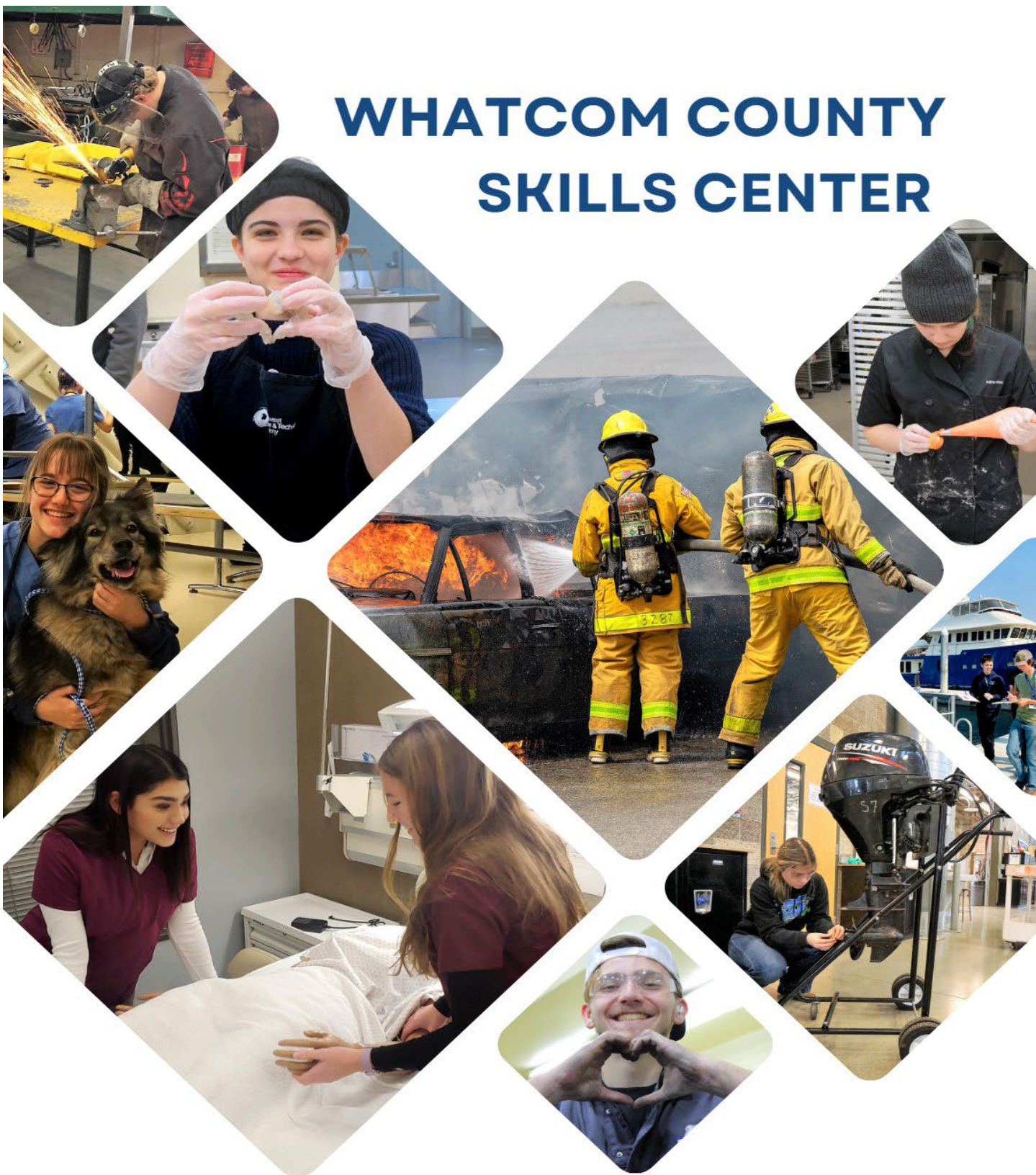


WHATCOM COUNTY SKILLS CENTER



**2027 – 2037
LONG-RANGE PLAN**

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Introduction

Overview

The Whatcom County Skills Center (WCSC) is an approved regional skills center established to expand access to high quality career and technical education opportunities for students throughout Northwest Washington. Developed through a partnership among the Blaine, Bellingham, Ferndale, Lynden, Meridian, Mount Baker and Nooksack Valley School Districts, WCSC was created to address a longstanding gap in access to comprehensive workforce preparation programs serving students across Whatcom County and the surrounding region.

While students in many regions of Washington benefit from access to permanent comprehensive skills center facilities, Whatcom County remains one of the largest regions in the state without a dedicated regional skills center campus. Existing satellite programs and partnerships have demonstrated strong student interest and regional workforce demand, yet available facilities limit the number of students who can participate and the breadth of programs that can be offered.

The Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus is intended to address this need by creating permanent regional capacity for workforce education and career connected learning. The proposed facility will provide students with access to sixteen workforce preparation pathways aligned with regional and statewide labor market demand, including healthcare, skilled trades, transportation, aviation, maritime industries, public safety, hospitality and early childhood education.

Program selection was guided by stakeholder engagement, labor market analysis and collaboration with employers, workforce development organizations, postsecondary institutions and community partners. The resulting program portfolio directly responds to workforce shortages identified throughout Northwest Washington and supports industries that are essential to the region's long-term economic vitality.

A defining feature of the proposed WCSC Core Campus is its commitment to maximizing utilization of public resources. The facility has been intentionally designed around a dual-session instructional model, allowing programs to operate during both morning and afternoon instructional blocks. This approach effectively doubles the number of students served within the same facility footprint while maximizing the return on state capital investment.

