



2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

A SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE IMPACTS TO WASHINGTON'S COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

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This report is available electronically at the SBCTC's Legislative Outreach webpage: https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/programs-services/legislative-outreach/default.aspx.

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A Letter from the Executive Director

The 2024 legislative session concluded Sine Die on March 7. The primary focus for the community and technical college system during this short, 60-day session was supplemental operating and capital budgets. This session also provided us with the opportunity to thank policymakers and their staff for critical investments during the 2023 legislative session, including fully funded compensation increases.

SBCTC staff and college leadership set out to secure state funding to support college computer science programs, climate science curriculum, and emergency funding for a construction project at Bellingham Technical College. We were successful in those efforts along with additional appropriations to fund refugee education, expansion of financial aid outreach, and student basic need support.

Additional successes included financial aid access to incarcerated students, student safety (specifically opioid and fentanyl prevention education and awareness) on college campuses, and financial aid access and support for students who participate in public assistance programs.

Sustained, statewide advocacy continues to be the key to legislative success for Washington's community and technical colleges. This includes a Hill Climb on January 25, and partnership with regents and trustees from Council of Presidents' six member institutions during Regents and Trustees Day on January 18. Advocates participated in one-on-one meetings, sent emails, made phone calls to legislators, and testified before legislative committees.

During the current interim period in advance of the 2025 legislative session, the community and technical college system is developing a new process to build a legislative agenda driven by college needs across the state. State Board leadership, college chancellors and presidents, and trustees will continue to build relationships with legislators, their staff, and key partners and stakeholders so they understand the demonstrated power of community colleges to drive social mobility and economic prosperity while meeting local community and workforce needs. This will take on a greater level of importance with several new statewide elected officials and state policymakers who will take office just before the 2025 legislative session. Year-round advocacy matters.

This was my second legislative session as SBCTC executive director. As has been true throughout my career in Olympia, I remain in awe of the professionalism, hard work, and integrity of the SBCTC team during each legislative session. That includes a great deal of evening and weekend work. My sincere appreciation to the entire team for their incredible efforts and commitment to our college system.

With appreciation,

Paul Frances

Paul Francis, Executive Director

State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

Budget Summaries

Capital budget

The 2023-25 supplemental capital budget, <u>ESSB 5949</u>, was signed into law on March 29.

The State Board requested \$122 million in the 2024 supplemental capital budget. The request prioritized and narrowly addressed emergent, high-priority projects that could not wait for the next biennial budget, along with the next two major projects in the pipeline. The final supplemental budget included \$30.4 million in new appropriations for the community and technical college system.

Table 1: Capital Funding Summary

	College	Funding Phase	SBCTC Request	Conference Budget
1	Bellingham	Campus Center Repairs ¹	\$19,384,000	\$19,384,000
2	Statewide	SBCTC Statewide Utility Submeters	\$8,544,000	\$8,544,000
3	Statewide	HB 1390 - Decarbonization Planning	\$724,000	\$478,000
4	Statewide	CTC Energy Efficiency Program ²	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
5	Lower Columbia	Center for Vocational and Transitional Studies	\$43,704,000	\$0
6	Columbia Basin	Performing Arts Building Replacement	\$47,876,000	\$0
		Total:	\$122,232,000	\$30,406,000

¹ Legislature authorized \$5 million in SBCTC building fee revenue in addition to state bonds for project funding.

Combined with the biennial budget, this brings the 2023-25 biennium total for new capital appropriations to the State Board to \$478,440,000.

Also included in the budget, but not reflected in Table 1, is \$2 million in local expenditure authority for Renton Technical College to renovate building J, and \$1.1 million in public facility grants through the Washington State Department of Commerce for athletic field improvement projects at Lower Columbia and Wenatchee Valley colleges.

The capital budget also directs the Department of Commerce to study the development of a climate resilience and environmental equity campus in south King County. The consultants performing the study will consult with several stakeholders, including SBCTC and Highline College, to identify the educational and community engagement programming that will be offered; potential industry partners for development of the campus; and potential funding to support the creation, maintenance, and operations of the campus.

A report is due to the Governor and Legislature no later than December 31, 2024.

² Program funded with Climate Commitment Act. Budget proviso delays funding until January 1, 2025, pending the outcome of Initiative 2117 in November 2024.

Operating budget

The 2024 supplemental operating budget, <u>ESSB 5950</u>, was signed into law on March 29.

