



Career Connect Washington Plan Summary

The Career Connect Washington Plan aims to scale existing programs, expand opportunities and integrate more career connected learning into Washington schools. Specifically, the plan calls for:

1. Increasing employer engagement. While employers already are working with school districts, labor unions and community colleges to develop programs that prepare students for today's careers, strategies to scale and integrate these activities across the state need to be implemented.
2. Ensuring accountability. We must develop high-quality standards for programs to ensure students are having academically equivalent, positive experiences in Career Connect Washington programs.
3. Ensuring equitable access to career connected learning. We won't be successful if we fail to ensure that all parts of our communities – geographically and across racial and socioeconomic groups – can access the education and experience they need to build strong futures.
4. Expanding communications. We're making new opportunities available to students; we're also reframing how people think about education. This will require a substantial amount of communication with students and parents, but also policymakers, state leaders and educators.

We are actively engaged in these strategies, working together to create more opportunities for our students. But we also need state investments and action by the Legislature to make these opportunities truly available to all Washington students. We hope that you, through your budget and request legislation, will support:

1. Program development and transfer: Expanding career connected learning in every part of our state will require skilled intermediaries who can bring educators and employers together in regional networks to develop high-quality programs and share those programs across regions.
2. Increased student enrollment in Career Launch programs. These are programs that are already helping young people get the credentials they need to advance their education and be job-ready, but for which the demand outstrips the capacity. Additional resources would allow proven programs to increase student enrollment.
3. Data collection for tracking student engagement and program effectiveness. A robust data system will help ensure that students of all kinds are participating across programs, and that these programs are having a positive effect on student outcomes.
4. Sustained leadership and accountability. Imbedding a scaled career connected learning system in K-12 and higher education institutions will require sustained statewide leadership. Accountability measures are also needed to ensure we're meeting the state's goals.

For more information about the plan, contact Maud Daudon at maud.daudon@careerconnectwa.org.