

GOVERNOR GREGOIRE'S

2012 LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES

EDUCATION

Teacher/principal evaluations and assignments

Implementation of the new research-based, four-tier evaluation system is advanced by describing performance expectations, student growth data components and probationary period provisions. Additionally, training to effectively use the new systems is described and must be completed before evaluators use the new systems. This will ensure teachers and principals have the tools they need to be effective educators. Beginning in the 2015–16 school year, evaluation results must be used as one of multiple factors in making personnel decisions. (Senate Bill 5895)

Collaborative schools

New partnerships are created through the Collaborative Schools for Innovation and Success Pilot Project. Six school districts, each in partnership with a public or private college of education, select a low-achieving elementary school in which innovative practices in meeting the needs of struggling students are implemented and school-based educator preparation programs are delivered. Project results are intended to shape the future delivery of instructional programs to close performance gaps and change how educators are prepared to teach upon graduation. (House Bill 2799)

Certification of STEM teachers

The Professional Educator Standards Board will revise certification and certificate renewal standards for elementary teachers, and secondary science and mathematics teachers, to include integration of knowledge and skills in STEM, or science, technology, engineering and math. The Professional Educator Standards Board will revise the teacher certification assessments in both teaching effectiveness and subject matter knowledge to integrate the STEM knowledge and skills. (HB 2160)

Demonstrating college-level skills

Higher education institutions will include national multidisciplinary STEM examinations on the list of exams that may be taken in high school to demonstrate college-level skills **and** to meet certain lower-division general education *or* postsecondary professional technical education requirements. The legislation is an outgrowth of the Governor's 2011 Launch Year bill. (SB 5974)

Student Achievement Council

We create this council whose purpose is to boost educational attainment in Washington in addition to recommend improvements and innovations for our public colleges and universities. A strategic action plan is required every two years, as is a 10-year road map that will be updated every two years. By providing smooth, seamless and functional linkages from one education step to another from high school through college, and by enhancing the institutions of higher education, more students will successfully prepare for their futures, including graduating from high school, completing certificates or degrees, and entering careers. The council replaces the Higher Education Coordinating Board, and has a broader scope of responsibilities to include connecting high school and postsecondary education. (HB 2483)

JOBS

Preparing for careers in STEM and aerospace

Three grant programs are created to foster a high school-to-postsecondary education and training pipeline to good-paying jobs in fields with projected high demand for employees. One program is for high schools to prepare students for employment as entry-level aerospace assemblers; a second program is for skill centers to implement enhanced manufacturing skills programs; and a third program is for high schools to implement specialized STEM courses. (HB 2159)

Center for Aerospace Technology and Innovation

The center will support university research relevant to aerospace industry innovation, including creation of products and processes that grow the sector and lead to new jobs. The center will be jointly located at the University of Washington and Washington State University to serve students and industries throughout Washington. (SB 5982)

Aerospace workforce coordination

Aerospace manufacturing training will be coordinated through the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and an industry-led advisory board. The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board will provide accountability measures to ensure that training programs meet employment demands. (HB 2156)

CIVIL RIGHTS

Marriage equality

The legislation will respect the right to free exercise of religion while providing fairness and legal security for thousands of families in Washington. It will make same-sex couples eligible to apply for a marriage license. It will retain the domestic partnership option for couples in which one of the partners is at least 62 years of age. And it will allow same-sex couples who entered into domestic partnerships to obtain a marriage license. (SB 6239)

HEALTH CARE

Health benefit exchange

This legislation represents the next step in Washington's development of a health benefit exchange, called for under the federal Affordable Care Act to give individuals and small businesses a place to choose affordable, high-quality health insurance coverage. The exchange governing board will now have the authority needed to make the exchange operational and self-sustaining, and assure the quality and value of the insurance plans offered. The bill will also keep plans in the exchange from being overwhelmed by high-cost enrollees and becoming unaffordable. (HB 2319)