Policy investments

- \$1.14M (\$9M proposed) for new Bachelor of Science in Computer Science degree programs.
- \$475k (\$950k proposed) for continuation of the curriculum development in Integrated Climate Solutions.
- \$1.053M for FY24 expansion of College in the High School.
- \$1.0M for refugee education expansion.
- \$801k for Early Achievers Grant program support navigators.
- \$425k for expansion of the financial aid outreach and completion initiative pilot program.
- \$553k to fill the funding gap associated with the Postsecondary Student Needs (HB1559) benefits navigators.

Legislative funding and small provisos

- Incarcerated students grants SSB 5953—\$819,000.
- Retail industry work group ESB 6296—\$12,000.
- Columbia Basin Hospitality Center of Excellence—\$257,000.
- Planning & permitting workforce—\$25,000.
- College in the High School program expansion—\$1,053,000.
- Construction apprenticeships SHB 2084—\$11,000.
- Edmonds College veterans support—\$85,000.
- Olympic College healthcare pathways—\$204,000.
- Higher Ed opioid prevention 2SHB 2112—\$412,000.
- Low income housing study—\$275,000.
- Manufacturing apprenticeship RSI—\$200,000.
- Postsecondary student needs benefits navigators—\$553,000.
- Renton Technical College pilot program—\$100,000.
- Tacoma Community College imaging science—\$150,000.
- 1500 Jefferson lease and relocation costs one-time—\$598,000.

2024 Legislation

The SBCTC team monitored approximately 250 proposed bills during the 2024 session. Staff represented the interests of the community and technical college system by analyzing bills, providing testimony to myriad legislative committees, and collaborating with legislators, their staff, and college employees on potential amendments and policy and fiscal impacts of the legislation.

Below are the bills affecting the community and technical college system that passed the Legislature. Descriptions include:

- Bill number.
- Prime sponsor.
- · Bill short title.
- Bill description as signed into law.
- · Link to the session law.
- Any SBCTC or college implications.

The information contained in this section will also serve as a resource for SBCTC and college staff as they track bill implementation.

Administration/governance

SHB 1889 (Walen): professionals/immigration

Allows persons to receive professional licenses and certifications regardless of immigration or citizenship status. A state agency or regulatory authority may not deny an application for a professional license, commercial license, certificate, permit, or registration solely on the basis of a person's immigration or citizenship status if the person has met all other qualifications.

Session law: Chapter 50, Laws of 2024 (effective June 6, 2024).

SHB 1892 (Leavitt): Workforce Housing Accelerator Program

Creates a new low-interest revolving loan program administered by the Washington State Housing Finance Commission. This program accelerates affordable housing development for households at 50-80% of the area median income and will remain affordable for at least 60 years. Funding may be awarded to for-profit and nonprofit developers, public housing authorities, public development authorities and others.

Session law: Chapter 142, Laws of 2024 (effective June 6, 2024).

SBCTC/college implications

Although there is no direct impact to community and technical colleges, this funding application will be made available through Housing Finance Commission and does not limit institutions of higher education from applying. This means that colleges can apply for this funding to serve low-income households through developing low-income housing for students.

SB 5800 (Wilson): Department of Licensing documents

Improves access to Department of Licensing issued documents by clarifying the application requirements for a minor, modifying the requirements for at-cost identicards, and studying the feasibility of reduced-fee identicards; amending RCW 46.20.075, 46.20.100, and 46.20.117; creating a new section; providing an effective date; and providing an expiration date.

Session law: Chapter 162, Laws of 2024 (effective June 6, 2024).

SBCTC/college implications

Although there is no direct impact to the college system, this legislation will eliminate barriers for our students to access important documents for their educational experiences and career pathways.

Education/instruction

HB 1146 (Paul): dual credit & financial assistance notification

Prior to course scheduling or course registration for the next school term, each public school that serves students in 9th through 12th grade must provide all students and their parents and/or legal guardians with:

- Information about each available dual credit program.
- Any financial assistance that may be available to reduce dual credit course and exam costs for students and their families.
- The information must be provided via email and other communication methods, and, to the extent feasible, must be translated into the primary language of each parent or legal guardian.

Session law: Chapter 44, Laws of 2024 (effective June 6, 2024).

HB 1943 (Leavitt): National Guard Education grants

Updates the program and expands eligibility of the National Guard Education grants. Program expansion allows for designated dependents of an active drilling member as eligible recipients of the grant. Program timeline is adjusted up to 150% or six years. Participants must be enrolled in a college in the state accredited by Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges or a college which provides training and GI Montgomery Bill.

Session law: Chapter 178, Laws of 2024 (effective June 6, 2024).

