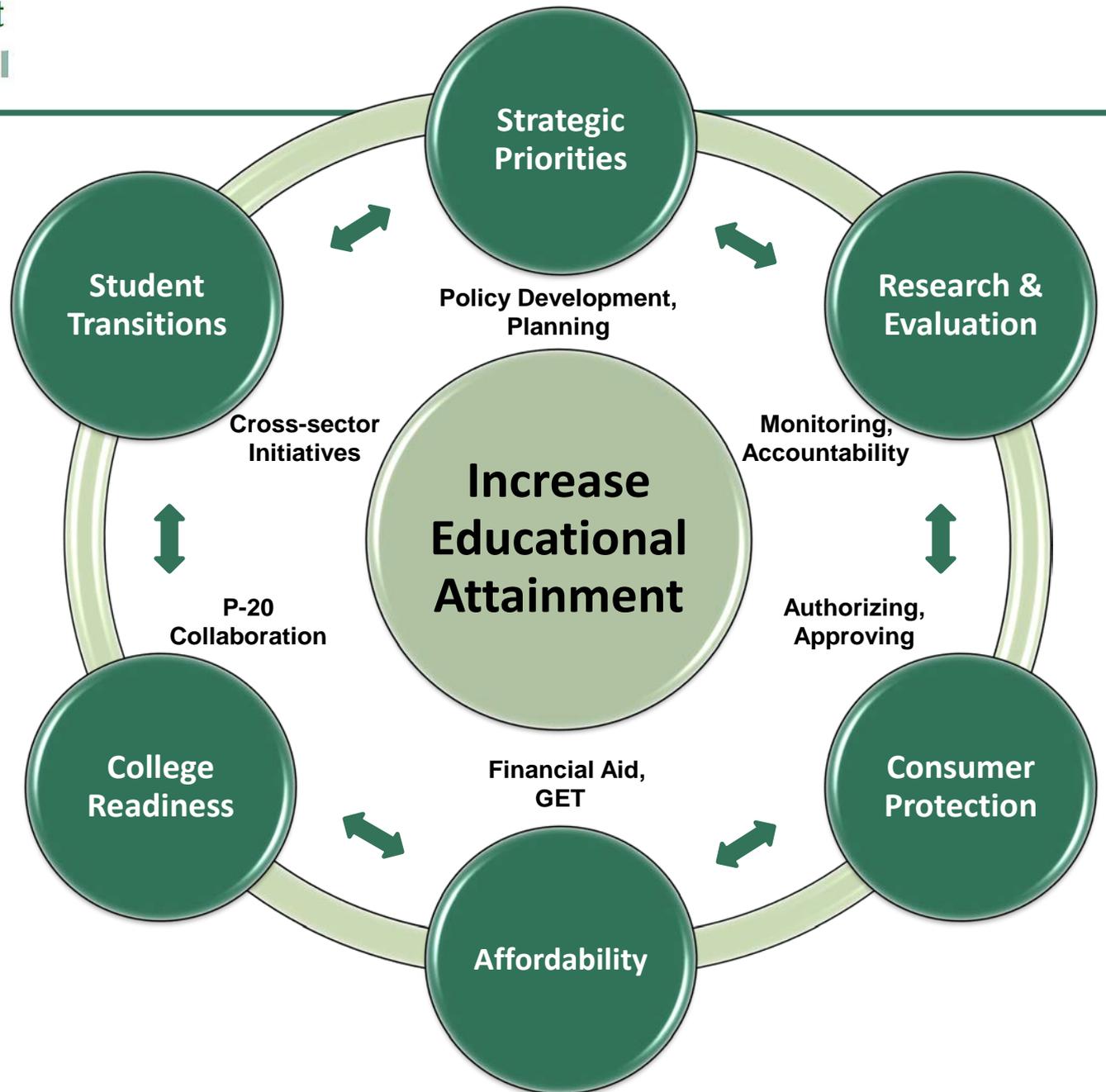


Council Responsibilities and Key Issues

Washington Student Achievement
Council Meeting
October 10, 2012

The Council provides planning, oversight, and advocacy to support increased student access, affordability, and higher levels of educational attainment.



Policy Analysis and Implementation Options

- Enhance availability, quality, efficiency, and accountability of higher education in Washington.
- Provide the council with accurate and timely information and policy analyses.

Funding Strategies and Fiscal Planning

- Monitor and evaluate total state revenue and state budget trends.
- Develop and track key higher education funding, enrollment, and outcome ratios and trends.
- Prepare state and tuition funding models for alternative enrollment, degree award, and output efficiency scenarios.
- Prepare staff recommendations for WSAC budget priorities.

