



## 2014 Policy Priorities

Washington state has nearly 25,000 jobs open for skilled applicants, but our current system of public education isn't adequately preparing our students with the skills they need to succeed after high school.

**Excellent Schools Now**, a statewide coalition of nearly 40 education, business and community organizations, believes that we can and must accelerate career- and college-readiness and success for all young people, especially for low-income students and students of color.

To better prepare our students for college, work and life, Washington state must address the issues below. These are 2014 policy priorities for **Excellent Schools Now**:

### Career- & College-Ready Diploma

Authorize the 24-credit "Career- and College-Ready Graduation Requirements," beginning with the class of 2019. This would ensure Washington state's graduation requirements are aligned with four-year college admissions requirements.

### Teacher & Principal Evaluation Program (TPEP)

Require all districts in Washington to use state test scores when calculating student growth for use in teacher and principal performance evaluations. This would enable Washington state to meet the U.S. Department of Education's Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waiver requirements.

### Closing Opportunity and Achievement Gaps

- Establish an on-going workgroup, with broad representation of statewide interests, to develop a comprehensive plan for implementing expanded learning opportunities, academic supports and school-community partnerships.
- Develop a state study to analyze the impact of summer learning loss on opportunity and achievement gaps among low-income students and students of color; and identify gap-closing summer learning strategies.
- Request a legislative work study of promising programs that incorporate culturally responsive instruction.

### Early Learning

Create an integrated, high-quality early learning system that serves children from birth through age 5 so that children are set up to achieve positive outcomes.



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