

## CONSENT ITEM (RESOLUTION 25-06-23)

June 12, 2025

Tab 6

### 2026-27 Corrections Education Interagency Contract

#### Brief description

The joint mission of the Washington State Department of Corrections and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges is to engage justice-involved individuals in state prisons in education and training opportunities to facilitate their successful transition to lifelong community membership. On an annual basis, the State Board and Department of Corrections jointly develop the contract that specifies programs and services, establishes outcome metrics, and develops appropriate statewide policies and procedures.

The State Board contracts with individual community and technical college districts to provide prison-based instruction in multiple pathways. Colleges provide pre-college courses in Adult Basic Education and High School Completion, English Language Acquisition, and developmental English and mathematics. Students may participate in any of the colleges' short courses in business, trades related programs such as roofing, siding, and drywall, or the Construction Trades Apprenticeship Preparation program offered at multiple facilities and acknowledged by the Department of Labor and Industries as a statewide approved pre-apprenticeship program. Students can also pursue one-year certificates in a variety of fields including advanced manufacturing, computer programming and business management.

The passage of SSB 5953, Concerning Financial Aid Grants for Incarcerated students, has authorized the Department of Corrections to expand corrections education funding to utilize Pell Grant funding. Students will continue to have the option to pursue education programs that are contract funded but will now have the option of enrolling in Pell-funded programs. The State Board, alongside the colleges, will move forward with the NWWCU approvals and Department of Education Approvals necessary to operate Pell funded programs for students.

The State Board contracts with Washington's community and technical colleges to provide college reentry education services to individuals returning from prison in Washington's highest release counties. Services include assistance with applying for and enrolling in college after release; applying for financial aid and resolving past financial aid issues; and connecting students to peer mentor support groups and services.

The institutions, and the facilities and counties they serve, are:

Institution	Prison-Based Instruction (DOC Facility)	College Reentry (County)
Centralia College	Cedar Creek Corrections Center Washington Corrections Center	Cowlitz, Lewis, Pacific, and Wahkiakum
Clover Park Technical College	-	Pierce

<sup>1</sup> Justice Involved Individuals – In April 2021, Department of Corrections switched using the terms: inmate, offender and convict to justice involved individuals.

Institution	Prison-Based Instruction (DOC Facility)	College Reentry (County)
Columbia	-	Adams, Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Walla Walla, and Whitman
Edmonds Community College	Monroe Correctional Complex	Snohomish
Grays Harbor College	Stafford Creek Corrections Center	-
Lower Columbia College	-	Clark, Skamania
Peninsula College	Clallam Bay Corrections Center Olympic Corrections Center	-
Renton Technical College	-	King
Seattle Central College	-	King
Skagit Valley College	-	Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom
South Seattle College	-	King
Spokane Community College	Airway Heights Corrections Center	Ferry, Lincoln, Okanogan, Oreille, Pend, Stevens, and Spokane
Olympic College	Washington Corrections Center for Women Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women	Kitsap, Mason
Walla Walla Community College	Coyote Ridge Corrections Center Washington State Penitentiary	-
Yakima Valley Community College	-	Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, and Yakima

### How does this item link to the State Board's Strategic Plan?

The Corrections Education Contract aligns the contract goals and policies strategically to the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges' three goals: achieve educational equity for students who are historically underrepresented in higher education; improve completion rates and increase access and retention among populations who can benefit the most from college access. As a result of the proposed allocations, justice-involved and individuals transitioning back into the community, will have access to innovative, high-quality education and reentry programs. These programs provide the knowledge, skills, diplomas, certificates, and degrees necessary to attain their career and educational goals to successfully transition back into the community. The implementation of Guided Pathways in Corrections Education focuses on bringing equity and inclusiveness that is critical to providing opportunities that support the success of underrepresented individuals, including justice-involved individuals. Guided Pathways ensures a seamless transition of students from pre-college through postsecondary, and from prison into college. Corrections programs include High School+ and Open Doors, which help to increase the successful transition of justice-involved individuals into postsecondary education while moving more students to completion and transition upon release.

## Background information and analysis

In July 2002, the State Board first entered into an interagency agreement with the Washington Department of Corrections to provide educational services to eligible justice-involved in the state's adult prisons. This partnership continues to grow and strengthen because it leverages resources and meets mission goals of both agencies by advancing the skills and education of justice-involved individuals, an underserved constituency, and by providing evidence-based programming to support the Department of Corrections goal of reducing recidivism. The community and technical college system assists the Department of Corrections in meeting this goal by offering workforce programs in high-demand fields, building pre-apprenticeship pathways linked to construction trades, and providing reentry navigators to assist releasing students to continue career and educational pathways.

In this current fiscal year, the State Board received \$19,490,345 to produce 2,447 FTEs. Colleges may, by the end of FY25, award over 500 combined Washington State high school diplomas and GEDs, 375 workforce certificates, and close to 80 associate degrees this year.

## Recommendation/preferred result

Staff recommends approval of Resolution 25-06-23, approving the 2025-2026 agreement with the Department of Corrections for the delivery of adult corrections education services.

Policy Manual Change Yes ☐ No ☒

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## STATE OF WASHINGTON STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES RESOLUTION 25-06-23

A resolution awarding \$19,490,345 of state funds to community colleges for delivery of corrections education.

**WHEREAS**, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges is entering into a contract with the Washington State Department of Corrections for the community and technical college system to provide education and training to eligible justice-involved in state correctional institutions; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges delegates authority to the Executive Director to sign a contract with the Department of Corrections that totals \$19,029,128; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges grants the Executive Director authority to award state correctional education funds to individual higher education providers consistent with Board policy and state law; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges grants the Executive Director authority to modify the contract with the Department of Corrections as necessary and to adjust the proposed awards if the anticipated program funding changes due to state or federal action; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges authorizes the Executive Director to adjust this action, including any necessary changes to the State Board's Policy Manual, as necessary, for actions taken by the Governor, Legislature, data corrections, externally imposed restrictions or guidelines, uniform accounting and reporting requirements, and unanticipated changes in state or federal law.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges grants the Executive Director authority for final grant spending authority to designated providers in a manner consistent with this resolution.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** on June 12, 2025.

**Attest**



Chris Bailey, interim secretary



Martin Valadez, chair