HB 1946 (Eslick): Behavioral health scholarship

Creates the Behavioral Health Program: a scholarship under the Corps for Credentialed Health Professionals providing service to underserved behavioral health areas. The program is administered by Department of Social and Health Services, Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC), and Department of Health to establish:

- Conditional scholarship amounts.
- Education and programs.
- Credentialed healthcare professions.

- Selection of participants.
- Adoption of rules and guidelines.

Session law: Chapter 369, Laws of 2024 (effective June 6, 2024).

ESSSB 5670 (Hawkins): Summer Running Start for rising juniors

Rising 11th grade students may enroll in Running Start for up to 10 quarter credits, or the semester equivalent, during the summer academic term. Rising 11th grade students are defined as students who have completed their 10th grade year and not yet begun their 11th grade year. In addition to current requirements on providing information on Running Start, school districts must provide information about Running Start enrollment opportunities during the summer academic term.

Session law: Chapter 159, Laws of 2024 (effective June 6, 2024).

SBCTC/college implications

- The State Board will need to make some configuration adjustments in ctcLink to adequately input rising 11th grader information.
- The State Board will need to provide policy guidance and ctcLink training.
- Colleges will need to readjust advising practices and ctcLink coding based on State Board guidance.

Human resources

SB 5913 (Valdez): athletics—name, image, likeness

The legislation does not prohibit the use of public resources, including but not limited to the use of personnel, money, and property, by an employee of a state institution of higher education to benefit any student athlete in the advising, facilitation, acknowledgment, or education related to a matter involving the name, image, and likeness of such a student athlete or group of student athletes, or in relations to student athlete name, image, and likeness matters generally, so long as the resources are under the control or direction of the higher education employee. Any use of public resources must adhere to the rules established by the national, nonprofit member organization responsible for oversight of college sports at state institutions of higher education.

Session law: Chapter 33, Laws of 2024 (effective June 6, 2024).

SBCTC/college implications

The legislation does not prohibit the use of existing resources by employees of state institutions of higher education to support student athletes in matters related to name, image, and likeness use. The act establishes guidelines for communication between employees of state institutions of higher education and student athletes regarding name, image, and likeness use, shaping policies in this area.

Tuition and financial aid

ESHB 2019 (Stearns): Native American apprentices

Establishes the Native American apprentice assistance program in 2025 to students who are members of a federally recognized Tribe.

WSAC will be responsible for administering the program, including: promotion, award assistance to eligible participants, adoption of necessary rules and guidelines in consultation with tribes and state registered apprenticeships, determining awards, criteria and priorities. WSAC shall prioritize funding to cover tuition costs for supplemental instruction, and additional funding may be provided to cover required supplies such as clothing, tools, materials, etc.

Session law: Chapter 203, Laws of 2024 (effective June 6, 2024).

2SHB 2214 (Slatter): Washington College Grant/public assistance

This bill expands the Washington College Grant Connect (WCG-C) program which provides students with certificates WCG eligibility as recipients of specific public benefit programs, without a completed financial aid application. Starting in the 2025-26 academic year, WCG-C would expand to:

- Allow students to receive one or more of the eligible benefit programs.
- To include both federal and state food benefits (SNAP) as eligible public benefit programs for students who are in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade.

Increasing access to the WCG-C program is intended to increase eligibility notification to students and to increase financial aid application completion to encourage students to maximize their aid eligibility by completing a FAFSA/WASFA.

Session law: Chapter 116, Laws of 2024 (effective June 6, 2024).

SBCTC/college implications

The implementation timeline of the 2025-26 academic year allows for our college financial aid offices to prepare for the increased number of eligible students in the WCG-C program to prepare certificates of eligibility. This will be an increased workload for either financial aid offices or student support programs who work with students receiving public benefits.

SB 5904 (Nobles): financial aid terms

This bill expands the program eligibility for state financial aid programs to align with federal financial aid standards, thereby increasing the total time of eligibility from 125% to 150% (five to six years) of enrollment.

This would increase aid eligibility timelines for Washington College Grant, College Bound Scholarship, and Passport to College/Careers/Apprenticeships.

Session law: Chapter 323, Laws of 2024 (effective June 6, 2024).

SSB 5953 (Wilson): incarcerated student grants

This bill changes the RCW to allow for incarcerated students to access their federal financial aid grants to pay for postsecondary education programs while incarcerated. The bill states that if a student is not eligible for their federal Pell Grant or the Washington College Grant, the Department of Corrections will pay the cost of attendance for the students so that all students are able to participate.

Session law: Chapter 272, Laws of 2024 (effective June 6, 2024).

