

## CONSENT ITEM (RESOLUTION 26-04-19)

April 9, 2026

Tab 8

### Workgroup Charter: Report on System Efficiency, Access, and District Structure

#### Brief Description

In the 2026 supplemental operating budget, the Legislature directed the State Board to submit a report to the governor and the appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 1, 2026. The report must include recommendations to reduce redundancy and expenses that do not directly contribute to student success. It should also consider the locations of current colleges by region, districts with more than one campus, and other regional factors in which reductions and proximity might not significantly affect access to postsecondary education institutions. Additionally, the State Board must review the district structure and its effect on campus operations and student success.

Given the scope, importance, and sensitivity of this legislative task, board leadership believes it should be guided by a formal workgroup chartered by the State Board that reflects shared governance and the structure of Washington's community and technical college system. Washington's system is a "federation of colleges" with centralized funding and decentralized district governance, making it especially important that this review be informed by State Board members, presidents, trustees, and agency staff. The strategic plan also emphasizes supporting financial sustainability, process improvement, and stronger systemwide partnerships.

The proposed workgroup would consist of five (5) State Board members, three (3) college presidents, three (3) local college trustees, two (2) labor representatives, one (1) student from the system, and the SBCTC Executive Director.

The workgroup would be charged with leading, overseeing, and conducting the study process; reviewing relevant fiscal, operational, student success, geographic, and governance information; engaging appropriate stakeholders; and producing a draft report and recommendations for State Board review and approval prior to submission to the governor and Legislature.

The proposed workgroup structure also reflects the Board's prior practice of using ad hoc committees or advisory bodies to support major Board work.

#### Recommendation/preferred result

Approve Resolution 26-04-19, as outlined in Attachment A, chartering a State Board workgroup to lead, oversee, and conduct the study and report on system efficiency, access, and district structure.

Policy Manual Change Yes  No

Prepared by: Martin Valadez, chair

## **STATE OF WASHINGTON**

### **STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES**

### **RESOLUTION 26-04-19**

A resolution chartering a workgroup to guide the development of a report to the legislature and governor on system efficiency, access, and district structure.

**WHEREAS**, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges carries out its responsibilities and duties imposed upon it within the confines of the authority, power, and discretion granted to it by law (see [RCW 28B.50](#)); and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature directed the State Board to submit a report by December 1, 2026, pursuant to RCW 43.01.036, to the governor and appropriate committees of the Legislature to include:

- recommendations that may reduce redundancy and expenses that do not directly correlate to student success; and
- consider the locations of current colleges by regions, districts that have more than one campus, and other regional considerations where reduction and proximity may not substantially impact access to postsecondary education institutions; and
- a review of the district structure and how it impacts campus operations and student success; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington's community and technical college system is structured as a federation of colleges with centralized funding and shared governance at the district level, making consultation across State Board leadership, college presidents, trustees, and agency staff essential to a well-informed review of system structure, operations, access, and student success; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board's 2020–2030 Strategic Plan calls for systemwide work that supports financial sustainability and resiliency, process improvement, and stronger partnerships across the college system and with key stakeholders; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board finds that a formally chartered workgroup is the most appropriate mechanism to guide this work in a manner that is collaborative, transparent, data-informed, and responsive to the Legislature's direction; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board intends for the workgroup to coordinate with appropriate system partners and stakeholders as needed, including WACTC, ACT, college staff, labor, business and industry partners, and other parties whose expertise may inform the study and resulting recommendations; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board intends for the workgroup to return to the Board with updates during the course of its work and with a proposed final report and recommendations for Board consideration prior to submission to the governor and Legislature; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges hereby charters a workgroup to lead, oversee, and conduct the legislative study and report required by the 2026 supplemental operating budget; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the workgroup shall consist of fifteen (15) members representing a diverse range of geography and institution sizes, including perspectives from community colleges and technical colleges, multi-campus and single-college districts, and possessing the appropriate knowledge of college operations and the unique communities and students they serve, as follows:

- (5) State Board members, appointed by the Board chair;
- (3) college presidents, identified in consultation with the Washington Association of Community and Technical Colleges (WACTC);
- (3) local college trustees, identified in consultation with the Association of College Trustees (ACT);
- (2) labor representatives;
- (1) student member;
- (1) Executive Director of the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board chair shall designate one of the five State Board members to serve as chair of the workgroup, and the executive director shall ensure appropriate staffing, coordination, research, and administrative support, including any necessary contracted support for the workgroup's activities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the workgroup's responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to:

- Develop a work plan and timeline to complete the legislative assignment ahead of the December 1, 2026, reporting deadline;
- Consider contracting a third party for expertise, analysis, support, and objectivity in developing the report;
- Review relevant fiscal, operational, student success, governance, geographic, access, and facilities-related information;
- Identify areas of inquiry and the necessary data sources and requirements to meet the report's objectives (e.g., demographic and labor market projections, etc.);
- Examine potential redundancies and expenses that do not directly impact student success;
- Review the current district structure and its effects on campus operations and student success;
- Consider regional access, district configurations, multicampus districts, and proximity-related factors that may influence access to postsecondary education;
- Review and recommend policies on the federal and state level contributing to administrative burden and inefficiencies;
- Engage relevant stakeholders and subject matter experts, including the system's labor and business and industry partners, to inform the analysis;
- Provide regular progress updates to the State Board;
- Present a proposed final report and recommendations to the State Board for review and approval prior to submission to the governor and the appropriate committees of the Legislature pursuant to RCW 43.01.036; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the workgroup shall operate as an advisory body to the State Board, and that any final recommendations or report submitted in fulfillment of the proviso shall be subject to review and approval by the State Board; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this charter shall remain in effect until submission of the final report required by the Legislature unless modified or extended by action of the State Board.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** on April 9, 2026

**Attest**



Nate Humphrey, secretary



Martin Valadez, chair