

LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON CAREER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES -  
Section 719 of 2013-15 Biennial Appropriations Act

(1) The legislature finds that for too long, there has been a perception that career readiness and college readiness represent two separate and unequal tracks. The importance of providing high quality opportunities for applied learning, work-integrated learning, cross-disciplinary curriculum, career exploration and planning, and career and technical equivalence often appears subsumed by an emphasis on theoretical academics. The legislature intends to create a vision for the integration of career education alongside academic education.

(2)(a) A legislative task force on career education opportunities is established with the following members:

(i) Two members from each of the largest caucuses of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(ii) Two members from each of the largest caucuses of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate;

(iii) The superintendent of public instruction or a designee;

(iv) One representative each from the workforce training and education coordinating board, state board of education, the student achievement council, and the Washington association of career and technical education; and

(v) One member appointed by the governor.

(b) The task force shall be cochaired by one house and one senate member, selected by the members of the task force.

(3) 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, may be better integrated into secondary education opportunities for all students. The strategies to be considered by the task force include state laws and policies, graduation requirements, and

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state funding for instructional programs. The task force must examine the barriers, incentives and disincentives, costs, and cost-effectiveness of current policies and practices.

(4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall identify a recommended list of course equivalencies for career and technical education courses and submit the list to the task force under this section by October 1, 2013.

(5) The task force shall examine at least the following:

(a) An analysis of the career and college ready graduation requirements proposed by the state board of education and any recommendations regarding graduation requirements;

(b) Options for expanding career education and career exploration and planning into middle school;

(c) Options for increasing student and parent awareness of the multiple education and career pathways available for students;

(d) Strategies for enhancing and supporting work-integrated learning opportunities for students;

(e) Recommended policies that both support and provide appropriate state oversight and strategic planning for career and technical education offered in middle schools, comprehensive high schools, and skill centers; and

(f) Recommendations for how to maximize statewide use of the list of career and technical education course equivalencies identified by the office of the superintendent of public instruction.

(6) A preliminary report from the task force is due December 15, 2013, to include initial analysis and a plan for completion of the final report. A final report is due September 1, 2014.

(7) The task force shall coordinate its analysis and recommendations with other studies of career and technical

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education delivery models and financing, including financing of capital facilities.

(8) Staff support for the task force must be provided by senate committee services and the house of representatives office of program research, with assistance from the office of the superintendent of public instruction, the student achievement council, and the workforce training and education coordinating board as necessary.

(9) Legislative members of the task force may be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. The expenses of the task force must be paid jointly by the senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures are subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee and the house of representatives executive rules committee.

