

October 2005

Status Report on College Readiness

HECB Information Item

This is an informational report to board members. No board action is required.

College readiness is one of the strategies included in Policy Initiative 8 of the state's *2004 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education: Helping Students Make the Transition to College*.

Background

Large numbers of Washington's students graduate from high school unprepared for postsecondary education. In 2002, for example, 56 percent of students who graduated from high school enrolled in a public two- or four-year college or university within one year of graduation. Of these students, 38 percent required remediation in English or mathematics – meaning they were required to enroll in and pay for non-credit bearing courses to obtain the skills that they should have mastered in high school.

Also, in Washington, roughly 50 percent of first-year community college students do not return for their sophomore years; this compares to 25 percent of first-year university students who do not return for their sophomore year.

To address this, the *2004 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education* calls for educators collaboratively to determine what incoming college students need to know and be able to do to succeed in several core subjects, including math, science, English and social studies.

The legislature and governor earmarked \$600,000 in the 2005-07 operating budget for the HECB to define college readiness in science and English.

Work Plan and Timeline

HECB staff began preparing for the English and science college readiness project shortly after the conclusion of the legislative session. Pre-project planning included reviewing previous and ongoing college readiness work, such as the HECB's 2000 competency-based standards report, the Transition Math Project, the American Diploma Project (Achieve, Inc.), Standards for Success,

and ACT benchmarks. In addition, staff have attended national meetings and consulted with professionals involved in college readiness efforts in order to gain a better understanding of the content developed and to identify sound processes that can lead to good results in Washington State.

Project Implementation

Organization

The organization chart (Attachment 1) illustrates the collaborative nature of the college readiness project now underway.

The **Project Coordination Team** (Attachment 2) will help direct the project. The team includes more than 20 representatives from K-12 education, community and technical colleges, four-year colleges and universities, and business. The team met for the first time on October 12 and will meet again on November 15.

Content Development Teams, composed of more than 150 English and science faculty and staff from across the state, will develop the English and science college readiness definitions. The teams will meet in January to draft definitions in English and science. This will be followed by a comprehensive review by at least 50 experts in each of the disciplines in summer of 2006.

The content development process will be facilitated by an external consultant with proven experience in development of competency-based standards and benchmarks. A Request for Qualifications was advertised in early October and sent directly to practitioners in the field.

It is anticipated that college readiness definitions in both English and science will be available for review by the HECB in October 2006. Board action on the definitions is slated for December 2006.

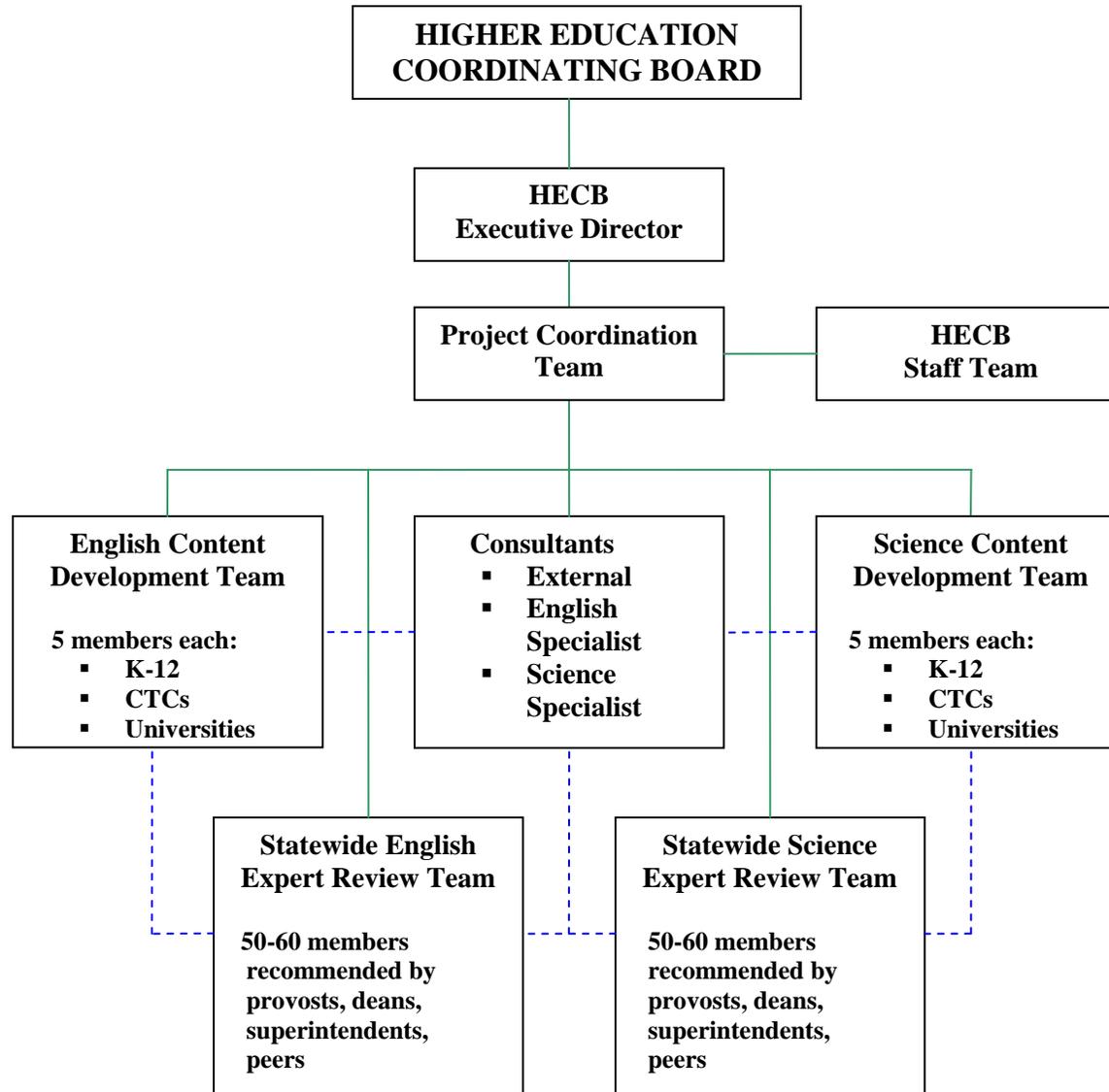
What will be done?