Upon full implementation, the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus is projected to serve approximately 768 students, or 415 FTE, annually across sixteen workforce pathways. The facility design also provides flexibility for future growth as enrollment demand and workforce needs continue to evolve.

The Whatcom County Skills Center represents more than a school construction project. It is a workforce development strategy, an economic development strategy and an educational opportunity strategy. The project creates entirely new educational capacity for Northwest Washington students while helping employers address workforce shortages and strengthening the long-term economic vitality of the region.

Through the creation of a permanent regional skills center campus, students throughout Northwest Washington will gain access to meaningful career pathways, industry recognized credentials and authentic learning experiences that prepare them for successful futures in college, careers and community life.

Major Capital Projects Improvement Project Information

Ten-Year Capital Plan

10 Year Plan	2027-29	2029-31	2031-33	2033-35	2035-37
Whatcom County Pre-Design	\$1.3M				
Whatcom County Core Campus		\$69.3M			

Description of Major Capital Project

Preliminary WSCS Programming

The Whatcom County Skills Center was approved to address a longstanding gap in access to comprehensive workforce education opportunities throughout Northwest Washington. While the permanent WCSC Core Campus remains dependent upon state capital funding, participating districts and community partners have demonstrated a commitment to serving students immediately rather than waiting for construction of the permanent facility.

Preliminary WCSC programming has been intentionally designed to validate workforce demand, establish regional partnerships and provide students with access to high-demand career pathways prior to completion of the permanent core campus.

Current and planned preliminary programs include:

- Fire Science and EMS
- Welding
- Medical Assisting Careers
- Pre-Nursing
- Aviation
- Early Childhood Education

These programs have been selected based on documented workforce shortages, student interest and the availability of regional partnerships capable of supporting immediate implementation.

Existing Fire Science and Welding programs have already demonstrated sustained enrollment demand through partnership arrangements. Additional healthcare, aviation and early childhood education pathways are positioned to expand opportunities for students while strengthening relationships with employers, postsecondary institutions and community partners.

The preliminary programming model serves as proof of concept for the broader regional skills center vision and demonstrates that workforce demand exists today. These efforts also provide valuable operational experience and allow WCSC to build enrollment momentum prior to occupancy of the permanent core campus.

Most importantly, preliminary programming confirms that the Whatcom County Skills Center is not a conceptual project. It is an emerging regional workforce development system that is actively serving students and preparing for long-term expansion.

Core Campus Construction

The Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus is the cornerstone capital project identified within the 2027–2037 Long Range Capital Plan.

The proposed facility will establish the first permanent comprehensive regional skills center serving Whatcom County and Northwest Washington. The project creates entirely new educational capacity and expands access to workforce preparation opportunities that are currently limited by available facilities, specialized instructional space and program availability.

The proposed core campus consists of approximately 53,440 gross square feet of specialized workforce education space designed to support sixteen high-demand career pathways:

- Automotive Technician and Electric Vehicle Systems
- Aviation
- Biomedical Laboratory Science
- Culinary Arts and Hospitality
- Diesel Technology with CDL
- Early Childhood Education
- Fire Science and EMS
- HVAC+R
- Maritime
- Medical Assisting Careers
- Pre-Nursing
- Pre-Pharmacy Technician
- Pre-Physical Therapy
- Radiology Technician
- Sterile Processing Technician
- Welding

The facility will include healthcare simulation laboratories, biomedical science instructional spaces, welding and fabrication shops, automotive and diesel training laboratories, HVAC instructional facilities, maritime and aviation learning environments, culinary laboratories and early childhood education instructional spaces.

A defining feature of the WCSC Core Campus is its highly efficient dual-session instructional model. Programs will operate during both morning and afternoon instructional sessions, maximizing utilization of specialized instructional space and increasing student access.

Upon full implementation, the facility is projected to serve approximately 384 students during the morning session and approximately 384 students during the afternoon session, providing daily access for approximately 768 students and supporting approximately 415 FTE annually.

This model maximizes return on state capital investment by allowing specialized instructional spaces to serve multiple cohorts of students each day while maintaining flexibility for future enrollment growth. Unlike projects focused on modernization or replacement of existing facilities, the WCSC Core Campus creates entirely new educational opportunity for students who currently lack access to a permanent regional skills center facility.

The project directly supports workforce development, economic development and educational opportunity goals while helping address documented workforce shortages throughout Northwest Washington.

Whatcom County Skills Center Project Timeline

	Start	Completion
Pre-Design	September 2027	March 2028
Schematic Design	December 2027	March 2028
Design Development	January 2028	March 2029
Contract Documents	March 2029	April 2029
Bidding	April 2029	May 2029
Construction	May 2029	December 2030
Close Out	December 2030	January 2031

Draft Cost Estimate

10 Year Plan	2027-29	2029-31	2031-33	2033-35	2035-37
Whatcom County Pre-Design	\$1.3M				
Whatcom County Core Campus		\$69.3M			

Project Criteria

The Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus addresses a demonstrated regional need for expanded workforce education opportunities and creates entirely new educational capacity for Northwest Washington students.

Workforce demand analysis, stakeholder engagement, employer feedback and feasibility planning consistently identified strong support for a permanent regional skills center. Students, families, employers, educators and community partners have repeatedly emphasized the importance of creating additional opportunities for career connected learning, workforce preparation and industry certification.

