

# Supporting Running Start Students' High School & Beyond Plan Completion

## What is the High School Beyond Plan (HSBP)

The HSBP is a graduation requirement for all public school students in Washington designed to help them answer three guiding questions: **Who Am I?**, **What Can I Become?** and **How do I Become That?**. By the 2026-27 school year, all districts will deliver the HSBP through a **universal online platform**, called SchoolLinks. Students will complete activities that help make connections between their career goals, high school coursework, and postsecondary plans.

## Completing Junior and Senior Year HSBP Activities

For districts using SchoolLinks this year, their Running Start **juniors** pursuing a public high school diploma **must complete their HSBP requirements in SchoolLinks**. Completing HSBP-related activities in a CCS class can still support juniors in fulfilling HSBP requirements. However, districts using SchoolLinks will need to support Running Start students, especially those enrolled full-time, in **transferring or uploading related Career & College Success (CCS) or similar course activities to the SchoolLinks platform** to meet HSBP requirements. Districts are advised to plan now for how high school staff will ensure Running Start **juniors** are reminded of, and supported in, **completing their new 11th grade specific HSBP activities this year**.

**Important Note:** A CCS class may still be required by some colleges for new student support and degree programs. *Districts should confirm their partner colleges' CCS course requirements and continue promoting them.* Students receive instruction and support with doing tasks similar to HSBP requirements, learn more about available college degree and credential options that may be of interest, explore how to maximize their college experience, and much more.

For Class of 2026 **seniors** in Running Start, **the 153 districts moving to SchoolLinks this year may allow them to complete their HSBP using a previous online platform or other process**, including completion of a CCS course. However, since SchoolLinks provides **unlimited access for alumni**, districts are strongly encouraged to have their current seniors at least onboard within the platform, so they are aware of the potential benefits to using it. This flexibility will apply to the Class of 2027 **seniors only in the 100 districts who will transition to SchoolLinks in Fall 2026**.

## HSBP Expectations for Districts New to SchoolLinks this Year

- **Juniors completing HSBP-related activities (e.g., résumés, career assessments, goals) in a CCS or similar course must transfer or upload their work into SchoolLinks.**
- High school staff will need to review any HSBP-related work uploaded in the platform and approve it before the student's HSBP requirement can show as "MET" for graduation. HSBP requirements completed via SchoolLinks' activities will automatically show as done.



- Forthcoming guidance will be provided to support staff with how to ensure Running Start juniors' HSBPs reflect completion of HSBP-related tasks uploaded into SchoolLinks.

## Encouraged HSBP Support Strategies for College Partners

While districts are responsible for ensuring students complete their HSBP and graduate from high school, possible areas where a college partner may engage to assist are identified below.

- Familiarize yourself with the Required Junior & Senior HSBP Activities to know which CCS assignments (e.g. goal setting, résumés, support with financial aid apps) may be aligned.
- Note in any CCS or similar course syllabus which assignments could meet HSBP requirements if transferred or uploaded into SchoolLinks.
- Include clarification on meeting HSBP requirements in Running Start information materials. For example, *"If you are pursuing a public high school diploma, grade-level HSBP activities completed in a CCS or similar class must be transferred or uploaded into the SchoolLinks platform. Students earning a high school diploma through a college, private school, or home-based high school program may not need to complete a HSBP."*
- Clearly state at Running Start information events and in registration materials if CCS courses are a new student and/or degree requirement and remind students they are responsible, with the support of high school staff, for completing HSBP activities or uploading related tasks and information in SchoolLinks to meet the graduation requirement.

## Required Junior & Senior HSBP Activities

Required HSBP Tasks ~ 11th grade	Required HSBP Tasks ~ 12th grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm/update career goal and favorite top two careers.</li> <li>• Set/update SMART goal(s) for junior year and post-HS</li> <li>• View at least one internship, job option, volunteer opportunity, etc.</li> <li>• Confirm/update <i>intended</i> Graduation Pathway.</li> <li>• Learn about <i>local</i> scholarships and using a Financial Aid Calculator.</li> <li>• Add senior courses to Course Planner (<i>ensure alignment with IEP Transition Plan for eligible students</i>).</li> <li>• Update Profile in SchoolLinks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize career goal and top two careers.</li> <li>• Update SMART goal(s) for senior year.</li> <li>• View at least one internship, job option, volunteer opportunity, etc.</li> <li>• Ensure Graduation Pathway is completed.</li> <li>• Complete financial aid lesson and get support to complete a FAFSA/WASFA (ideally by 12/1).</li> <li>• Ensure final courses meet HS graduation and/or college degree requirements (<i>and align with IEP Transition Plan, if applicable</i>).</li> <li>• Finalize Profile and upload content to résumé.</li> <li>• Confirm post-HS plan and that Graduation Pathway(s) is MET.</li> <li>• Upload email for alumni SchoolLinks access.</li> </ul>

## Options for Seeking Support

Please email us at [HSBP@k12.wa.us](mailto:HSBP@k12.wa.us) or join any of our weekly 2:30-3:30pm drop-in Office Hours on Mondays (except holidays) using this [Zoom link](#) to share your questions and feedback.