



The Washington State
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Graduation Pathway Stakeholder Feedback Report

December 2022 Board Meeting
Linda Drake, Director of Career- and College Readiness



Report Contents:

- Foreword by State Board of Education (SBE) Staff
 - Summary of findings that were consistent over all three years of research
 - Summary of recommendations
 - Summary of SBE legislative requests
- Strobel Consulting Research Report
 - Volume 1—main report
 - Volume 2—appendices



Required Research Questions

- Whether changes to the existing eight pathways should be made and what those changes should be;
- The barriers schools and districts have to offering all of the graduation pathways and recommendations to eliminate or reduce those barriers for school districts;
- Whether all students have equitable access to all the graduation pathways and, if not, recommendations for reducing the barriers students may have to accessing all the graduation pathways; and
- Whether additional graduation pathways should be included and recommendations for what those pathways should be.



Expanded Year 3 Research Questions

- How the High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP) is/was implemented in their school or district.
- What improvements could be made to the HSBP to make it a better tool for students to plan their future after high school.
- What improvement could be made to the HSBP to make it a better tool for students to make decision about courses, graduation pathway options, other academic and career learning activities.
- Relevancy of pathways, and how to make them more relevant.
- Alignment of pathways to the Profile of a Graduate.



A Few Report Highlights

- Despite disruptions of the COVID pandemic, the need for changes to pathways was a recurrent theme across all three years of research.
- Stakeholders showed greater understanding and familiarity with pathways over the course of three years.
- Current graduation pathway options do not always align with students' post graduation goals.
- Across all three years, the most often cited barriers to offering all the graduation pathway options were lack of resources, financial constraints, lack of certified teachers or staffing issues.



A Few Report Highlights

- The highest rated pathways in terms of fulfilling the goals of the Profile of a Graduate are the CTE Sequence and Dual Credit Courses, allowing students to develop and demonstrate personal growth and knowledge, and problem-solving skills.
- For the HSBP to become a positive tool to help students plan and support their post-graduation goals there should be additional direction from the state, implementation guidelines, and identification of accountable personnel. Additional funding, training, and other resources may be needed.

A Few Report Highlights: Quotes from Stakeholders

“We focus on the three E's after high school, enrolled, enlisted, and employed. The current pathways more meet the first two, but other avenues definitely need to be opened up for ‘employed’”. – District Administrator

“It's often a challenge to help students find pathways that truly match their High School & Beyond plan career goals. For example, it's hard to justify using an ASVAB score when the student has zero interest in going into the military. However, not allowing a student to graduate because their pathway doesn't align with their career choice is not acceptable either. There needs to be a compromise in this area.” – School Administrator

“As a student I wish that we worked backwards, where we asked students what they want to do and who they want to be and then built a pathway around that.” – Student



Changes to the Report Exhibit

- Correct typos
- Some labels on charts were missing and will be added

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