The project aligns directly with workforce shortages identified in healthcare, transportation, skilled trades, maritime industries, public safety, aviation, hospitality and early childhood education sectors.

The proposed sixteen program pathways were intentionally selected to support occupations identified as high-demand and very-high-demand fields within Washington State and Northwest Washington.

The project is also distinguished by its efficient utilization model. Through two daily instructional sessions, the facility is projected to serve approximately 768 students daily and support approximately 350 FTE annually. This approach maximizes the utilization of specialized instructional spaces and strengthens the return on state investment.

Strong regional partnerships further support project success. Participating school districts, postsecondary institutions, healthcare providers, industry partners, workforce organizations and public agencies have collaborated extensively throughout project development and continue to support implementation efforts.

The project demonstrates a high level of readiness through:

- Approval of the Whatcom County Skills Center
- Established consortium governance
- Secured project site
- Committed local contributions
- Existing preliminary programming
- Demonstrated student demand
- Workforce need validation
- Regional partnership development

The Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus represents a strategic investment that expands educational opportunity, strengthens workforce development and supports long-term economic vitality throughout Northwest Washington.

Narrative of Skill Center Programs

Program Overview

- **Existing NCTA Programs**
 - **Meridian Satellite Campus of NCTA will transfer to hosting by the Meridian School District**
 - Fire Science
 - Welding
 - Allied Health
- **Future Programs**
 - **Whatcom County Skills Center**
 - Automotive Technician / Electric Vehicle Systems
 - Aviation
 - Biomedical Lab Science
 - Culinary & Hospitality
 - Diesel Technology with CDL
 - Early Childhood Education
 - Fire Science & EMS
 - Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC+R)
 - Maritime
 - Medical Assisting Careers
 - Pre-Nursing
 - Pre-Pharmacy Technician
 - Pre-Physical Therapy
 - Radiology Technician
 - Sterile Processing Technician
 - Welding

Future Programs

1. Automotive Technician / Electric Vehicle Systems

- **Program Description:** This program will be a nationally certified automotive technology program. Students service and diagnose vehicles, maintain, complete tune-ups and conduct brake and suspension repair, and wheel alignment. Instructors are ASE Master Certified.
- **Facility Needs for Program:** The program will require a classroom with an adjacent large shop facility with an outside work area.
- **Workforce Demand and Industry Alignment** The transportation industry is experiencing significant transformation through vehicle electrification, advanced diagnostics and increasingly complex vehicle systems. Regional automotive dealerships, fleet operators and service providers continue to report difficulty recruiting qualified technicians with training in electrical systems, battery technologies and advanced vehicle diagnostics. This pathway aligns directly with growing workforce demand throughout Northwest Washington.
- **Postsecondary and Career Pathways:**
 - ASE Certification Pathways
 - Automotive Technology Programs
 - Electric Vehicle Technician Programs
 - Automotive Apprenticeships
 - Fleet Maintenance Careers
 - Service Technician Careers

2. Aviation

- **Program Description:** Aviation Technology offers pathways into the aviation industry with a broad foundation in aviation science with hours of hands-on flight simulation and with practical experience in electronics, and aerospace design and construction processes. It is intended to be an entry into a multitude of careers in the aviation and aerospace industries, including Airline Pilot, Aerospace Engineer, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operator, Air Traffic Controller, Aviation Maintenance Technician, and Aircraft Assembler. Students will have the opportunity to earn certifications in a private pilot ground school certificate, FAA knowledge test endorsement and Electronics I and II certification.
- **Facility Needs for Program:** This program will need a computer-based setting with space for simulators to reside. No shop or lab space will be required.
- **Workforce Demand and Industry Alignment:** Washington remains home to one of the largest aerospace and aviation sectors in the nation. Industry demand continues to exist for professionals in aviation operations, maintenance, manufacturing and emerging aerospace technologies. The Aviation pathway introduces students to a signature Washington industry while expanding awareness of career opportunities that support regional economic development.
- **Postsecondary and Career Pathways:**
 - Aviation Maintenance Programs
 - Professional Pilot Training
 - Aerospace Manufacturing Programs
 - Aviation Operations Careers
 - Engineering Technology Programs
 - Unmanned Aircraft Systems Pathways

3. Biomedical Lab Science

- **Program Description:** The Biomedical Lab Science program introduces students to careers in supportive lab-based work in the healthcare field. This program will provide students with knowledge and experience of working in a medical laboratory setting. Students will obtain skills in laboratory biological safety measures, phlebotomy procedures, laboratory aseptic technique, specimen collection procedures, laboratory documentation, ethics in the workplace, as well as patient care.
- **Facility Needs for Program:** A classroom with a clinical laboratory with specialized equipment will be needed for this course.
- **Workforce Demand and Industry Alignment:** Healthcare systems throughout Washington continue to report demand for laboratory professionals and diagnostic support personnel. As healthcare services expand and technologies advance, the need for trained laboratory and biomedical professionals continues to grow. This pathway creates foundational knowledge that supports a broad range of healthcare and scientific careers.
- **Postsecondary and Career Pathways:**
 - Medical Laboratory Technology Programs
 - Biomedical Science Degrees
 - Biotechnology Programs
 - Clinical Laboratory Careers
 - Healthcare Professional Programs
 - Research Science Pathways

