



Region: South Central Washington

Contact Information: Mark Cheney, Regional Network Director - mark.cheney@esd105.org
Hugo Moreno, Regional Network Director - hugo.moreno@esd105.org
Shelly O'Neill, Career Connected Learning Coordinator - shelly.oneill@esd105.org

Regional Overview

The Educational Service District (ESD) 105 region in South Central Washington encompasses diverse and vibrant communities across Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, and Yakima counties. It is dedicated to fostering high-quality education and career opportunities for all its learners. This region is characterized by its commitment to collaboration among schools, families, businesses, and community organizations, all working together to support student success and regional economic vitality.

Learners

The learners in South Central Washington are a diverse group, reflecting the region's rich cultural and socioeconomic makeup. Students come from suburban and rural areas, bringing unique perspectives and experiences to their educational journey. The region serves a significant number of English Language Learners (ELL), students from migrant families, and those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The regional network and its partners are committed to equity and inclusion to ensure all students have access to the resources and opportunities needed to succeed.

Communities

South Central Washington is widely known for its agricultural heritage, with many communities deeply rooted in farming and agribusiness. This rural landscape is complemented by growing towns and communities that offer a variety of cultural, recreational, and economic opportunities. The community values its natural surroundings, with numerous parks, rivers, and outdoor recreational activities available. Additionally, there is a strong sense of community involvement and volunteerism, with residents actively participating in local events, school activities, and community service projects.

Partners

The success of the educational and career connected learning initiatives in South Central Washington is greatly enhanced by the robust network of partners that support the region. Key partners include:

- **School Districts and Educational Institutions:** *These form the backbone of the region's educational system, working collaboratively to implement innovative teaching practices and curricula that meet the needs of diverse learners.*
- **Local Businesses, Industry, and Workforce Development:** *Partnerships with local businesses, industries, and workforce development provide students with career-connected learning opportunities, internships, and pathways to family-wage jobs. These collaborations help to ensure the education system is aligned with the region's workforce needs.*
- **Community and Student Service Organizations:** *Nonprofits, civic groups, student-serving organizations, and other community-based organizations are critical in supporting students and families, offering resources and programs that enhance educational outcomes and economic self-sufficiency.*
- **Post-secondary Institutions:** *Post-secondary partners offer a variety of certification and training opportunities, including short-term, 2-year, 4-year, technical schools and apprenticeship programs that contribute to the region's educational and career-connected learning landscape.*

The ESD 105 region in South Central Washington is a dynamic and collaborative community dedicated to the educational and economic success of its learners. Through the collective efforts of students, families, educators, businesses, and community partners, the region is creating a supportive and inclusive environment where all learners can thrive and achieve their full potential.

The Regional Network has collaboratively developed high-quality Career Connected Learning (CCL) opportunities that span the Career Connect Washington CCL Continuum in the ESD 105 region. Examples of Career Awareness & Exploration activities include Engineering is Elementary (Pre-K-2nd grades), Step Into STEM (4th & 5th grades), Engineering Fellows (5th grade), STEM Like Me (7th grade), Many Faces of Entrepreneurship Tournament (9th-12th grades), New Tech Careers Growing in the Valley (9th), Virtual STEM Role Model Project (High School), Pathway to the Top College & Career Expo (11th & 12th grades), Dozer Days, STEM Family Nights and the STEM Building at the Central Washington State Fair.

In addition to Career Awareness and Exploration activities listed above, the Regional Network and its partners continue supporting Career Prep programs through CTE, Work-based Learning, and short-term training programs such as Career Academy.

The Regional Network and its partner organizations have built on the foundation established during the CCW South Central Career Connect grant to develop and bring CCL events, activities, and programs to scale. Career Launch opportunities include the Computer and Software Technician (CAST) program, developed in partnership with Computing for All, Manufacturing Academy, and the Machine Operator Technician Registered Apprenticeship Program, developed in partnership with AJAC, and the Bachelor's of Science in Construction

Management Career Launch program in partnership with Central Washington University serve as examples of the collaborative work accomplished.

SCW Regional Share of Statewide Growth Goal

Based on 2023/2024 enrollment numbers, at 66,000 students, ESD 105 makes up approximately 6% of the statewide student enrollment.

