

**Putting Washington to Work,
Rebuilding our Economy**

Governor Inslee's top priority is to create and sustain a thriving economic climate that spurs job growth in every industry sector and every corner of Washington state. Our schools and businesses must work together to prepare students and workers for today's jobs and the jobs of the future. The comprehensive jobs plan builds on Washington's long tradition of innovation and harnesses our unique abilities to lead in the global economy.

WORKING WASHINGTON AGENDA

Educating a 21st century workforce

Improving the business climate and expanding our workforce

Advancing Washington's aerospace leadership

Health care reform: healthy people, healthy economy

Clean energy, climate action and plentiful water

Educating a 21st Century Workforce

One in four high school students in Washington did not graduate on time in 2011. A closer look at the data is even more troubling: for African American and Hispanic students, one in three did not graduate on time. For American Indian students, it's nearly one in two. Not earning a high school diploma severely limits a young person's ability to earn a living — costing nearly \$230,000 in lost wages over a lifetime.

With or without a high school diploma, the state's unemployment rates for youth are discouraging. In 2012, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that Washington residents between



the ages of 16 to 19 had an unemployment rate of 28 percent. For males in that range, the rate is 33 percent. And the effects linger: Young people between the ages of 20 and 24 had an unemployment rate of 12 percent.

Recognizing that some students need more time to earn a diploma, Governor Inslee will work to reduce the high school dropout and youth unemployment rates by linking high school education with skills training and real-life work experiences. We can help our young people stay engaged in high school and graduate with the skills they will need to enter college, start career training, enter the military or compete successfully for a job that increases their earning potential.

We will also seize the promise offered by jobs based on STEM — science, technology, engineering and math — skills by integrating STEM education throughout elementary, middle, high school and college levels, ensuring that instructors have access to the latest research. We will also strengthen our partnerships with the business community to reach these goals.

High school initiatives

Dropout reengagement programs focused on skills training: New competitive grants will enable schools to operate dropout prevention and reengagement programs that offer the opportunity for 500 students to earn a high school diploma or equivalent and an entry-level certificate in a high-demand occupation such as manufacturing. Each dropout reengagement grant will serve 50 students per year. This means immediate employment possibilities for youth upon completion.

The Alliance for Student Success in Education and Training (ASSET) Program:

This program increases workplace-based learning opportunities for high school and postsecondary students. ASSET will offer:

- » Regional clearinghouses for youth summer and year-round jobs and work-based learning opportunities.
- » An online platform that matches youth and schools to interested employers.
- » Technical materials for employers who want to design workplace learning opportunities for students.

Through ASSET, more youth will be connected directly to local employers. Students will gain an understanding of the real-world value of completing their high school or college program. They will also build job experiences, networks and understanding of career paths so that upon graduation they can start work immediately.

STEM-related initiatives

In the past 10 years, STEM jobs have grown at three times the rate of non-STEM jobs. Nationally, 1.8 million job openings in STEM fields are expected by 2018. Today, Washington is at the forefront of the STEM economy. The skills learned through STEM are essential in a wide range of important fields: computer technologies, engineering, manufacturing,

health care, business, education and the arts. STEM is essential to the creativity and critical-thinking skills that drive economic opportunity and equality.

To seize these important opportunities, Governor Inslee proposes to take the following actions:

- » Support 500 enrollment slots in high-demand aerospace training programs.
- » Establish the National Career Readiness Certification assessment program for 2,500 high school students each year. This will provide testing for graduates in 50 aerospace assembly and advanced manufacturing programs in high schools and skill centers across Washington. With these certificates in hand, students will clearly demonstrate to prospective employers that they have the requisite skills to go to work immediately.
- » Establish a “talent pipeline” from high school to community and technical college to career by expanding industry-developed high school skills programs and allow credits earned to transfer to college.
- » Ensure instructors have the skills and knowledge to teach the latest technologies and manufacturing processes by funding “Return to Industry” grants across the 24 community and technical colleges that offer aerospace-related programs.
- » Create a college-level STEM and aerospace enrollment pool. The six public universities will compete for enrollment funds by demonstrating the quality and effectiveness of their proposals.
- » Establish an electrical engineering program in Everett through Washington State University.
- » Support the STEM Education Innovation Alliance. This group representing the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, business, labor, nonprofits and STEM educators advises the Governor and provides the state with a vision and assistance for STEM education initiatives. The alliance also develops the STEM Benchmark Report Card.

Governor Inslee's priorities

- » Fund competitive grants for dropout prevention, skills training
- » Invest in Alliance for Student Success in Education and Training (ASSET) program to increase workplace-based learning opportunities
- » Support 500 enrollment slots in high-demand aerospace training programs
- » Establish the National Career Readiness Certification program
- » Establish a high school-to-career "talent pipeline"
- » Enhance instructor skills and knowledge through "Return to Industry" grants
- » Create a competitive STEM enrollment pool for baccalaureate institutions
- » Create electrical engineering program in Everett through WSU
- » Support the STEM Education Innovation Alliance