

State of Wyoming Educational Attainment Executive Council and WICHE Taskforce Update

January 2020

The Educational Attainment Executive Council (EAEC) met for a full day meeting on November 20, 2019, in the Hathaway Building in Cheyenne, WY. The outcome was the formal adoption of the draft Wyoming State Educational Attainment Strategic Plan for 5-years and 10-years. The plan is a concise document consisting of approximately 10 pages. The final draft will be out in January 2020 with a public comment period for several weeks. Additionally, the Council requested that the co-chairs, Dr. Stefani Hicswa and Dr. Neil Theobald (official co-chair rather than UW designee), send a formal memo to Governor Mark Gordon, Speaker of the House Steve Harshman, and Senate President Drew Perkins, to request inclusion during their opening remarks regarding the importance of educational attainment as a fundamental building block to long-term economic vitality of Wyoming. The memo was to include that while the educational entities within in the education pipeline serve different functions, they are aligned and will enter the legislative session collaboratively to impact educational attainment. The memo sent on behalf of the EAEC by Dr. Hicswa and Dr. Theobald was sent on December 12, 2019.

The draft plan incorporates the 2017 joint resolution between the Wyoming Community College Commission and the UW Board of Trustees to establish a post-secondary educational attainment goal of 60%. As such, the EAEC formally adopted a two-phased set of goals for 2025:

- a. Leading the Nation Economic-Level: 60% by 2025 and 75% by 2040
- b. Aspirant-Level: 67% by 2025 and 82% by 2040.

The Focus Areas are as follows:

Focus Areas

Primary areas of focus of the 5-year and 10-year Wyoming Statewide Educational Master Plans to achieve the attainment goals of 60-67% by 2025 and 75-82% by 2040 are:

- I. Alignment of Workforce, Workplace, and Post-secondary Programs
- II. Access and Infrastructure for Recruitment, Retention, and Completion
- III. Funding and Affordability
- IV. College-Going Culture K-12, Adults, and Business/Industry

While there are more detailed metrics within each of the Focus Areas, there are five over-arching Metrics that Matter.

Metrics That Matter

1. Increase the third grade reading level by 10% in alignment of 85% of all third grade students should meet or exceed proficiency levels
2. High school graduation of entering 9th grade students should increase by 10%
3. High school to college matriculation within one year of high school completion should increase by 20%
4. Credential productivity rates at the community colleges will increase by 100%; and university should increase by 70%
5. Adult participation and completion of higher education will increase 300%

Priorities for 2019-2021

COMPLETED

1. Statewide focus groups were convened for feedback on the big areas and draft metrics the week of September 16 in Cheyenne, Laramie, Torrington, Sheridan, Casper, Riverton, Rock Springs, and Powell
2. Rules process and implementation for Wyoming Works and Bachelors of Applied Science

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3. Implementation of BAS (rules adopted to colleges approved to complete substantive change and two more authorized to begin the process) and new General Studies BA (1 graduate and 11 set to graduate this fall. 50 applicants and 36 admitted)
4. Articulation Summit October 2019 where Graduate Wyoming articulation effort was launched

IN PROGRESS

5. Common Transcript/Transfer Process development and implementation including reverse transfer (current WCCC budget request per legislative requirement)
6. SLEDS continue to develop the data governance structure and become operational
7. Complete the Skills Gap and Program Gap Analysis through the NGA Education and the Workforce Grant *Metrics that Matter* and incorporate the information in a revised plan. Ensure the grant data dashboard incorporates aspects of Educational Attainment Plan.
8. Apprenticeships/Internships integrated statewide across appropriate post-secondary credential programs.
9. Formally request that Wyoming's Tomorrow Task force continue to meet throughout the next biennium to monitor, update, and recommend legislation to the JEIC on educational attainment in Wyoming

NEED TO BE COMPLETED AND/OR NEED FUNDING TO MOVE FORWARD

10. First Quarter 2020, statewide public comment on draft plan, modify based on public comment, and final plan adoption.
11. Conduct Economic Impact Study/ROI and subsequent inclusion in a revised plan. Need approximately \$129,000 in funding to conduct this study.
12. Adult Readiness Assessment including Prior Learning Assessment development. There is a sub-committee through the WCCC Academic Affairs Council working on this topic. Costs for planning and implementation are unknown at this time.
13. Develop participant entities Strategic Plans that incorporate aspects of and are aligned with adopted Educational Attainment Plan.
14. Systematic study/audit of public policy on the barriers to implementation and success of the educational attainment goals. May be a potential
15. Communicate final adopted plan with Wyoming citizens, business leaders and other interested parties.

Priorities for 2021-23

1. Pursuant to W.S. 21-18-202 and 9-12-1402, the Wyoming Community College Commission shall develop and implement a new statewide community college system strategic plan that, in part, integrates the appropriate aspects of this Educational Attainment Plan. The status of the plan development and implementation shall be required in advance of biennial and supplemental budget requests.
2. Pursuant to W.S. 21-18-202 and 9-12-105 and 9-12-1402, the seven community colleges shall develop their next college strategic plans, in part, in alignment with the statewide community college system strategic plan. Each college shall identify how it will create action plans and implement the attainment goals at the local and regional level consistent with this Educational Attainment Plan. Status updates shall be reported to the WCCC a biennial basis in advance of the WCCC biennial and supplemental budget requests.
3. Pursuant to W.S. 21-17-108 and 9-12-105 and 9-12-1402, the University of Wyoming shall develop its next university strategic plan, in part, in alignment with this Educational Attainment Plan. The University shall identify how it will create action plans and implement the attainment goals. Status updates shall be reported on a biennial basis in advance of the UW biennium budget request.
4. The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) and State Board of Education (SBE) shall develop a monitoring structure that integrates the existing ESSA or other state required accountability measures that, in part, align with this Educational Attainment Plan. The WDE shall develop a mechanism to involve the K12 districts in developing the monitoring process.
5. The Department of Workforce Services (DWS) shall develop a monitoring structure for state licensure and credentials earned outside the community college and university systems in alignment with the attainment plans at the regional and statewide level. Status updates shall be reported to the WCCC a biennial basis in advance of the DWS and WCCC biennium budget request
6. As the coordinating agency, the WCCC shall provide a status update and monitor progress to the Governor's Office, and all collaborating entities, annually through 2023.