

Cabinet and Governor Appointed Agencies' Performance Audit Action Item(s) & Status

Leading Practices for the State's Secondary Career & Tech. Ed. Programs

(See also [cabinet agency response](#) for full context to Washington State Auditor's Office (SAO) [report](#), December, 2017)

The State Board of Community & Technical Colleges (SBCTC), the Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) and Office of Financial Management (OFM) were included for this performance audit.

SAO Conclusion:

SAO Issues Summary:

1. Improving career guidance given to students and providing it in a classroom setting in the seventh or eighth grade.
2. Strengthening employer engagement could better align CTE programs and course with high-wage industry-needed skills.
3. Updating the list of high-demand programs, strengthening the review of local labor demand data and clarifying laws may help reduce the skills gap.
4. Expanding the number of CTE dual-credit opportunities to increase the number of pathways from high school to college.

SAO Recommendations (Rec) Summary:

Recommendations 1–4 to the Legislature, 5–7 to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, 8 to Workforce Board and 9 to the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges:

1. Require the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to work with the State Board of Education to establish a model course framework required for all students in the 7th or 8th grade.
2. Require the Workforce Board to establish a workgroup that is funded by the Legislature and consists of staff from the Workforce Board, OSPI and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC).
3. Once established, require the workgroup to:
 - a. Define how to prioritize the establishment of new statewide articulation agreements.
 - b. Develop and report performance measures to the Legislature
4. Revise RCW Chapter 28A.700 to:
 - a. Define the term "skills gap", as used in RCW 28A.700.010 (2)(a).
 - b. Define the term "high wage" as used in the definition of CTE (RCW 28A.700.010 (5)).
 - c. Require districts to submit evidence of high local labor demand for existing CTE programs when OSPI reapproves them every five years.
5. Communicate to school counselors annually the importance of discussing CTE and apprenticeship paths along with academic paths as part of each student's High School and Beyond Plan.
6. Consistent with state law, work with the Workforce Board, Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council, and SBCTC to establish a regularly updated list of high-demand CTE programs using the occupational demand data provided by Workforce Board.
7. Consistent with state law, strengthen procedures and documentation requirements to assess whether CTE programs that districts propose or renew correspond with local high demand.
8. Gather input from OSPI and the State Board of Education to enhance the Career Bridge website. This website should include information about CTE and dual-credit opportunities in high school.
9. Share with OSPI and the Workforce Board the labor market data and analysis that colleges and SBCTC consider when developing postsecondary CTE programs and courses.

The table below shows the current status of action items the agency initiated to address issues identified in the performance audit report. Please see the [cabinet agency response](#) for additional context and any additional steps already taken.

For an explanation of the columns below, [see the legend](#).

Issue/ Rec	Status	Action Steps	Lead Agency	Due Date	Current Resources?	Budget Impact?	Legislation Required?	Notes
Rec. 8	Completed	Workforce Board will consult with OSPI and the State Board of Education for feedback about ongoing efforts to make Career Bridge a more useful tool for students	WB	3/18	Yes	No	No	6/18 update: WB got great feedback from both agencies on how to improve Career Bridge. It was helpful to learn more, especially from OSPI, about how schools are using other career education platforms. It's clear the State Auditor's Office picked the right issues to focus on. For now, we are working to improve Career Bridge within existing resources. For example, we created a basic CTE webpage and a basic High School and Beyond Plan page. These are steps in the right direction, but far from making Career Bridge a fully functional, useful, online tool. To do this requires creating a digital portfolio feature for students to save career searches, work experience, certifications, CTE dual credit information, and High School and Beyond Plan steps. The auditor's report encouraged us to write a proposal to expand and improve Career Bridge. We hope we will receive funding to make these changes.
Rec. 9	Completed	SBCTC will share with OSPI and the Workforce Board the labor market data tools and professional-technical program approval process used by community and technical colleges when developing postsecondary CTE programs and courses	SBCTC	3/18	Yes	No	No	6/18 update: Documentation sent on June 13, 2018 to OSPI and the Workforce Board regarding the tools and processes used by the community and technical colleges when developing postsecondary CTE programs and courses. As noted in SBCTC's response to the audit, due to the large number of professional-technical programs, it is not practical to share individual program-level labor market data and analysis.