4. Culinary Arts & Hospitality

- **Program Description:** The Culinary Arts and Hospitality program combines the current hospitality industry curriculum with on-the-job training in a commercial setting open to the public. Students provide customer service, deal with production deadlines, and serve in actual job functions. Students receive instruction in professional expectations, food and workplace safety, kitchen and dining room procedures, customer service, food production and baking techniques, event planning and service, technical report writing, applied mathematics, nutrition, marketing, and introduction to management and leadership.
- **Facility Needs for Program:** A classroom space with a demonstration area and a commercial kitchen, as well as a seating area for front-of-house staff and customers.
- **Workforce Demand and Industry Alignment:** Hospitality, tourism and food service industries remain major contributors to the regional economy. Employers consistently seek individuals with technical culinary skills, customer service expertise and operational knowledge. This pathway supports workforce development in one of Northwest Washington's largest employment sectors.
- **Postsecondary and Career Pathways:**
 - Culinary Arts Programs
 - Hospitality Management Degrees
 - Restaurant Management Careers
 - Event Planning Careers
 - Tourism and Hospitality Careers
 - Entrepreneurship Opportunities

5. Diesel Technology with CDL

- **Program Description:** The Diesel Technology Program will equip students with the skills highly sought after in the transportation industry. This program educates and mentors students in the latest technology, equipment, ideals, and fuel systems that power the diesel and heavy equipment sectors both locally and globally. Students will be prepared for lifelong learning and skill development, enabling them to succeed in their careers and contribute positively to the community, economy, and environment.
- **Facility Needs for Program:** The program will require a classroom with an adjacent large shop facility with an outside work area.
- **Workforce Demand and Industry Alignment:** Regional employers consistently identify diesel technicians and commercial drivers among the most difficult positions to fill. Freight transportation, construction, agriculture and logistics industries depend upon skilled workers capable of maintaining and operating commercial vehicles. This program directly supports critical workforce needs affecting regional economic activity.
- **Postsecondary and Career Pathways:**
 - CDL Certification
 - Diesel Technology Programs
 - Heavy Equipment Technology Programs
 - Transportation Careers
 - Fleet Maintenance Careers
 - Apprenticeship Opportunities

6. Early Childhood Education (ECE)

- **Program Description:** Early Childhood Education covers the developmental stages of preschool children and how to create lessons and work with young children. Whatcom County preschools will provide a laboratory-based setting until the construction of the Whatcom Early Learning Center is completed. Students gain hands-on experiences with preschoolers in individual and group settings.

- **Facility Needs for Program:** This program will need an instructional space for skills center students and a preschool lab for 3-5-year-old participants in the daycare setting. An indoor and outdoor play area for the 3-5-year-old is also needed.
- **Workforce Demand and Industry Alignment:** Washington continues to experience significant shortages of qualified early childhood educators and childcare professionals. Workforce shortages within early learning programs affect family access to childcare, kindergarten readiness and regional workforce participation. This pathway provides students with meaningful experience working with young children while supporting one of the state's most significant workforce needs.
- **Postsecondary and Career Pathways:**
 - Early Childhood Education Degrees
 - Child Development Programs
 - Teacher Preparation Programs
 - Preschool Teaching Careers
 - Childcare Leadership Roles
 - Elementary Education Pathways

7. Fire Science & EMS

- **Program Description:** Fire Science & EMS instills the proud tradition of serving communities with selfless dedication. The honor of becoming a firefighter is one sought after by many but bestowed upon only a few. Training to become a firefighter is exciting and meaningful. The WCSC Fire Science and EMS program will offer professional instruction, amazing facilities, and endless opportunities to not only learn the skills necessary to become a firefighter/EMT, but also the skills to be an integral part of a community emergency response team in your own neighborhood. Students earn their ICS 100 and 200 certificates from FEMA. Additionally, this course lays the groundwork so students can pursue their Firefighter I, Firefighter II, HazMat Operations, and EMT.
- **Adequacy of Program:** Mount Vernon Location- This course is currently in a space needed to be used for the original purpose of a science-based lab and is not an appropriate location for this course. Meridian HS Satellite locations- Current facility owned by Meridian School District.
- **Workforce Demand and Industry Alignment:** Regional fire districts and emergency medical service providers continue to report recruitment challenges and workforce shortages. Retirement trends and increased service demands create opportunities for future firefighters, EMTs and public safety professionals. This pathway supports workforce development in critical public service occupations.
- **Postsecondary and Career Pathways:**
 - EMT Certification Programs
 - Firefighter Training Academies
 - Emergency Management Programs
 - Public Safety Careers
 - Paramedic Programs
 - Fire Science Degrees

8. Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC+R)

- **Program Description:** This program focuses on preparing the individual for a successful career as a Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning and Refrigerating (HVAC+R) technician.
- **Facility Needs for Program:** The space this program requires a classroom space with an adjoining facility to fabricate materials associated with HVAC according to industry standards.

- **Workforce Demand and Industry Alignment:** The adoption of energy-efficient technologies, heat pump systems and building automation has significantly increased demand for HVAC professionals throughout Washington. Employers continue to report shortages of qualified technicians capable of supporting residential, commercial and industrial systems.
- **Postsecondary and Career Pathways:**
 - HVAC Apprenticeships
 - HVAC Technology Programs
 - Building Automation Careers
 - Refrigeration Technology Careers
 - Mechanical Systems Careers
 - Energy Management Careers