2025: 1,158

2026: 1,296 (+138)

2027: 1,476 (+180)

Priority Industry Sectors:

To align our efforts to develop CCL programs that support the workforce and employer needs of our area that lead to family-wage and in-demand occupations, our regional partners have determined the following industries as the priority industry sectors for South Central Washington:

- South Central Workforce's strategic workforce plan identifies Educational Services, Health Care, Social Assistance, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Retail Trade, and Manufacturing as in-demand sectors.
- The Yakima County Development Association has identified Aerospace, Food Processing, Healthcare and Medical, Logistics and Distribution, and Manufacturing as key industries in the region.

Regional Expansion Priorities

Near Term: In order to meet the region’s approximate share of student enrollments by June 2025, the region would need to enroll 637 additional students based on current Career Launch enrollments.

For our region to achieve the targeted additional enrollments, new CL programs will need to be identified.

1. The primary target will be to support Central Washington University in adding 2 new Launch endorsements in 2025, increasing available enrollment slots. The sectors currently identified for development in the College of Education and Professional Studies (Construction). Additionally, the ESD 105 Educator Growth and Development program (Education) will develop a Paraeducator certification program that would fit the definition of Launch and be counted towards our regional enrollment. Finally, we will support Perry Technical Institute (Perry Tech) in applying for Career Launch Endorsement for their many programs.

Institution	Initiative	Program	Projected Enrollment
Perry Tech	Career Launch	HVAC	25
Perry Tech	Career Launch	Plumbing	25
Perry Tech	Career Launch	Electrical	25
Perry Tech	Career Launch	Welding	25
Perry Tech	Career Launch	Ag & Diesel Equipment Tech	25
ESD 105	Career Prep	Career Academy	TBD
Central Washington University	Career Launch	B.S. Construction Management	TBD
Central Washington University	Career Launch	B.S. Safety & Health Management	TBD
Greater Health Now	Career Explore	Healthcare	TBD
AGC Education	Career Explore	Construction	TBD

2. Our Secondary target will be to align K12 CTE Graduation Pathways with existing and new endorsed Career Launch programs; support the endorsement of new Career Launch programs that begin in K12. The sectors identified for these new pathways are: Education (Paraeducators) and Healthcare (medical assisting and dental assisting).

From June 2025 - June 2027, to stay on track, another 955 students would need to enroll in a CL program.

3. Design and implement Registered Apprenticeship Preparatory programs and Career Academy to draw awareness to these pathways. In addition collaborate with regional cross-sector programs to build connections and increase awareness of existing Registered Apprenticeships.
4. Through our monthly regional CTE & Business meetings, we will continue to grow and establish a cross-sector 'Community of Practice' for registered apprenticeships to inform the available slots, recruitment, enrollment, completion, and reporting.
5. Continue to support regional partners in developing new CLE programs.

Equity and Inclusion

The South Central Career Connect Washington Network believes that every student deserves the opportunity to succeed. Zip code, socio-economic status, race, gender, or ethnicity should not be a predictor of student outcomes. We are committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable learning environment where all students have access to the resources and support they need to thrive. By addressing systemic barriers and promoting fairness, we strive to ensure that every student can achieve their fullest potential.

Focus populations identified for career-connected learning program priorities include students with one or more of the following designations: BIPOC, low-income, rural, English language learners, first-generation post-secondary students, migrant, neuro-diverse, and/or preparing for non-traditional careers.

Working mainly through the PEAR Service Lines of Workforce Equity, Public Communication & Education, Engagement & Community Partnerships, Data & Strategy Reporting, and Capacity Building, CCNW identified career-connected learning program priorities strategically and purposefully strive to connect students to family wage/high demand pathways that they may not have access to otherwise.

Through the Network's partnerships and collaborative efforts, equitable access to career-connected learning opportunities will be enhanced and expanded for students from focus populations. This will result in higher participation rates and improved educational outcomes for these students. Progress will be measured by demographic data on program participation, academic performance indicators, and longitudinal tracking of students' educational and career pathways.

