

# Washington State GEAR UP

## What Works Research-Based Recommendations & Required Activities

WWC Research-Based Recommendation	1. Rigorous Coursework Offer courses and curricula that prepare students for post-secondary level work and ensure that students understand what constitutes a postsecondary-ready curriculum by 9th grade.	2. Assessments Utilize assessment measures throughout high school so that students are aware of how prepared they are for college, and assist them in overcoming deficiencies as they are identified.	3. Support Surround students with adults and peers who build and support their postsecondary education aspirations.	4. Steps for College Engage and assist students in completing critical steps for college entry.	5. Financial Awareness/Aid Increase families' financial awareness, and help students apply for financial aid.
REQUIRED ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer a curriculum that prepares all students for postsecondary education and includes opportunities for postsecondary level work for advanced students.</li> <li>• Ensure that students understand what constitutes a postsecondary education-ready curriculum.</li> <li>• Ensure that every student has a meaningful High School and Beyond Plan that includes a 4-year course trajectory to fulfilling a postsecondary education-ready curriculum.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize available assessments, standards, and data available to provide an estimate of college readiness.</li> <li>• Utilize performance data to identify and inform students about their academic proficiency and college readiness.</li> <li>• Create an individualized plan for students who are not on track to graduate and/or enroll in postsecondary education.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer a meaningful advisory curriculum, such as Career Guidance Washington, with high fidelity in instruction that supports social-emotional learning and growth mindset as well as career and college readiness.</li> <li>• Provide mentoring for students by recent high school graduates who are enrolled in postsecondary education, or by other college-educated adults.</li> <li>• Facilitate student relationships with peers who plan to attend postsecondary education through a structured program of either in school or extracurricular activities.</li> <li>• Provide hands-on opportunities for students to explore different careers, and assist them in aligning postsecondary plans with their career aspirations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that students prepare for, and take, the appropriate postsecondary entrance or admissions exams early.</li> <li>• Assist students in their postsecondary options search.</li> <li>• Provide and coordinate meaningful visits to postsecondary institutions/campuses.</li> <li>• Assist students in completing college applications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize workshops for parents and students to inform them prior to 12th grade about college affordability, scholarship and aid resources, and financial aid processes.</li> <li>• Help students and parents complete financial aid forms (FAFSA Forecaster, FAFSA and WASFA) prior to eligibility deadlines.</li> </ul>

# INDICATORS

WWC Research-Based Recommendation	1. Rigorous Coursework	2. Assessments	3. Support	4. Steps for College	5. Financial Awareness/Aid
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students complete Pre-Algebra by end of 8th grade; Algebra by end of 9th grade, and 2 additional years of math.</li> <li>• Students meet 24 credit Career- and College-Ready Graduation Requirements.</li> <li>• Students promote to the next grade level and graduate on time.</li> <li>• Pre-AP, AP, IB, College in the High School, and Running Start are equitably accessible by all students.</li> <li>• Additional tutoring, in-class support, and other academic interventions are accessible to all students.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students meet standard on Smarter Balanced Assessment.</li> <li>• Students pass AP course exams.</li> <li>• All students complete the Aspire 8 or PSAT 8.</li> <li>• All students complete the PSAT or ACT Aspire in 9th or 10th grade.</li> <li>• All students have the option to take the ASVAB no later than 11th grade.</li> <li>• All students complete the SAT or ACT by the end of 11th grade and have the opportunity to re-take in 12th grade if needed.</li> <li>• For those students on track to attend community college, they complete the ACCUPLACER or other placement test as determined by the institution.</li> <li>• Students and families are informed of the results of all career/college readiness assessments and understand the implications of these results.</li> <li>• Students and families are engaged in planning for improving assessment results, including remedial coursework, extended school day or school year services, or other intervention support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools offer a formal mentoring program (i.e., LINK Crew, Check and Connect).</li> <li>• All students participate in a structured MS/JH to HS transition support program.</li> <li>• The school counselor to student ratio is 1:250, per the ASCA recommendation.</li> <li>• All students participate in a meaningful, structured, and effective advisory program that engages all staff and students (i.e., Career Guidance Washington, CharacterStrong, WOIS/The Career Information System, Career Cruising, Big Future).</li> <li>• All 7th/8th grade students complete an interest inventory and conduct postsecondary program or institution and career research.</li> <li>• All 9th/10th grade students conduct research on career paths and postsecondary programs and institutions. May include college campus visit</li> <li>• All 11th/12th grade students visit at least 2 postsecondary programs or institutions that are aligned with their career interest area.</li> <li>• Families are offered workshops on financial aid and scholarships, postsecondary education preparation, options, and planning at least 3 times per year starting no later than 7th grade.</li> <li>• School has a comprehensive school counseling program that meets ASCA standards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College Bound Scholarship students are provided ongoing communication, including a 9th Grade Re-Pledge to ensure they are aware of the scholarship requirements and value.</li> <li>• Schools participate in the 12th Year Campaign activities and host at least one American College Application Campaign event.</li> <li>• All 12th grade students receive college application support to include these elements: college application essays, letters of recommendation, completing application forms, accessing fee waivers.</li> <li>• All 12th grade students complete a minimum of 3 applications to postsecondary programs or institutions.</li> <li>• Student achievements are celebrated at a spring Senior Signing Day or College Signing Day event.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students complete a financial literacy curriculum that is aligned with the Washington State Financial Education K-12 Learning Standards established in October 2016. <a href="http://www.k12.wa.us/CurriculumInstruction/FinancialEducation/default.aspx">www.k12.wa.us/CurriculumInstruction/FinancialEducation/default.aspx</a></li> <li>• Schools participate in the 12th Year Campaign activities and host at least one financial aid completion event.</li> <li>• Families are offered workshops on financial aid and scholarships, postsecondary education preparation, options, and planning at least 3 times per year starting no later than 7th grade.</li> <li>• All 11th grade students complete the FAFSA Forecaster.</li> <li>• All seniors complete a FAFSA or a WASFA.</li> <li>• All students complete and regularly update a scholarship profile on <a href="http://www.thewashboard.org">www.thewashboard.org</a> no later than 9th grade.</li> <li>• 100% of eligible students are signed up for the College Bound Scholarship.</li> <li>• Schools access and utilize the information found in the WSAC FAFSA Completion Portal: <a href="https://fortress.wa.gov/wsac/portal/programs/fafsacompletion">https://fortress.wa.gov/wsac/portal/programs/fafsacompletion</a></li> </ul>