

Statewide CTE Task Force

June Meeting Notes

2 – 4 pm
June 11, 2026
[Zoom](#)

Attendee List

	Name		Name		Name
1	Erin Frasier*	9	Rachel Wabeke*	17	Wes Allen*
2	Ingrid Stegemoeller	10	Reuben Argel	18	Krista Fox (OSPI)*
3	Katelyn Kean	11	Sarah Patterson	19	Kari Morgan (OSPI)*
4	Kimberly Hetrick*	12	Taelar Shelton*	20	Heather Rees (OSPI)*
5	Marie Bruin*	13	Tia Rivera	21	Kelsey Davis (OSPI)*
6	Michelle Spenser*	14	Tom Walker*	22	Kristin Murphy (L&I)*
7	Morgan Irwin	15	Tory Gering*	23	Joshua Grice (L&I)*
8	Nora Zollweg*	16	Wade Larson*		

*Indicates the member was in attendance

Welcome & Opening

Kristin Murphy and Joshua Grice from the Washington state Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) were in attendance to provide additional information and answer questions for topics related to L&I.

Task A. Recommendation Ordering

The task force determined the order Task A recommendations will appear in the legislative report. As a starting point task force members were invited to complete a poll prior to the meeting. The draft list generated and response data were presented for comment and discussion.

Elements of discussion:

- The recommendation regarding instructor field time is important and should be placed higher.
- Consideration should be given to placement of recommendations that include a fiscal element to support the understanding of the importance of each recommendation.
- Awareness that all recommendations have associated costs, even when no funding is allocated. For example, creating a glossary of terms would require time and effort from industry partners and OSPI staff. If the Legislature seeks to make a meaningful impact, this is an area where funding should be considered.

- Sentiment that the list should lead with the most impactful recommendations regardless of funding elements.

Proposed order of Task A recommendations:

Fiscal Recommendations:

The final order of the fiscal recommendations will be determined by CTE Task Force members by poll following this meeting.

- The CTE Task Force recommends that the Legislature fund a **dedicated career connected learning coordinator** at every high school to manage work-based learning activities and programs.
- The CTE Task Force recommends that the Legislature increase the **CTE apportionment rate**.
- (a): The CTE Task Force recommends that the Legislature establish and fund **Regional CTE Advisory Groups**. & (b) The CTE Task Force recommends that the Legislature establish and fund sector-based **collaborative learning networks**.

Policy recommendations:

- The CTE Task Force recommends that school districts implement **family and community education programs** about career-connected learning pathways, ensuring all families understand opportunities beyond traditional university tracks.
- The CTE Task Force recommends the exploration of a **structured CTE pipeline** beginning in elementary school and continuing through postsecondary options.
- The CTE Task Force recommends that OSPI and CTE partners work together to create a **glossary of terms** and work towards clear, concise and consistent terminology.
- The CTE Task Force recommends that **instructors** be required to spend time working in their respective fields in order to renew their certification.
- The CTE Task Force recommends that OSPI collaborate with the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries and United States Dept of Labor to establish **guidebook/manual** for employers and educators who partner in Career Connected Learning programs.

Task B. Recommendations

Discussion from previous task force meetings identified two best practices that could be included in the legislative report as recommendations. OSPI staff provided two possible recommendations drafted from task force discussion. The task force provided clarity and gave approval for Task B recommendations to appear in the legislative report.

Recommendation B1

Elements of discussion:

- It was expressed that this remain stated as a best practice.
- Questioned if this means OSPI should bring relevant parties in the sector together when someone is starting a program, such as a new Core Plus.

Additional discussion related to the role of OSPI and supporting sector leads. It was expressed that convening sector leads regularly is a best practice rather than a recommendation.

The final language determined for this best practice reads:

The CTE Task Force recommends that OSPI establish a process for receiving feedback from sector leads.

Recommendation B2

Elements of discussion:

- Task force members suggested this could be a recommendation or stay a best practice.
- As with any job, the employer will likely do an exit survey but uncertain if it should be required.
- Questions related to the possibility of a survey being added to part of the high school and beyond plan for graduates. This data is likely something many parties would find valuable. The response was that it may not be easy to add this element to a process that has already been built.
- Noted that School Links may already do this in another state.
- Inquiry about if a student survey would only be a student's perspective or supplemented with other data such as wages and continued employment and if such a survey would only be implemented once. It was stated that this data would likely be difficult to collect after a student leaves high school, but what is collected could be analyzed with existing data.

The task force recommended suggesting this as a best practice rather than a recommendation but to explore the possibility of it being included in the high school and beyond plan.

The final language determined for this best practice reads:

The CTE Task Force recommends that a process be developed to gather feedback from CTE program graduates.

This feedback should include:

- What worked well in the program
- What was missing from the program, including any skill sets that were not adequately addressed
- Identifying any barriers they experienced to participating in the student's future plans

Task D Recommendations and Whole Group Discussion

Previous discussions of the task force resulted in four recommendations. Task Force members were able to read the recommendations drafted and provide edits.