9. Maritime

- **Program Description:** Maritime is a hands-on curriculum focused on the skills necessary for employment in the Marine industry and is located right near the water! Students will learn safe boat handling & navigation skills, maintenance & preservation of vessels, manufacturing materials, Gelcoat & fiberglass repair; basic marine electrical & electronics, Introduction to marine propulsion & engines; boat trailer usage & repair; marina operations; and customer service skills. While in the program, students are able to earn the Washington State Safe Boating Program Certification; First Aid/CPR/AED certification. This course uses a strong, industry-based curriculum from American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) Marine Services Technology and the Washington State CorePlus Maritime program.
- **Facility Needs for Program:** The space this program requires a classroom space with an adjoining for shop-based production (electrical and propulsion).
- **Workforce Demand and Industry Alignment:** Maritime industries remain a foundational component of the Northwest Washington economy. Workforce shortages exist in vessel operations, marine repair, marine electrical systems and port-related occupations. This pathway aligns directly with regional economic priorities and provides access to careers unique to the region.
- **Postsecondary and Career Pathways:**
 - Maritime Academy Programs
 - Marine Technology Programs
 - Vessel Operations Careers
 - Port Operations Careers
 - Marine Electrical Careers
 - Commercial Maritime Careers

10. Medical Assisting Careers

- **Program Description:** Medical Assisting Careers prepares students to work as members of a healthcare team, performing a broad range of clinical and administrative tasks. Medical assistants work alongside physicians, mainly in outpatient or ambulatory care facilities, such as medical offices and clinics. Medical assistants may take patient histories, prepare patients for examination, collect lab specimens, perform basic lab tests, draw blood, schedule appointments, and refer patients to other services, among other tasks.
- **Facility Needs for Program:** A classroom with a clinical, office setting will be needed for this course.

- **Workforce Demand and Industry Alignment:** Medical assistants remain among the most in-demand healthcare support occupations in Washington. Healthcare providers continue to identify workforce shortages that affect patient access and clinic operations. This pathway provides students with foundational healthcare skills and direct exposure to clinical environments.
- **Postsecondary and Career Pathways:**
 - Medical Assisting Certification
 - Nursing Programs
 - Allied Health Programs
 - Clinical Healthcare Careers
 - Healthcare Administration Pathways
 - Healthcare Support Occupations

11. Pre-Nursing

- **Program Description:** The Pre-Nursing program introduces students to the medical field, with an emphasis on knowledge and skills applicable to many medical occupations. Students explore medical careers in areas of interest, as well as in targeted high-demand fields for future jobs. Students completing all coursework and participating in a 50-hour clinical internship may be eligible to become WA State Nursing Assistant Certified (NAC). Additionally, students may be able to test for the HIPAA certification.
- **Facility Needs for Program:** A classroom with a clinical laboratory set up will be needed for this course.
- **Workforce Demand and Industry Alignment:** Registered Nursing continues to be among Washington's highest-demand occupations. Healthcare providers throughout the region face ongoing workforce shortages and increasing demand for patient care services. This pathway provides foundational preparation for future nursing and healthcare careers.
- **Postsecondary and Career Pathways:**
 - Nursing Programs
 - Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degrees
 - Allied Health Programs
 - Healthcare Careers
 - Clinical Practice Pathways
 - Advanced Healthcare Education

12. Pre-Pharmacy Technician

- **Program Description:** The Pre-Pharmacy Technician program introduces students to the skills necessary for entry-level positions in retail, hospital and mail-order pharmacies. Students will learn how to process prescriptions, prepare IV medications, order and stock medications as well as operate and troubleshoot automated drug dispensing systems. This program will provide a foundation for students who want to pursue a career as a pharmacy technician, pharmacist or laboratory assistant.
- **Facility Needs for Program:** This program will require lab-based equipment and an environment with moveable furniture.
- **Workforce Demand and Industry Alignment:** Pharmacy technicians play a critical role in healthcare delivery and medication management. Healthcare systems, pharmacies and clinical settings continue to experience demand for qualified support personnel. This pathway introduces students to pharmaceutical sciences and healthcare operations.

- **Postsecondary and Career Pathways:**
 - Pharmacy Technician Certification
 - Pharmacy Programs
 - Healthcare Support Careers
 - Pharmaceutical Sciences
 - Healthcare Administration Pathways
 - Clinical Support Careers

13. Pre-Physical Therapy

- **Program Description:** Pre-Physical Therapy is for students interested in physical therapy, orthopedics, or occupational therapy. Students will learn anatomy, physiology, and neurology and the application of rehabilitation techniques such as the use of modalities, exercise, body mechanics/posture and stretching/positioning. Eligible students will have the opportunity to participate in an internship rotation in a local clinic.
- **Facility Needs for Program:** This program will require a lab-based environment with moveable furniture.
- **Workforce Demand and Industry Alignment:** As Washington's population ages, demand for rehabilitation services and therapy-related professions continues to increase. Healthcare providers consistently identify a need for professionals supporting patient recovery, mobility and rehabilitation services.
- **Postsecondary and Career Pathways:**
 - Physical Therapy Programs
 - Occupational Therapy Programs
 - Exercise Science Degrees
 - Rehabilitation Careers
 - Athletic Training Programs
 - Healthcare Professions

14. Radiology Technician

- **Program Description:** The Radiology Technician program prepares students to work directly with patients and physicians in performing advanced diagnostic x-ray procedures. Students will learn to take radiographic exposures, process images and films, and operate various types of technological equipment. Emphasis will be placed on radiation safety and the professional handling and care of patients.
- **Facility Needs for Program:** A classroom with a clinical laboratory with specialized equipment will be needed for this course.
- **Workforce Demand and Industry Alignment:** Diagnostic imaging occupations continue to experience strong workforce demand due to increased healthcare utilization and advances in medical technology. Regional healthcare providers identify imaging professionals as a critical component of healthcare delivery systems.
- **Postsecondary and Career Pathways:**
 - Radiologic Technology Programs
 - Diagnostic Imaging Careers
 - Healthcare Programs
 - Advanced Imaging Specialties
 - Clinical Healthcare Careers
 - Allied Health Pathways

