
SENATE BILL 5534

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators Randall and Holy

1 AN ACT Relating to workforce education investment accountability
2 and oversight board staffing changes; amending RCW 28C.18.200 and
3 28B.50.925; adding a new section to chapter 28B.77 RCW; and
4 recodifying RCW 28C.18.200.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28C.18.200 and 2020 c 2 s 1 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (1) The workforce education investment accountability and
9 oversight board is established. The board consists of (~~seventeen~~)
10 17 members, as provided in this subsection:

11 (a) Four members of the legislature consisting of the chairs and
12 ranking minority members of the respective higher education and
13 workforce development committees of the senate and house of
14 representatives, ex officio; and

15 (b) The following members appointed by the governor with the
16 consent of the senate:

17 (i) Five members representing the businesses described in RCW
18 82.04.299 or subject to the tax rate under RCW 82.04.290(2)(a)(i);

19 (ii) Two members representing labor organizations, one of which
20 must have expertise in registered apprenticeships and training a

1 high-demand workforce and one of which must represent faculty at the
2 four-year institutions of higher education;

3 (iii) Two members representing the institutions of higher
4 education, as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, one of which must be from
5 the four-year sector and one of which must be from the community and
6 technical college sector;

7 (iv) Two members representing students, one of which must be a
8 community and technical college student;

9 (v) One member representing the independent, not-for-profit
10 higher education institutions; and

11 (vi) One member representing the student achievement council,
12 established under this chapter (~~(28B.77 RCW)~~).

13 (2) Except for ex officio and student members, board members
14 shall hold their offices for a term of three years until their
15 successors are appointed. Student board members shall hold one-year
16 terms.

17 (3) The board shall have two cochairs. One cochair shall be one
18 of the chairs of the respective higher education and workforce
19 development committees of the legislature and the other cochair shall
20 be one of the board members representing the businesses described in
21 RCW 82.04.299 or subject to the tax rate under RCW
22 82.04.290(2)(a)(i). The cochairs shall hold the position for a one-
23 year term. The board members shall elect the cochairs annually.

24 (4) Nine voting members of the board constitute a quorum for the
25 transaction of business. The board shall meet four times a year.

26 (5) Staff support for the board shall be provided by the
27 (~~(workforce training and education coordinating board)~~) student
28 achievement council established in this chapter.

29 (6) The purposes of the board are to:

30 (a) Provide guidance and recommendations to the legislature on
31 what workforce education priorities should be funded with the
32 workforce education investment account; and

33 (b) Ensure accountability that the workforce education
34 investments funded with the workforce education investment account
35 are producing the intended results and are effectively increasing
36 student success and career readiness, such as by increasing
37 retention, completion, and job placement rates.

38 (7) The board shall consult data from the education data center
39 established under RCW 43.41.400 and the workforce training and
40 education coordinating board established under this chapter when

1 reviewing and determining whether workforce education investments
2 funded from the workforce education investment account are
3 effectively increasing student success and career readiness. The
4 workforce training and education coordinating board shall maintain
5 the workforce education investment accountability and oversight board
6 data dashboard on a public-facing portal and work with the board to
7 update and modify the data dashboard as new performance metrics are
8 identified.

9 (8) The board shall report its recommendations to the appropriate
10 committees of the legislature by August 1st of each year.

11 (9) For the purposes of this section, "board" means the workforce
12 education investment accountability and oversight board established
13 in this section.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.50.925 and 2021 c 272 s 4 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (1) Subject to availability of amounts appropriated for this
17 specific purpose, each community and technical college shall fully
18 implement guided pathways. At a minimum, guided pathways
19 implementation must include:

20 (a) Comprehensive mapping of student educational pathways with
21 student end goals in mind. These must include transparent and clear
22 career paths that are tightly aligned to the skills sought by
23 employers. Pathways must align course sequences to show clear paths
24 for students, alignment with K-12 and university curriculum, and
25 skill sets needed to enter the workforce;

26 (b) Dedicated advising and career counseling that helps students
27 make informed program choices and develop completion plans. Advising
28 services may include processes that help students explore possible
29 career and educational choices while also emphasizing early planning.
30 Advising must be culturally competent and with an emphasis on helping
31 historically underserved, low-income, and students of color navigate
32 their education;

33 (c) Data analysis of student learning as well as program and
34 service outcomes. Data must be used to inform program development,
35 the creation and further refinement of student pathways, and to
36 provide opportunities for early intervention to help students
37 succeed; and

38 (d) A student success support infrastructure using programs that
39 the state board for community and technical colleges finds have been

1 effective in closing equity gaps among historically underserved
2 student populations and improve student completion rates. The student
3 success support program must be based on research or documented
4 evidence of success. In tandem with guided pathways implementation,
5 student success support programs may include evidence-based elements
6 such as:

7 (i) Equity competent academic advising services;

8 (ii) Equity competent career development programming;

9 (iii) Clear information regarding financial aid and financial
10 literacy; and

11 (iv) Inclusive curriculum and teaching practices.

12 (2) Each community and technical college shall post on its
13 website and include in the guided pathways program documentation and
14 reports definitions for key terms including: Diversity, equity,
15 inclusion, culturally competent, culturally appropriate, historically
16 marginalized communities, communities of color, low-income
17 communities, and community organizations.

18 (3)(a) The Washington state institute for public policy, in
19 consultation with the workforce education investment accountability
20 and oversight board under RCW 28C.18.200 (as recodified by this act),
21 shall complete an evaluation of the guided pathways model. To the
22 extent possible, the institute shall complete a preliminary report
23 that evaluates the effect of the guided pathways model on early
24 student outcomes including, but not limited to, student retention and
25 persistence, college level English and math within the first year,
26 and graduation and transfer rates. The preliminary report must review
27 the implementation of the guided pathways model in Washington and any
28 available evidence of the effectiveness of the guided pathways model.
29 The preliminary report must be submitted by December 15, 2023.

30 (b) The Washington state institute for public policy shall
31 complete a final report that evaluates the effect of the guided
32 pathways on longer-term student outcomes including, but not limited
33 to, degree completion, time to degree, transfer to four-year
34 institutions, employment, and earnings, to the extent possible. The
35 final report must be submitted by December 15, 2029.

36 (c) Both the preliminary and final reports must consider
37 differences in outcomes by racial and ethnic subgroups and
38 socioeconomic status.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** RCW 28C.18.200 is recodified as a section
2 in chapter 28B.77 RCW.

--- **END** ---