In defining English and science college readiness, the HECB seeks to:

- Define what students must know and be able to do to succeed in entry-level coursework, without remediation, in community and technical colleges and four-year colleges and universities;
- Propose college readiness definitions that can be readily applied to job or career choices that do not require a college degree, but do require postsecondary education in today's technology-driven marketplace; and
- Align requirements for college success with the learning outcomes emphasized in K-12 reform.

Developing college readiness definitions is considered one important step in helping teachers of English and science, spanning K-12 and higher education, work toward an identifiable goal and imperative – preparing students for the rigors of postsecondary education and 21st century careers that increasingly require a higher level of skills and knowledge.

COLLEGE READINESS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



College/Career Readiness Project Project Coordinating Team

Larry Davis
State Board of Education

Lin Douglas
Professional Educators Standards Board

Monica Ferris
Partnership for Learning

Matt Grant
Association of Washington School
Principals

Mary Kenfield
Washington State PTA

Kyra Kester
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Washington State School Directors'
Association

Bob McMullen
Washington Association of School
Administrators

Debora Merle
Governor's Office

Bill Moore
State Board for Community and Technical
Colleges

Cindy Morana
Council of Presidents

Gail Oxley
Washington School Counselor Association

Wendy Rader-Konofalski
AFT Washington

Doug Scrima
The Evergreen State College

Madelaine Thompson
Workforce Training and Education
Coordinating Board

Dennis Wallace
Washington Association for Career and
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HECB Staff:
Ricardo Sanchez, HECB



Helping Students Transition to College

Higher Education
Coordinating Board
October 2005

College Readiness

- The **2004 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education** calls for educators **collaboratively** to define college readiness in several core subjects, including math, science, English and social studies
- The state legislature and governor included **\$600,000** in the 2005-2007 operating budget for the HECB to define **college readiness in science and English**

Why College Readiness?

- March 2005 **report** of the **National Commission on Accountability in Higher Education**, *Accountability for Better Results, A National Imperative for Higher Education:*

“Unless we improve our national performance in higher education, we risk the future of our nation and people. When only 18 out of 100 entering ninth graders complete a college education within six years of starting college, that adds up to a great loss of talent on an individual level and on a national level.”

