



### **Washington Award for Vocational Excellence scholarship: Record number of applications**

A record number of Washington students have applied for the [Washington Award for Vocational Excellence](#) (WAVE) scholarship. This is a state-funded merit scholarship for top career and technical education students. When the application window closed March 17, some 570 students had applied. That's a 71% increase compared to 2024. (There were 114 applicants in 2022, 250 in 2023 and 334 in 2024.) A new application portal, ongoing outreach and increased awareness resulted in interest from all over the state.

Each of Washington's 49 legislative districts are represented – urban and rural, Eastern and Western Washington. As many as 147 students can receive the award each year – three from each legislative district. This year's awardees will be announced in the coming weeks.

Questions? Contact Andrew Lenderman, Communications Manager  
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### **Legislation of Note**

The 105-day legislative session has wrapped up. Workforce Board staff tracked 397 bills this year. A number of those bills related to CTE passed and those are summarized below.

#### **HB 1414**

- Directs the statewide career and technical education task force (task force) to recommend changes to laws and practices affecting the training, certification, and employment of 16- and 17-year-olds enrolled in or who completed career and technical education programs.
- Expands the membership and delays the reporting date of the task force.
- A member of the Workforce Board is designated to participate on the task force.
- Signed by the Governor 4/16/25

#### **HB 1167**

- Requires the temporary statewide career and technical education task force to make recommendations for opportunities that lead or articulate to postsecondary education programs that award the standards of training, certification, and watchkeeping credentials.
- Delivered to the Governor 4/23/25

#### HB 1273

- Extends a pilot program to increase career and technical education dual credit participation and credit attainment by covering certain expenses of secondary and postsecondary schools.
- Directs the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to report to the Legislature on the implementation of the bill and with recommendations for improvements to dual credit policies.
- Signed by the Governor 4/21/25

#### HB 1722

- Requires the Department of Health to create a process to allow 16-year-olds to begin emergency medical technician training under certain circumstances.
- Requires the state Fire Marshal's Office to assess age restrictions on its training programs with the goal of increasing professional and volunteer opportunities in the fire service.
- Prohibits the Department of Labor and Industries from prohibiting minors with certain licensure or certifications from working in occupations with high risk of exposure to bloodborne and other infectious diseases.
- Signed by the Governor 4/21/25

#### SB 5189

- Funding for Competency-Based Education Programs: By September 1, 2025, OSPI is directed to adopt rules to authorize full-time enrollment funding for students enrolled in CBE programs identified by SBE in accordance with certain criteria. These rules must permit students to report full-time equivalent students in CBE programs for general apportionment funding.
- Aligning Competencies: Utilizing guidance from the mastery-based learning collaborative, OSPI and SBE are directed to recommend a process for OSPI to create competencies aligned with the state learning standards, and identify costs associated with this process.
- Competency-Based Education Designation: SBE must design and recommend a process to identify and designate schools and school districts implementing CBE according to the definition in this bill, and identify the costs associated with this process. These recommendations are due in December 2025. Direction to Washington Interscholastic Athletics Association. WIAA is directed to consider barriers to students participating in CBE as a component of its rule adoption process.
- Transcripts: Before the 2026-27 school year, OSPI must update the standardized high school transcript
- SBE is directed to work with a range of stakeholders to develop a format for a CBE high school transcript and recommend this format to OSPI before the 2026-27 school year. The stakeholder group must include four-year institutions, SBE, OSPI, the Washington Student Achievement Council, and the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board.
- Delivered to the Governor 4/23/25

#### SB 5358

- School districts may offer exploratory CTE courses to sixth grade students in middle school.
- Sixth grade middle school students enrolled in exploratory CTE programs may not be included in enrollment counts for purposes of CTE allocations.
- Middle and high school CTE courses must be treated as a single program when accounting for and calculating minimum expenditures, carryover amounts, and recovery amounts. This treatment is exclusively for accounting purposes and must not result in disparate program quality across grade levels.
- Signed by the Governor 4/22/25

#### SB 5682

- Extends the expiration date for the Washington Customized Employment Training Program business and occupation tax credit to July 1, 2031.
- Modifies the report on the Customized Employment Training Program required to be submitted by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.
- Delivered to the Governor 4/23/25

#### **NEW Workforce System Matrix Posters Available!**

The Workforce Board's popular workforce system poster (also known as America's favorite matrix) is freshly updated and ready for 2025. Make sure to order copies of this handy overview of Washington's largest, publicly funded workforce development programs, including participant employment rates and earnings, federal and state funding totals, and a list of administering agencies and providers. The poster is free and perfect for cubicle and office walls. Email us at [workforce@wtb.wa.gov](mailto:workforce@wtb.wa.gov) to request your own copies. View the poster, including [a digital PDF](#), today.