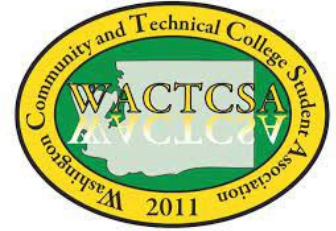


Washington Community & Technical College Student Association (WACTCSA)

2023 Legislative Agenda



The following issues were collaboratively developed in Spring 2022 by the 2021-22 WACTCSA cohort. This agenda represents issues that students have identified as their highest priorities for advocacy for the legislative session.

Textbook Affordability

The high price of textbooks and course materials places an inordinate strain on students' ability to afford school and is an obstacle to student success. WACTCSA appreciates the past strides toward textbook affordability by the state legislature, including requiring Open Educational Resource information to be available at the time of registration ([RCW 28B.50.789](#)) and the creation of the SBCTC Coding Manual and survey support from the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC). However, more is to be done in this area in the following areas:

- Funding should be allocated to support the development and increased availability of open resource materials.
- Corporate and/or publisher tax & restrictions should be considered for shortened book edition publishing cycles.
- The legislature should establish greater incentives and funding for educators and professors to facilitate OER development; an effective and proven process.

Expanded Mental Health Resources on Campus

We need to increase the availability of mental health counseling sessions provided on campus to address the amount of stress, anxiety, and depression that the students are facing in returning to the classroom. We propose that the Legislature permanently increase the spending for community and technical colleges, allowing each college to have a counselor to student ratio of at least 1,250:1.

Increase Financial Assistance for CTC Students

WACTCSA is grateful the state has made the commitment to improving college affordability through the Workforce Education Investment Act and the Washington College Grant. These necessary improvements were passed prior to the COVID-19 outbreak and the economic situation created by the pandemic and exacerbated by rising inflation jeopardizes resources available to students. A high school diploma is no longer enough to give a person equal access to quality employment without a post-secondary education. To meet this demand, every resident of Washington State should have an equitable opportunity to pursue higher education. This makes our workforce more competitive and strengthens our economy. The legislature should expand access to in-state tuition programs and adopt an innovative model that supports academic completion for CTC students.

Childcare Assistance

Lack of access to childcare is a problem in our state and may contribute to inequity among students with children. COVID-19 has exacerbated this problem. Many students struggle to find affordable childcare options, creating a barrier to beginning or finishing their education. may contribute to inequity among students with children. The average CTC student is not a traditional 18-year-old student, but rather a 26-year-old. Many have families and work multiple jobs. WACTCSA supports the expansion of programs like the Working Child Connection Care Program and support for on-campus childcare facilities