Student services

HB 1945 (Alvarado): program access for persons eligible for food assistance

Streamlines and enhances childcare program access for persons eligible for food assistance. Provides that children meeting age criteria for the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and Birth to Three ECEAP are eligible for those programs if they are eligible for or receiving federal or state Basic Food benefits. Provides that the income eligibility requirements for the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) program are satisfied if the WCCC applicant or consumer is eligible for or receiving federal or state Basic Food benefits.

Session law: Chapter 225, Laws of 2024 (effective June 6, 2024).

SBCTC/college implications

No fiscal or program impact, but students receiving food benefits not eligible for Working Connections Child Care due to annual income with children who meet the criteria could become eligible with a co-pay that is adjusted for family size.

HB 2004 (McEntire): military student early registration

Allows for early registration at institutions of higher education for eligible veterans, National Guard members, active-duty military members, and their spouses, domestic partners, and dependents.

Beginning in the 2024-25 academic year, institutions that offer an early course registration period for any segment of the student population must have a process to offer early registration to eligible veterans, national guard members, active duty, and their spouses, domestic partners, and dependents. Details of the process will be outlined in a new section to RCW 28B.10.

Session law: Chapter 89, Laws of 2024 (effective June 6, 2024).

SBCTC/college implications

Colleges who offer early registration periods must develop a process for the following groups:

- New students meeting the criteria who have completed all their admission processes.
- Continuing and returning former students must be offered early registration among continuing students with the same class or credit standing.

Additionally, colleges must develop a way to identify eligible spouses, domestic partners, and dependents to select them for early registration times. Including eligible family members is a change from previous early veteran and military affiliated registration practices.

2SHB 2112 (Nance): higher education opioid prevention

Each college is required to provide opioid and fentanyl prevention education and awareness information to all students. Education may be offered in-person or electronically and must include information on the "good Samaritan" statute. This education must be posted on each institution's public website for students, parents, and legal guardians to view. Requires institutions to provide fentanyl test strips and naloxone in locations that are accessible to students, such as wellness centers, student union buildings, and student housing. Institutions may obtain and maintain opioid overdose reversal medication through a standing order. The bill also requires colleges to train staff working in residence halls how to administer naloxone, regardless of the size of the residence hall.

Session law: Chapter 211, Laws of 2024 (effective June 6, 2024).

HB 2230 (Peterson): promoting economic inclusion by creating the Economic Security for All Grant Program

The substitute bill includes the Workforce Board in the list of agencies and stakeholders that must be consulted in the issuance and oversight of EcSA grants, identification of federal reforms that would benefit persons served by the grants, and development and application of measures of yearly progress toward poverty reduction, reducing income inequality, and achieving an equitable and inclusive economy. It also adds the Workforce Board to the list of recipients of the annual report on the EcSA grant program.

Session law: Chapter 92, Laws of 2024 (effective June 6, 2024).

SBCTC/college implications

Community and technical colleges are a partner to the Workforce Board and support the EcSA program. Students can be co-enrolled and receive holistic supports.

Clients working with the EcSA program can be referred to colleges for training and enrollment within training programs such as WRT, BFET, etc.

SHB 2368 (Gregerson): refugee & immigrant assistance

The Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance's services and work are not currently in state law. This bill codifies their current scope of work. It clarifies that ORIA has the authority to coordinate state, federal, and local efforts to support the economic and social integration of refugees and immigrants. It expands ORIA's scope of work and authority to provide services to immigrants ineligible for federal refugee resettlement services, addressing historical concern with gaps where people cannot access federally funded programs.

Session law: Chapter 153, Laws of 2024 (effective June 6, 2024).

SBCTC/college implications

Many of our colleges and funded CBO partners serve students eligible for programming paid for by ORIA funds – most of our programs with large numbers of immigrant students have contracts with ORIA and braid funds from ORIA and SBCTC. This bill will allow ORIA, and therefore our system, to potentially expand who they serve, with funding from ORIA unlocked to support this increase.

Workforce

2SHB 2084 (Fosse): construction training/DOC

This bill establishes an oversight committee to improve construction related training and pathways to state registered apprenticeships in correctional facilities. The bill requires the Office of the Corrections Ombuds to establish the oversight committee and requires them to include representation from SBCTC staff.

Session law: Chapter 355, Laws of 2024 (effective June 6, 2024).

ESHB 2236 (Shavers): technical education core plus programs

With expert recommendations and consultation, this bill calls for the creation of a CTE Core Plus model framework to guide establishment and operations of additional programs in high-demand sectors, and establish a program specifically focused on allied health professions. The task force, in accordance with RCW 43.01.036, shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature, and the State Board of Education by November 15, 2025.

Session law: Chapter 234, Laws of 2024 (effective June 6, 2024).

