

Exhibit E

Career and College Planning Equivalency Course of Study Concept Paper

Washington law states that “The purpose of a high school diploma is to declare that a student is ready for success in postsecondary education, gainful employment, and citizenship and is equipped with the skills to be a lifelong learner.” Recent education policy changes in our state, including new state learning standards and assessments, have focused on improving a student’s academic knowledge and skills. These changes are meaningful and worthwhile, but they are not enough to prepare all high school students for success in their postsecondary education and career. The goal is for every student to possess the skills, knowledge and dispositions to follow their individual life path and have equitable opportunities to access living-wage pathways.

The State Board of Education (SBE) encourages efforts to foster deeper learning to prepare students for career success and citizenship. The Board proposes supporting the development of an opportunity for high school students to earn credit while developing key knowledge and skills that will help them to successfully transition to their next steps in life and embark on habits of lifelong learning.

The SBE will work with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Workforce Board and other partners to identify three to six lead districts that will develop an equivalency course of study focused on career and college planning: **The Personal Pathway Exploration**. District will develop policies, procedures, and curricula for a course of study that is replicable by other districts. This course of study, like the culminating project that many districts retain as a graduation requirement, is meant to specifically address Goal Four of Basic Education:

Understand the importance of work and finance and how performance, effort, and decisions directly affect future career and educational opportunities ([RCW 28A.150.210](#))

The Personal Pathway Exploration concept grows out of the High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP), a non-credit state graduation requirement for every student. The HSBP is a tool for students, parents, and teachers to guide students through high school. It is a personalized plan designed to help students set, visualize and work to achieve goals. By law, a HSBP must:

- Be a guide for a student’s high school experience and course-taking, including the third credit of science, third credit of math, and personalized pathway requirements.
- Include a plan for postsecondary education and training.
- Be created by students in cooperation with parents or guardians and school staff.
- Be updated to accommodate the students changing interest or goals in high school.
- Include certificates of completion for any CTE course equivalencies completed by the student.

The Personal Pathway Exploration will meet all the requirements of a HSBP. In addition, the course will provide an opportunity for deeper learning and experience enabling the students to earn high school credit while providing them the opportunity to practice key career-ready skills.

Fundamental elements of the The Personal Pathway Exploration course are:

- Competency-based, project-based, and experiential learning
- Intentional fostering of career-ready skills such as
 - Time management
 - Goal-setting

- Self-awareness
- Persistency
- Student-ownership of learning
- Identification of academic learning standards addressed
- Identification of assessments to be used
- A school board policy establishing an equivalency course of study focused on career and college planning that complies with [WAC 392-410-300](#)

Representatives from the SBE and partners agencies and organizations will form a steering committee to guide and review development of the course by the lead districts. The Personal Pathway Exploration course will be developed by the lead districts during fall 2016. Outreach to other districts around the state will occur in spring 2017, with districts able to replicate the course in 2017-2018.

The Personal Pathway Exploration will provide an opportunity for students to earn credit largely outside of a regular school schedule. It is not intended as a class that replaces traditional classroom instruction, but an additional opportunity for valuable extended learning focused on the personalized plan for the student's own future.