Recommendation D1

Elements of discussion:

- There was confirmation that this is referring to the rule about limiting the height a minor can be off the ground to 10 feet.
- A preference was shown for the way Recommendation 2 specifically identifies the agency Labor & Industries to establish clear responsibility and that Recommendations 1 & 4 should include the agency being identified as responsible for the action.

The final language determined for this recommendation reads:

The CTE Task Force recommends that the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries collaborate with OSPI to issue guidance for employers on application for variance to the 10-foot rule.

Recommendation D2

Elements of discussion:

- No comments

The final language determined for this recommendation reads:

The CTE Task Force recommends that the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries issue guidance clarifying the exposure to asbestos or hazardous substances rule including the maximum threshold for exposure risk and risk mitigation methods that would be acceptable under this rule.

Recommendation D3

Elements of discussion:

- Noted that it needs to be clear that these Career Connected Learning coordinators are people in the school who would coordinate with the industry and are not related to the preexisting Career Connected Learning coalition.
- Clarification was given that currently the employer is solely responsible for everything related to applying for student worker variances. Coordinators at the school level are largely unaware of the variances and, as a result, cannot suggest them to the employers. Employers are then unaware of the possible options causing more restrictions than are necessary. Increasing this awareness will increase the opportunities for students.
- A suggestion was made that, similarly to other resources and trainings that are provided at the beginning of the year, perhaps L&I could do a once-a-year training providing information on things that have changed.
- Affirmed that employers can always be more restrictive than L&I.
- This recommendation would be greatly improved by the recommendation in Task A to develop a guidebook or resource that plain talks the process and options.
- A question was directed to attendees from L&I; It is required for an employer to submit a variance request before L&I comes for consultation. Could there be an option for L&I to come to the employer first to let them know what a student can or cannot do and where variances could be requested? Representatives from L&I could not give a definitive answer at this time but offered to bring the question to the child labor group.
- Near the end of the meeting a suggestion was made to change the title from career connected coordinator to school-designated coordinator.

The final language determined for this recommendation reads:

The CTE Task Force recommends that school-designated coordinator coordinators collaborate with industry sector leads to assist employers in applying for student worker variances.

Recommendation D4

Elements of discussion:

- A question was directed to attendees from L&I; Do employers have the option to submit variance requests in a bulk submission? Representatives from L&I were unaware if this is a current option or if it could be available in the future.

The final language determined for this recommendation reads:

The CTE Task Force recommends that the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries update their process and related rules to create a minor student worker variance bulk submission process.

Conclusion and Future Work Sections of Report to Legislature

In breakout groups task force members discussed two sections of the report; the report conclusion and future work sections. Breakout groups documented their discussions under the following prompts.

Conclusion

What points should be made in the conclusion?

- Explicitly point out the intersection of business and schools as there are items that affect both. We cannot only address barriers for one as it will impact both.
- Recognition that Washington state funding concerns are relevant; however, these recommendations will be beneficial for the long term.
- Looking for legislators' consideration and a sentiment of looking forward to partnering with them to strengthen Career and Technical Education opportunities for all students.

What are the key takeaways?

- At the heart of these recommendations are Washington students. We ask for your support in creating opportunities that allow every learner to discover their strengths, earn valuable credentials, and transition successfully into careers, apprenticeships and college.

If you could summarize all the recommendations of the report in a single or couple of sentences...

- The recommendations presented reflect the collective expertise of educators, industry partners, and community stakeholders across our state. We encourage the Legislature to act on these priorities and help ensure that every student has access to high-quality CTE pathways that meet the needs of Washington's workforce and economy.

Future Work

What future work or next steps would you recommend to the Legislature?

- There should be clear identification and process for the state to identify Core Plus expansion.
- Grow Core Plus model CTE expansion to the benefit of students.
- Increase funding to CTE classes to make sure cost is not the reason why a school doesn't run a program.
- Reinforce mentorship between teachers and industry to reinforce skills between both.

- Encourage collaboration between agencies at the governmental level to make things happen in their area of expertise with collaboration.

What are the rising issues not addressed by this group?

- Career Connected Coordinator - We would like to change this title.

This is the last convening of the task force. OSPI will send out a draft report to task force members so it will meet the expected completion date of November.

There will be a background section with a table that will be updated closer to report date, this is so the information provided to the legislature isn't out of date.

LNI will review recommendations directed at the agency and provide feedback.

Wrap Up & Next Steps

Staff expect to get a draft of the report to the task force members by end of July. This timeframe will ensure appropriate agency approvals by the end of November. Edits, notes, and slide deck for this meeting will be sent out as soon as possible.

Following submission of the report to the Legislature, the responsibilities of the CTE Task Force and OSPI related to this charge will be complete unless the Legislature requests a presentation or additional information. If such a request is received, OSPI will notify Task Force members. Staff can also develop a slide deck or one-page summary of the CTE Task Force's work for members who may have opportunities to share information about the Task Force in other settings.