15. Sterile Processing Technician

- **Program Description:** The Sterile Processing program will introduce students to the safe operations of equipment and materials in both inpatient and outpatient procedures. It will train students in sharp safety, preparing the operating room, including maintaining the sterile field, accurate counts to prevent foreign retained objects, and setting up surgical equipment, supplies and solutions.
- **Facility Needs for Program:** A classroom with a clinical laboratory set up will be needed for this course.
- **Workforce Demand and Industry Alignment:** Hospitals and surgical centers continue to report workforce shortages in sterile processing and surgical support occupations. These professionals play an essential role in patient safety and surgical operations. This pathway provides students with direct exposure to a growing healthcare support field.
- **Postsecondary and Career Pathways:**
 - Sterile Processing Certification
 - Surgical Technology Programs
 - Healthcare Support Careers
 - Clinical Operations Careers
 - Allied Health Programs
 - Hospital Support Services

16. Welding

- **Program Description:** Welding is an industry-based shop environment designed for students who would like to develop a deeper understanding of metalworking as a foundation for continuing education or joining a job-ready market. Students are trained in the basic skills of welding, cutting, shielded metal arc welding, gas metal and flux cored arc welding, gas tungsten arc welding, and many other areas. Additionally, this program trains students in blueprint reading, math, layout and fit-up, and fabrication of a wide variety of projects. (Meridian Campus & Sedro-Woolley)
- **Adequacy of Program:** Current facilities are owned by Meridian School District in the CTE building.
- **Workforce Demand and Industry Alignment:** Welding remains one of Washington's highest-demand skilled trades occupations. Workforce demand is driven by manufacturing, construction, maritime industries, aerospace and infrastructure projects. Employers throughout Northwest Washington continue to report difficulty recruiting qualified welders and fabrication professionals.
- **Postsecondary and Career Pathways:**
 - Welding Certification Programs
 - Apprenticeships
 - Manufacturing Careers
 - Maritime Trades Careers
 - Construction Trades Careers
 - Fabrication and Industrial Careers

Funding

Balance for Three Years

As a new/new to-be-established skills center, there is no fund balance to report.

Capital Maintenance Fund

The Capital Maintenance Fund has been included in the Interlocal Agreement for Financing and Operations, adopted by the boards of each consortium Whatcom County School Districts, see Appendix

Local Contribution

For the core Whatcom County Skills Center, land owned by Meridian School District, totaling 7.2 acres, is anticipated to be a contribution of approximately \$740,000. The 5-acre plot for the WCSC building is valued at \$175,000, the 1-acre plot to hold classrooms for preliminary programming is valued at \$35,000, and the 1.2-acre plot housing the Whatcom Early Learning Center and the WCSC program classroom for the Early Childhood Education program is valued at \$550,000.

Enrollment

The skills center will follow the schedule in line with the other skills centers with a 2.5-hour instructional block in both the AM and PM sessions. With the proposed 16 programs noted earlier, the projected annualized average student headcount enrollment in each section will be 20 in both sections. The Whatcom County School District's projected participation is noted in the table below. This was derived based on proximity to the skills center, current enrollment, number of students seeking educational options away from their district and access to CTE pathways.

WCSC enrollment data and student distribution by school district are included in the data tables below. With regard to items 1 through 5 of WAC 392-600-050:

- (1) WCSC Ten-Year Enrollment is not applicable at this time. When provided in future plans it will represent the Average Annual Full Time Equivalent County (AAFTE) for the years indicated. It will show that the WCSC enrollment will exceed the 150 FTE requirement
- (2) The WCSC enrollment percentage is not projected to be anywhere near the 70% threshold of the consortium enrollment.
- (3) WCSC anticipates being able to meet the enrollment requirements of the WAC.
- (4) No Academic courses will be offered at WCSC and therefore not applicable.
- (5) Not applicable

Students in grades 10 or lower do not access the skills centers except with a handful of individuals.

Enrollment below is indicative of 16 total programs when WCSC is fully functional.

District	AM	PM	Total
Bellingham	130	131	261
Blaine	35	35	70
Ferndale	66	65	131
Lynden	41	42	83
Meridian	43	45	88
Mount Baker	32	32	64
Nooksack	35	36	71
Total	384	384	768

Enrollment below indicates the six preliminary programs considered for the fall of 2027; Fire Science, Welding, Medical Assisting, Pre-Nursing, Aviation, and Early Childhood Education.

District	AM	PM	Total
Bellingham	40	40	80
Blaine	8	11	19
Ferndale	20	22	42

Lynden	16	14	30
Meridian	14	14	28
Mount Baker	11	8	19
Nooksack	11	11	22
Total	120	120	240

Projected Five Year Enrollment

School Year	AAFTE Enrollment
2027–28	130
2028-29	130
2029-30	160
2030-31	340
2031-32	415

All WCSC programs will be sustained by FTE enrollment (student apportionment). Funds will be allocated directly to program support including instructional, equipment, consumable, and administrative support proportionate to FTE enrollment.

Each skills center is tasked with maintaining viable programs which are either self-sustaining or have the ability to be supported by other well-established programs until they are self-sustaining.

Given the high demand for programs in Whatcom County, as well as interest from Skagit County students, there is little doubt enrollment will continue to grow quickly in the next three to five years.

