



WASHINGTON

State Profile

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<u>Advanced Placement (AP)</u>	Yes	Advanced Placement Initiative works to increase the number of pre-AP and AP courses for low-income students	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income students • Racial and ethnic minority students • Rural students 	Yes	Federal funding for the AP incentive grant
Bridge Programs	No		No		No	
College Level Exam Program (CLEP)	Yes	Individual universities define the score needed and number of credits awarded for each test.	No		No	
<u>Distance Learning/ Virtual School</u>	Yes	Associate degree can be earned completely online.	Yes	ESL students	Yes	All 34 community and technical colleges have developed a collaborative format for developing and offering courses online
Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment	Yes	<u>Running Start</u> allows students to earn both high school and college credit while taking classes at a university or community or technical college. The local higher education institution rather than the high school sets eligibility requirements for college credit; high schools are responsible for determining junior/senior status.	No	State Board of Education money funds tuition and fees. Students remain responsible for travel and books, which can create income and distance barriers. Washington is working to expand dual credit options throughout the state.	Yes	There are laws governing how the money is distributed; 93% of the money for the student goes to the higher education institution at which the student is attending. 7% remains with the district.
<u>Early or Middle College High Schools</u>	Yes	Antioch University in Seattle has developed 7 early college high schools in conjunction with the local Native American tribes. An eighth school is in the planning process.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income students • Native Americans 	No	Funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

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<u>GEAR UP</u>	Yes	State has nine partnership programs and one statewide program, serving a total of 23,000 students. The statewide program provides scholarships in Guaranteed Education Tuition units to students who successfully meet the benchmarks.	Yes	Programs target low-income and minority students. Type of student served depends on the location of the program. The state is divided into large urban centers and rural areas. Student groups identified for GEAR UP are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latino(a) students • Native American students • Rural students • Urban students 	Yes	Federal investment is matched dollar for dollar through state, partnership and private foundation funds.
GED in College Settings	Yes	All 34 colleges offer GED testing. Testing is also available at some high schools and correctional facilities	Yes	Incarcerated youth	Yes	Grants are being used to pay testing fees; GED prep classes are available at most colleges.
International Baccalaureate (IB)	Yes	13 high schools participating	Yes	Low-income students	Yes	Federal funding for exam fee reduction
<u>Tech Prep</u>	Yes	Combines high academic standards with a preparation for business and industry-defined work and a connection to further education. Tech Prep provides dual enrollment opportunities.	Yes	Special populations as defined under federal Perkins grant	Yes	Federal Perkins funding; Articulation policies provide a system for students to earn college credits immediately after the Tech Prep course concludes.
<u>TRIO</u>	Yes	The state has all of the TRIO programs and most are directly connected to universities.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-generation students • Low-income students 	No	

Summary of academic pathways:

Washington state is making a concerted effort to better prepare its students for the rigors of a college curriculum. Education officials are also working on a definition of college readiness. Standards have been written for students who have progressed up to the 10th grade. Now there is a need to finish the standards and give students a definition of college readiness. Numerous academic pathways are attempting to facilitate this transition. The primary emphasis has been on the dual credit program called Running Start that allows high school students to take college classes at 1 of the 34 community or technical colleges or 1 of 4 universities. In addition, there has been a movement toward increasing the rigor of the core curriculum so students are ready for college when they graduate from high school. Around 50% of students entering college are estimated to have to take some sort of remedial class.

State's effort to encourage college prep curriculum:

The Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) sets minimum basic admission standards for the state's public four-year college and universities. These standards include a set of core academic courses that students must complete to be considered for admission. The HECB is now considering increasing the math and science requirements of the minimum basic standards in an effort to improve students' readiness for college.

Interesting or unique models identified by state officials:

- GEAR UP
- International Baccalaureate
- Running Start

Observations by state officials about special efforts to reach underserved students:

The state has a diverse population composed of both urban and rural areas, and, as a result, programs must serve different students in different geographical areas. Special efforts are made in many of the state's pathways to promote increased access to college for diverse students, including racial and ethnic minority, low-achieving, and low-income. There is a concern that the Running Start program places too much of a financial burden on students to pay for books as well as transportation and therefore excludes low-income students. Tech Prep has been recognized as successfully serving underrepresented students and is cited as a useful model to study in an attempt to further the reach of Running Start.

Observations by state officials about state support for pathways:

Currently, most state support revolves around the development of standards for the final two years of high school and determining the appropriate rigor of the secondary curriculum. The state receives federal support for its efforts to achieve greater access for the AP program, and the state supports GEAR UP.



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Lessons learned by state officials:

- Partnerships are critically important. Washington state has four agencies that are responsible for education, and it is important to incorporate all agencies when making changes. Communication among the agencies is important, especially when unanticipated consequences occur.
- While it is necessary, reform takes a long time. As a result, officials must live in the current system and work to create a new system to serve students' future needs.

Programs recommended by state officials:

<u>Pathways</u>	<u>Educational Institution</u>	<u>Contact person</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
GEAR UP	University of Washington	Thomas Calhoun	tcalhoun@u.washington.edu	(206) 685-9149
Running Start	Clark College	Linda Calvert	calvert@clark.edu	(360) 992-2842

State official's contact information:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
*Barbara Dittrich	AP Program Supervisor	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction	bdittrich@ospi.wednet.edu	(360) 725- 6097
*Alleyne Bruch	Distance Learning/GED Program Administrator	Office of State Board for Community and Technical Colleges	abruch@sbctc.ctc.edu	(360) 704-4321
*Weiya Liang	WA State GEAR UP Director	Higher Education Coordinating Board	weiyal@hecb.wa.gov	(360) 753-7884
*Kyra Kester	Special Assistant for Partnerships for Partnership (Running Start)	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction	kkester@ospi.wednet.edu	(360) 725-6255
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(Prepared by Christopher Evans/ Updated July, 2006/ *State official was forwarded this state profile for review.)