> <p>Although WIOA only specifically calls out standing committees focusing on access issues for people with disabilities, the task force has embraced a more expansive goal of improving access for populations with a wide variety of barriers to access, including economic barriers, geographic barriers, physical barriers, and mental and behavior health barriers. A standing Board committee on accessibility issues would help build consensus on strategies to make systemic improvements to the system, informed by local advisory committees that assess accessibility issues at the ground-level, could improve the service experience for populations with barriers and will help local area boards prioritize projects and track progress towards improved customer service for those populations. The state standing committee will additionally service as a forum for sharing best practices and strategies to improve access, and as an advocate for resources and policy development that will improve services for all populations with barriers.</p>
<p>Who was engaged in this process? <i>(Please provide a list of subcommittee or task force members and who they represent)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Adreon (DSB) • Monica Babine (WSU) • Marcelle Wellington (SeaKing WDC) • Toby Olson (GCDR) • Kintu Nnambi (ESD) • Eric Wolf (Workforce Board) • Michael MacKillop (DSB) • Elizabeth Iaukea (State Library-OSOS) • Molly Onkka (Commerce) • Joyce Beebe (Commerce) • Dawn Karber (Spokane WDC) • Lisa Pan (DSHS/ORIA) • Anne Goranson (ESD/SW Region) • Erin Blades (ESD/WS Pierce)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Kenney (DSHS/AL TSA) • James Walker (ESD/WS Pierce) • Ryan Leisinger (WA Tech) • Louisa Erickson (DSHS) • Elizabeth Gordon (Workforce Snohomish) • Michael Mesa (Pierce CTC) • Hope Stout (CPTC)
<p>What, if any, is the minority recommendation? <i>(If the committee could not reach consensus on a majority recommendation, what was the alternative under consideration?)</i></p>	
<p>Are there any unresolved issues? <i>(Please let the Steering Committee know about any unresolved issues around this recommendation.)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the “should” in Section 2(2) applying to the list of communities to include in a local advisory group will be interpreted as <i>requiring</i> local WDCs to recruit an advisory group that represents <i>each</i> of the listed members.