

Career Readiness for a Working Washington

The Opportunity

- Learn about a new partnership between Employment Security and OSPI that connects businesses and schools to increase the graduation rate, work-based learning, and young adult employment.
- Consider adding this model to your Task Force's recommendations.
 - *"The purpose of the Task Force is to identify strategies for how education that supports career readiness, including but not limited to career and technical education (CTE), may be better integrated into secondary education opportunities for all students."* --Task Force on Career and Education Opportunities, Preliminary Report, December, 2013
- Schedule a local site visit to see how this model helps students, businesses, and the economy.

Themes

- This model creates stronger businesses and gets young people on track for rewarding careers.
- When we link thousands of students with business internships and business mentors, graduation rates will go up, employment rates for our young people will go up, and our economy will grow.
- This is one-time seed funding for permanent systemic reform. To date the model has cost about \$50,000 per pilot site, to permanently increase work-based learning capacity by an average of 180 students per year per site.

How It Works

Career Readiness for a Working Washington connects school districts with local Workforce Development Councils to make career exploration, career pathways, mentoring, and on-site workplace experience a permanent part of the high school experience.

Employment Security and local Workforce Development Councils have strong employer relationships and place people into jobs. Under Career Readiness for a Working Washington, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and local school districts use this system to create employer relationships for schools and match students to business mentors and internships.

Initial Results

Employment Security and OSPI funded 5 local pilots in Wenatchee, Spokane, Vancouver, Yelm and Renton. Pilots were required to use a comprehensive career goal + mentor + internship model, and to build permanent systemic change in the school system. Pilots committed to specific increases in graduation rates, business mentors, student internships and teacher externships. School-WDC partnerships had broad flexibility to design locally, and many focused on STEM careers.

The 5 pilots identified their baseline performance and committed to increase their current results by:

- a. 800 additional students identifying a specific career goal;
- b. 900 additional students matched with a mentor;
- c. 150 additional students performing on-site internships;
- d. 850 additional students engaged in other work-based learning activities;
- e. 35 additional teachers in on-site business externships.

These results cost \$95,000 from Employment Security's federal Workforce Investment Act administrative dollars, \$145,000 from OSPI's federal Perkins discretionary funding, and local match. In keeping with Lean principles, Employment Security and OSPI will track results, bring pilots together to identify common successful strategies, create standard work, and replicate, with an emphasis on expanding into current JAG sites and WDC youth programs.