-- **Charles Keating**, Co-chair

National Commission on Accountability in Higher Education

Former Governor of Oklahoma

DATA

College Readiness Rates in 2002

	<u>WA</u>	<u>U.S.</u>
All	34%	34%
African American	22%	23%
Latino	22%	20%
White	38%	40%

Source: Manhattan Institute, Public High School and College Readiness Rates: 1991-2002

DATA

Remediation in Washington State

- **In 2002, 56%** of high school students enrolled in a 2- or 4-year college **within one year of graduation; of those, 38%** required **remedial mathematics or English courses**
- Roughly **60%** of students who go directly to **community colleges** must take **remedial math or English** courses; **25%** of students who go directly to 4-year colleges take remedial math or English

DATA

Retention in Washington State

- In Washington, roughly **50% of first-year community college students** do not return for their sophomore year
- In Washington, **25% of first-year university students** do not return for their sophomore year

DATA

Completion in Washington State

- In 2002, **63% of Washington students** at 4-year colleges earned a degree within 6 years

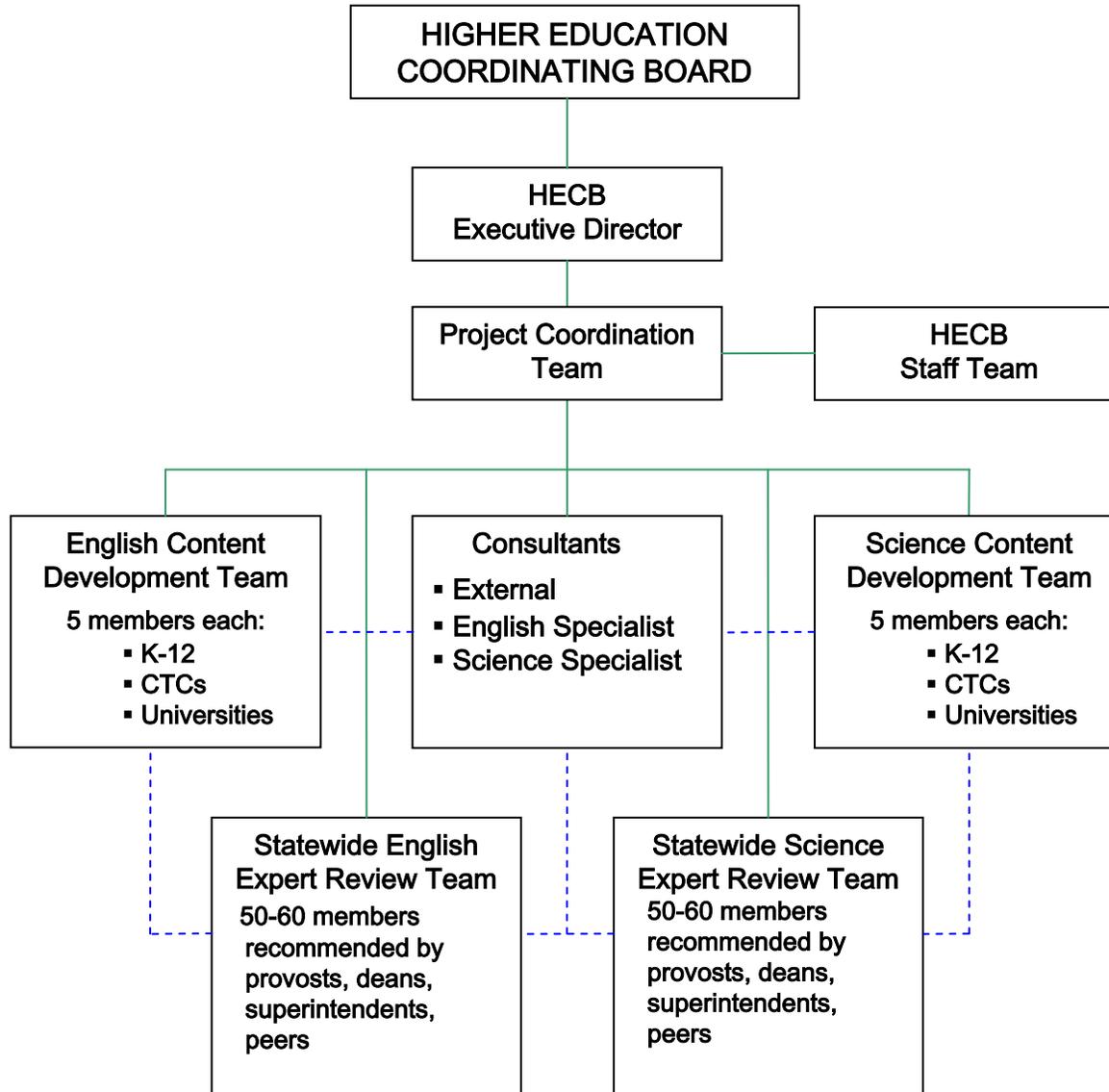
Asian/Pac. Islanders	65%
White	64%
Latino	54%
African American	50%
Native American	47%

