

**WASHINGTON STATE
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
MEETING NO. 198
February 24, 2016**

CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS

BACKGROUND

Washington's State Board of Education (SBE), which sets Washington's high school graduation requirements, has determined the state needs stronger policies on career readiness. Currently, there are no clear standards or practices that assure a student graduates both college and career ready.

The SBE invited business and labor members of the Workforce Board, along with the Board's chair and executive director, to its January 13 meeting. The SBE asked Board members and the executive director to join the SBE to listen to a presentation on career readiness from the National Association of State Boards of Education, and to discuss aspects of a potential career readiness initiative. At this meeting, the Workforce Board was asked to partner with the SBE to develop such an initiative.

Board Action Requested: Per the draft motion, the Workforce Board will consider making a commitment to work with the SBE on a career readiness initiative for the state's K-12 system.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

WHEREAS, the Workforce Board has made access to career planning and career readiness of all young Washingtonians a core part of its mission, and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Board has been tracking youth labor force participation and earning rates since 2007, and

WHEREAS, the employment trends for young people were disappointing in 2007, saw a tremendous dip during the Great Recession, and are seeing a much slower recovery than their adult counterparts, and

WHEREAS, career planning and work-integrated learning has been shown to improve student achievement rates, such as attaining secondary and postsecondary education and industry-recognized credentials, employment and earnings, and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Board, in partnership with the Governor's office has just received a grant award for a Policy Academy on Work Based Learning, and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has determined that Washington's high school graduation requirements do not include sufficient career readiness preparation, and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has asked for the assistance of the Workforce Board to explore options for improving career readiness outcomes for Washington's K-12 students,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Workforce Board will partner with the State Board of Education to create a career readiness strategy for Washington's K-12 system.