Approach to Expanding Regional Career Connected Learning

Partner	Program Priorities	Representative(s) who have informed these priorities. Please specify roles and organizations.
K12	Early and often exposure for students to careers through Career Exploration and Awareness programs. Continued support of regional CTE (Career Prep) programs and development of CTE Graduation Pathways.	<p>CTE Regional Advisory Council - Regional CTE Directors Yakima Valley Technical Skills Center (YV-TECH) - Bonnie Smith, Principal & Director</p> <p>Washington Association of School Administrators - South Central Region (WASA SCR)</p>
Community & Technical Colleges	Dual Credit Articulations (YVC) and Career Launch (Perry Tech)	<p>Yakima Valley College (YVC) - Kerrie Cavaness, Interim Vice President & Dean of Arts and Sciences</p> <p>Perry Technical Institute (Perry Tech) - Nathan Hull, Dean of Education</p>
4-year Institutions	Central Washington University	Central Washington University - Dr. Sathyanarayana Rajandran, Dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies
Apprenticeships	Scale current programs and develop new opportunities.	<p>Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeships (AJAC) - Bri Durham, Director of Business Engagement and Programs</p> <p>Washington State Labor Council - Rachel McAloon, Workforce Development Director</p>

Actions and strategies executed by the network’s leadership and by other system actors will need to be taken for action to happen:

1. Convene apprenticeship partners and training agents to build connections and increase awareness of area youth and those who support them in their career pathways of existing Registered Apprenticeship programs within the ESD 105 region.

2. Host an Apprenticeship 101 convening in partnership with the Washington State Labor Council and regional workforce partners.
3. To improve CL program design, incorporate student, employer, and faculty voices through focus groups, round tables, and surveys.
4. We will continue hosting Industry nights in partnership with our Sector Leads to inform and educate our communities about local career pathways and employment opportunities.

Approaches and strategies to ensure expanded opportunities are inclusive and reduce equity gaps.

Development of a Highly Skilled and Innovative Workforce

By increasing engagement in career connected learning activities and enhancing career readiness and workforce alignment, the intended impact is the development of a highly skilled and innovative workforce capable of driving regional economic growth and competitiveness. This workforce will consist of individuals who are not only proficient in STEM disciplines but also equipped with practical skills and credentials that meet the needs of current and future employers. As a result, the region will experience higher employment rates, increased innovation, and sustainable economic development for ALL youth in the South Central Washington. This will create a robust ecosystem where education and industry are closely aligned.

Enhanced Regional Educational and Economic Ecosystem

By strengthening collaborative capacity among regional stakeholders and increasing the implementation and scaling of effective programs, the intended impact is the enhancement of the regional educational and economic ecosystem. This impact will be characterized by a well-coordinated network of partners working synergistically to address local challenges, leading to sustainable improvements in educational outcomes and economic development. As collaborative efforts yield successful programs that are widely adopted, the region will benefit from increased access to high-quality education and career opportunities, fostering a thriving community with a robust and resilient economy. This will be measured through long-term indicators such as improved educational attainment, higher employment rates, and overall regional economic growth.

Equitable and Inclusive Career Connected Learning Opportunities and Workforce Development

By increasing policy support for education and career-connected learning and enhancing equitable access to programs for underrepresented groups, the intended impact is the development of an equitable and inclusive regional workforce. This will ensure that all students, regardless of their background, have the opportunity to participate and persist in high-quality education and career pathways, leading to a more diverse and representative workforce. This will foster innovation and economic growth as a broader range of perspectives and talents contribute to solving complex problems and driving technological advancements. The success of this impact will be measured by the diversity of the regional workforce, improved socioeconomic outcomes for underrepresented groups, and overall economic resilience and inclusivity in the region.

Key Milestones

Near Term (2025)

1. Perry Technical Institute and Central Washington University will successfully complete the Career Launch Endorsement in 2025.
2. Convene apprenticeship partners and training agents to build connections and increase awareness of area youth and those who support them in their career pathways of existing Registered Apprenticeship programs within the ESD 105 region.

Long Term (Through 2027)

1. Secure dual credit articulations for Rural CTE graduation pathways (career prep).
2. Expand regional partnerships to in-demand sectors in Career Launch conversations. This includes those engaged (Agriculture, Construction, Healthcare, and Education) and those we have not yet engaged with, e.g., Finance.
3. Explore the possibility of aligning current CTE Graduation pathways as Pre-Apprenticeship opportunities to connect seamlessly with new and existing Registered Apprenticeship programs.