Host District & Administrative Council Approval

All Whatcom County school districts provided signed resolutions to support the establishment of the Whatcom County Skills Center with the required feasibility documentation submitted to OSPI. They follow the interlocal agreement among the county school district superintendents, which will be in place prior to the start of providing the preliminary six programs in the fall of 2027, Appendix B.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP ECOSYSTEM

Building a Stronger Workforce and Brighter Futures for Northwest Washington



STRONG PARTNERSHIPS. STRONG STUDENTS. STRONG COMMUNITIES.

Working together to build a skilled workforce and a thriving future for Northwest Washington



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP MATRIX

Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus

The Whatcom County Skills Center has been developed through extensive collaboration among K–12 school districts, higher education institutions, healthcare providers, employers, workforce organizations and community partners. These partnerships validate workforce demand, support program development and create opportunities for students to engage in authentic career connected learning experiences.

Partner Organization	Sector	WCSC Program Alignment	Primary Contribution
Blaine School District	K–12 Education	All Programs	Student enrollment, governance participation, regional access
Bellingham School District	K–12 Education	All Programs	Student enrollment, governance participation, regional access
Ferndale School District	K–12 Education	All Programs	Student enrollment, workforce pathway participation
Lynden School District	K–12 Education	All Programs	Student enrollment, workforce pathway participation
Meridian School District	Host District	All Programs	Site ownership, facilities, administration, governance
Mount Baker School District	K–12 Education	All Programs	Student enrollment, regional access
Nooksack Valley School District	K–12 Education	All Programs	Student enrollment, regional access
Bellingham Technical College	Postsecondary Education	Welding, HVAC+R, Automotive, Diesel, Maritime, Healthcare Programs	Articulated credit, dual credit, workforce alignment
Whatcom Community College	Postsecondary Education	Healthcare, Education, Hospitality, Business Pathways	Dual credit opportunities, postsecondary transitions
Western Washington University	Postsecondary Education	Early Childhood Education, Healthcare, Leadership Pathways	Degree pathways, transfer opportunities
PeaceHealth	Healthcare	Medical Assisting, Pre-	Clinical experiences, workforce

Partner Organization	Sector	WCSC Program Alignment	Primary Contribution
		Nursing, Biomedical Lab Science, Radiology, Sterile Processing, Pre-Physical Therapy	guidance, internships
Family Care Network	Healthcare	Medical Assisting, Nursing, Healthcare Pathways	Career exploration, workforce alignment
Unity Care NW	Healthcare	Medical Assisting, Healthcare Pathways	Healthcare career exposure and mentoring
Port of Bellingham	Maritime / Aviation / Economic Development	Maritime, Aviation	Industry expertise, internships, workforce development
Working Waterfront Coalition	Maritime Industry	Maritime	Industry guidance, workforce alignment
Maritime Employers and Marine Trades Partners	Maritime Industry	Maritime	Work based learning, industry certifications, internships
Bellingham International Airport Partners	Aviation	Aviation	Career awareness, aviation industry exposure
Regional Aviation Employers	Aerospace / Aviation	Aviation	Mentorship, internships, career pathway development
Regional Automotive Dealers	Transportation	Automotive & EV Systems	Equipment guidance, internships, workforce alignment
Automotive Service Providers	Transportation	Automotive & EV Systems	Work based learning, technical expertise
Fleet and Transportation	Transportation	Diesel Technology with CDL	Industry guidance, workforce experiences
Logistics and Freight	Transportation	Diesel Technology with CDL	Career pathways, internships
HVAC Contractors	Skilled Trades	HVAC+R	Apprenticeship pathways, industry expertise

Partner Organization	Sector	WCSC Program Alignment	Primary Contribution
Northwest Washington Building Trades	Skilled Trades	Welding, HVAC+R	Apprenticeship opportunities, workforce alignment
Manufacturing	Manufacturing	Welding	Industry guidance, employment pathways
Regional Fire Districts	Public Safety	Fire Science & EMS	Technical expertise, mentorship, workforce preparation
South Whatcom Fire Authority	Public Safety	Fire Science & EMS	Career exploration and practical training
EMS Providers	Public Safety	Fire Science & EMS	EMS pathway development, work-based learning
Whatcom Early Learning Center	Early Learning	Early Childhood Education	Laboratory experiences, practicum opportunities
Opportunity Council	Early Learning	Early Childhood Education	Workforce development and community partnerships
Regional Childcare Providers	Early Learning	Early Childhood Education	Internships, field experiences, workforce alignment
Northwest Workforce Council	Workforce Development	All Programs	Labor market analysis, workforce planning
Whatcom County Government	Public Sector	Multiple Programs	Regional workforce and economic development alignment
City of Bellingham	Public Sector	Multiple Programs	Community and economic development support
Chambers of Commerce	Business & Economic Development	Multiple Programs	Employer engagement, workforce advocacy

Partnership Outcomes

These partnerships collectively support:

- Workforce demand validation
- Industry advisory participation
- Work based learning experiences
- Internships and job shadowing
- Clinical and practicum experiences
- Dual credit opportunities
- Postsecondary articulation agreements
- Industry certifications
- Apprenticeship pathways
- Employment connections
- Economic development alignment

The strength and diversity of these partnerships demonstrate broad regional commitment to the Whatcom County Skills Center and reinforce its role as a workforce development hub serving students, employers and communities throughout Northwest Washington.