Key issues

- **Support growth** of higher education system to support the need for the state to increase educational attainment and meet the needs of the economy.
- **Identify innovations** that would make postsecondary education and training accessible to a wider range of the population.
- **Identify high demand** fields of study and occupations experiencing shortages of trained and educated workers.
- **Expand opportunities** for underrepresented populations.

Conduct research and policy analyses

- Provide data and analyses to inform policy development.
- Conduct state and regional needs assessment.
- Make recommendations related to major expansion of higher education facilities and mission changes to existing institutions.
- Assist in the evaluation of agency programs.

Monitor progress towards state goals

- Establish state-level metrics for the roadmap.
- Report progress on state goals to Governor, Legislature, and other policymakers.

Key issues

- Recommend metrics for **performance-based funding**.
- Assist with analysis of **financial aid program outcomes**.
- Evaluate the **economic impact** of higher education on the state's economy.
- Establish **longitudinal databases** that cross state lines.

Degree authorization for private and out-of-state

- Authorize institutions to operate in the state.
- Investigate consumer complaints.

State approving agency for veteran's benefits

- Monitor for compliance with state and federal regulations related to the use of GI Bill benefits.

Monitor institutional compliance for financial aid

- Collect annual data from for-profit institutions.
- Provide technical assistance and training to campuses.

Key issues

- **Uncertainty** related to implementation of Federal Program Integrity Rules.
- Degree Authorization **reciprocity** for distance learning programs.
- **Prioritization** of State Need Grant based on campus performance measures.

Serve Washington families by offering a way to save for college tuition through the GET program

- Encourage families to save for college and reduce reliance on student debt.
- Manage more than 144,000 accounts.
- Oversee \$2.08 billion in program assets.
- Manage \$81 million in payouts for more than 27,000 students.

Key issues

- **Rising Tuition**
 - GET pricing and payout is pegged to the highest undergraduate resident tuition (currently UW). When tuition rises higher than the long-term assumption, the program experiences a risk to long-term solvency.
 - Differential tuition compounds this issue.
- **Potential creation of GET 2**
 - Could impact the GET 1 full funding plan.
- **Consumer Behavior**
 - Highly affected by media coverage.
 - Declining unit sales as prices increase.

Support efficient administration of state financial aid programs and activities

- Administer need-based, workforce, and scholarship programs.
- Support nearly 80,000 students who receive more than \$300 million in funding.
- Provide oversight and technical assistance to stakeholders.
- Promote access and affordability opportunities.

Provide support for additional external funding for higher education

- Provide funds to organizations and campuses.
- Help students and families locate and apply for private funding to support their postsecondary education.

Maintain web-based portal to operate programs

- Leverage modern technology to provide streamlined and secure access to data.

Key issues

- Decline in state funding resulting in **tuition increases**.
- **Demand** for State Need Grant outstrips funding.
- **College Bound Scholarship** appears to have positively impacted enrollment rates for low-income students.
- A number of aid programs have been **reduced or suspended**.

Support policies and programs to improve preparation for and success in postsecondary education

- Establish minimum admission standards for public baccalaureate institutions.
- Align of admission standards and high school graduation requirements.
- Support common core state standards implementation work.
- Encourage a rigorous high school experience including college level work through the “Launch Year” initiative.

Support policies and programs to improve preparation for and success in postsecondary education

- Early outreach and mentoring programs such as GEAR UP.
- Early Scholarship commitment programs such as College Bound Scholarship and Passport to College.
- Provide professional development to school staff to support college readiness and implementation of common core state standards using Title II and GEAR UP.

Key issues

- **Alignment** of high school graduation and college admission requirements.
- Improvements in **pre-college** assessment and curriculum.
- **Sustaining college access support** after loss of federal funding due to Maintenance of Effort requirement.
- Development of **online information resource** for students and families.

Improve student transitions through cross-sector coordination and information efforts

- Provide clear information and policies to improve transfer.
- Coordination of updates to Direct Transfer Agreement and Major Related Programs.
- Lead the Prior Learning Assessment Workgroup.
- Assess need for degrees to meet the needs of the Washington Economy.

Key issues

- **Increase transfer rate** for those who identify a transfer goal when they enter community college.
- Develop or improve **transfer pathways** for students.
- Work with institutions to clarify **applicability of Prior Learning Assessment** to major and degree requirements.
- Improve **alignment of knowledge and skills of graduates** with employer needs.