SBCTC/college implications

- OSPI will convene, SBCTC is identified as a partner in developing an allied health professions
 CTE program for providing instruction to students who are pursuing industry-recognized non-degree credentials.
- OSPI will convene, SBCTC is identified as a member of the statewide career and technical
 education task force focused on secondary work-integrated learning, which includes career
 and technical education, career connected learning, regional apprenticeship programs,
 career and technical education core plus programs, work-based learning, internships and
 externships, and other types of work-integrated learning. The task force will inform the
 administration and continual improvement of the programs, review data outcomes,
 recommend program improvements, ensure that the programs reflect applicable industry
 competencies, and identify appropriate program credentials.
- This legislation adds complexity and potential confusion in the dual credit landscape. It advances an existing curriculum focused program to a dual credit model and targeted growth. Will need to work closely with colleges to align pathways for students.

ESB 6296 (Boehnke): retail industry work group

Directs the SBCTC to establish a retail workgroup consisting of higher education, business, labor, and workforce development representatives with expertise in the retail industry.

Session law: Chapter 43, Laws of 2024 (effective June 6, 2024).

SBCTC/college implications

The workgroup must report on the following to the appropriate committees of the Legislature by October 1, 2025:

- Educational and state-registered apprenticeship programs of value to the retail workforce.
- Career pathways and stackable credentials for individuals in the retail sector.
- Gaps in education opportunities and skill development within existing academic programs.
- Best practices in program design for high quality credentials in support of the retail sector.
- Barriers individuals face in attaining high quality credentials in support of a retail career.

The workgroup must recommend up to four colleges to pilot programs for short-term credentials and microcredentials in support of the retail workforce.

The benefit to colleges may include recognition of college best practices in delivering high quality instructional programs that are connected to career pathways and reduce barriers for retail industry workers to attain credentials that provide opportunities for advancement in positions and earnings.

System Involvement

Community and technical college system representatives are essential to a successful legislative session. District chancellors, college presidents and trustees, and students took extra effort, outside of regular system meetings, to meet with state policymakers and their staff from their home and college legislative districts. Members of the State Board, with leadership from Chair Chelsea Mason-Placek, also participated through meetings, letters, emails, and phone calls to key legislators.

A total of 41 system representatives and State Board staff — 25 college system representatives and 16 State Board staff members — testified 72 times before House and Senate committees:

- 72 times on bills
- 3 times at work sessions

Through their participation, the college system was well represented. The below list of presidents, chancellors, trustees, students, system advocates, and SBCTC staff testified on behalf of the community and technical college system during the 2024 legislative session.

Board members and trustees

- Cristian Canseco Juarez, Clark College
- Jeanne Bennett, Clark College

SBCTC staff

- Hanan Al-Zubaidy, corrections education program director
- Jennifer Dellinger, student services policy associate
- Paul Francis, executive director
- Troy Goracke, Basic Education for Adults policy associate
- Choi Halladay, deputy executive director for business operations
- Arlen Harris, legislative director
- Yokiko Hayashi-Saguil, student services policy associate
- Lauren Hibbs, student services director
- Stephanie Winner, operating budget director
- Darrell Jennings, capital budget director

- Carolyn McKinnon, workforce education policy associate
- Hanan Al-Zubaidy, corrections education policy associate
- Bill Belden, workforce education policy associate
- Will Durden, basic education for adults director
- Valerie Sundby, transfer education director
- Jamie Traugott, director of dual credit and K-12 alignment

Presidents and chancellors

- Ivan Harrell, Tacoma Community College
- Matt Seimears, Lower Columbia College
- Faimous Harrison, Wenatchee Valley College
- Kevin Brockbank, Spokane Community College
- Joyce Loveday, Clover Park Technical College
- James Lemerond, Bellingham Technical College
- Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap, Seattle Community College
- Suzanne Ames, Peninsula College
- Matthew Campbell, Pierce College Fort Steilacoom

Students

- Daniel Ngoy, Bellevue College
- Kyra Sung, South Puget Sound Community College
- Ranayjah Jackson, Green River College
- Rae Watkins, South Puget Sound Community College
- Kaitlynn Albenesius, Pierce College
- Sean Behl, Bellevue College
- Alex Rogers, Tacoma Community College
- Mollie Kuwahara, Tacoma Community College
- Josie Saccio-Devine, Lower Columbia College
- Sienna Jarrard, Bellevue College

Faculty, staff, administrators, and associates

- Celva Boon, Clover Park Technical College
- Melanie Casciato, Columbia Basin College
- Masa Kawamura, South Puget Sound Community College
- Dennis Gibbs, Edmonds College







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