Source: National Center for Higher Education Policymaking and Analysis (IPEDS survey)

College Readiness Project

- As a **starting point** in Washington state for defining English and science college readiness, our primary aims are two-fold:
 1. Define what **students must know and be able to do to succeed in entry-level coursework** at two-year and four-year colleges and career schools – without requiring remedial classes
 2. **Align** the requirements for college readiness with the learning outcomes emphasized in **K-12 reform**

College Readiness Project Organization



Key Dates

- November 14, 2005

External consultant, English and science **specialists** selected;
internal staffing for project completed

- January 6, 2006

Comparison analysis of existing state and national college
readiness efforts in English and science completed by consultant

- February 17, 2006

1st draft college readiness definitions completed, English and
science, followed by **2nd** and **3rd drafts** in **April** and **August 2006**

Key Dates

- **June 22-23, 2006**

2-day Summer Work Session—statewide CR Expert Review Teams

- **October 26, 2006**

Final draft English and science college readiness definitions on HECB agenda for discussion

- **December 14, 2006**

English and science college readiness definitions on HECB agenda for action

College Readiness

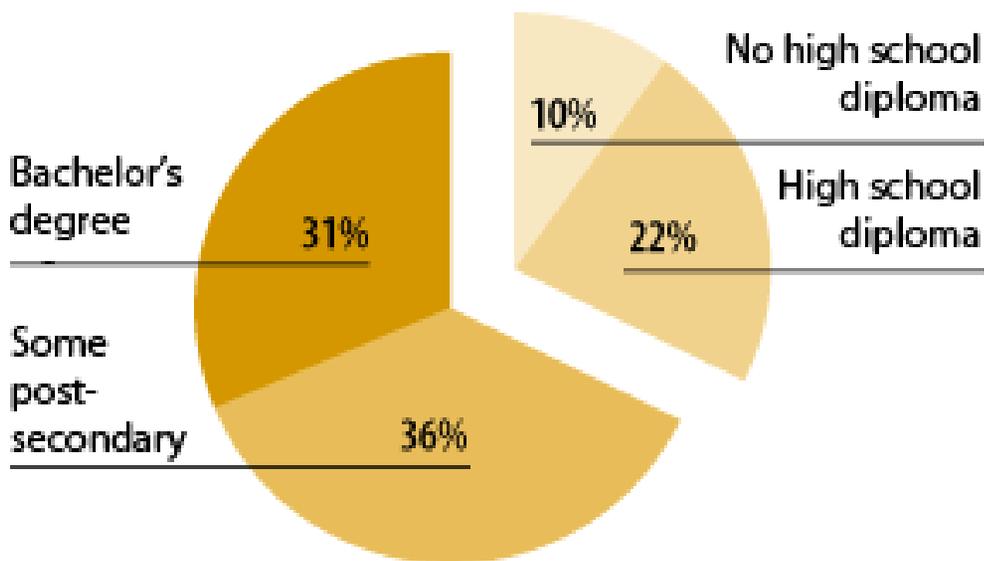
An added benefit in developing college readiness definitions?

- Across the country, many **researchers, educators** and **business leaders** believe that college readiness definitions are **equally applicable** to jobs/careers that require some postsecondary education

Marketplace Trends

More Than Two-Thirds of New Jobs Require Some Postsecondary Education

Share of new jobs, 2000–2010



Source: Carnevale, Anthony P., and Donna M. Desrochers, *Standards for What? The Economic Roots of K–12 Reform*, Educational Testing Service, 2003.

Marketplace Trends

- The 12 **fastest-growing occupations** in the country are technology-based and/or tied to the health care industry.
- The **academic skills demanded by many entry-level jobs** are at a **higher level** than the academic skills required for postsecondary education.

Source: William R. Daggett, Ed.D.

International Center for Leadership in Education

College Readiness

College readiness is one important step in helping educators, spanning K-12 and higher education, work toward an **identifiable goal and imperative:** preparing students for the rigors of postsecondary education and 21st century careers that increasingly require a higher level of skills and knowledge.

WASHINGTON
**HIGHER
EDUCATION**
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**WE HELP
STUDENTS
SUCCEED**