APPENDIX B

INTERDISTRICT COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR THE FINANCING AND OPERATION OF THE WHATCOM COUNTY SKILLS CENTER, A WASHINGTON STATE SKILLS CENTER

This Agreement by and between the following school districts (each hereinafter referred to as "Member District") and community colleges provides for the operation of the Whatcom County Skills Center, a Washington State Skills Center (hereinafter referred to as the "WCSC").

Bellingham School District
 Blaine School District
 Ferndale School District
 Lynden School District
 Meridian School District
 Nooksack Valley School District
 Mount Baker School District

This Agreement dated May 1, 2025 establishes the WCSC to begin operating during the 2026-27 school year. It is agreed by and among the several parties hereto as follows.

I. Needs and Purpose of Operation

The WCSC was established to provide education in career and technical education areas through a wider curriculum offering. The WCSC will not restrict local program development but will avoid unnecessary duplication of courses and expensive training equipment. It is further desired to provide flexibility in operation which will facilitate rapid program adjustments and meet emerging educational needs as they arise.

II. Terms of Agreement

The term of this Agreement shall be for ten years on a fiscal year basis beginning July 1, 2026, the date the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) recognizes the Inter-District Cooperative Agreement for the financing and operation of the WCSC, and is subject to the provisions for amendment, withdrawal, or dissolution contained herein. This agreement will be reviewed annual by the Administrative Council.

III. Location of Serving Facility

The WCSC main campus is located temporarily at 214 West Laurel Road, Bellingham, Washington. It will move to a permanent location on the Guide Meridian, Bellingham, Washington, when funding is provided by the Washington State Legislature and construction is completed, currently slated for the 2027-2029 biennium.

IV. Administrative Structure

- A. Administrative oversight of WCSC shall be provided by the WCSC Administrative Council, which will consist of the Superintendent or his/her designee from each member district. Each member of the Council shall have an equal vote. The WCSC director will serve as secretary and ex-officio member of the Administrative Council. To avoid conflicts of interest, the host district Superintendent may not serve as the Administrative Council Chair.
- B. Meridian School District, known as the Fiscal Management Agency, shall manage the WCSC under the direction and policies formulated by the Administrative Council. In the absence of such direction and policies and to the extent not inconsistent with the terms of this Agreement, general operating rules and regulations shall follow Meridian School District policies and procedures. The fiscal agent will have responsibility for human resource functions unless the staff is under contract with another agency or school district.
- C. The Administrative Council will be responsive to the director of the WCSC to assist with the operational decisions and emergencies.
- D. The Administrative Council will govern the WCSC under the direction and policies formulated and shall have the following responsibilities:
 - 1. Ensure that the cooperative is operating in a manner consistent with this Agreement.
 - 2. Formulate and establish policy relating to the operations of the Skills Center.
 - 3. Receive and act on recommendations from the member districts, the WCSC Director and such advisory committees as might subsequently be established.
 - 4. Review and/or approve rules and regulations concerning operations of the WCSC.
 - 5. Determine organization and staffing levels of the WCSC.
 - 6. Select, supervise and annually evaluate the WCSC director.
 - 7. Review and approve course offerings.
 - 8. Determine the slot assignments, if applicable, of students from the Member Districts.
 - 9. Establish and amend by-laws to govern Administrative Council organization, composition and conduct.

- E. A General Advisory Council (GAC) shall be created to serve as an advisory and coordinating link between the WCSC and the business communities within the Member Districts. GAC members shall represent both employers and employees. Selection and appointment to the GAC shall be made by the Administrative Council.

V. Description of Joint Financing Arrangement

A. Capital Investment

CAPITAL MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT	YEARLY CONTRIBUTION
Large Size District >6,000	
Bellingham School District	\$4,000
Moderate Size District >1,000 – 5,999	
- Blaine School District - Ferndale School District - Lynden School District - Meridian School District - Mount Baker School District - Nooksack Valley School District	\$3,000 \$3,000 \$3,000 \$3,000 \$3,000 \$3,000
Small Size District < 999	
	\$2,000
YEARLY TOTAL	\$22,000

It is hereby mutually agreed that the Member Districts shall provide the necessary building facilities and equipment in accordance with an asset preservation program compliant with WAC 293-347-023. Future capital improvements and major equipment purchases shall be financed according to a separate plan compliant with WAC 392-600-040.

CAPITAL MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT CONTRIBUTIONS BY CONSORTIUM DISTRICTS (per WAC 392-600-040)

B. Operational Costs

1. The cost of operating the WCSC may be met in the following manner:
 - a. State apportionment funds from state support for secondary vocational students enrolled in the WCSC.
 - b. Any federal, state, local or private allotments, grants, or contract training agreements received expressly for the WCSC.
 - c. Any federal or state special purpose allotments or grants received by Member Districts.
 - d. Any interlocal FTE agreements with community or technical colleges.
2. Definition of Terms
 - a. Cost of Operation: Cost of operation is defined to mean the total cost of operating the WCSC program, but specifically excludes capital investments and major items of equipment.
 - b. Student Enrollment Hours: Student enrollment hours are hereby defined to mean the hours for which each student is enrolled and carried on the WCSC register without regard to the actual attendance of students at the WCSC.
 - c. State Apportionment Funds: State apportionment funds are those funds paid by the state in support of approved program offerings of the WCSC. Students enrolled in both a high school and the WCSC may be claimed for up to a total of 1.6 FTE based on their enrolled hours. Both the WCSC and the student's resident district are limited to claiming a maximum of 1.0 FTE.
 - d. Slot: A slot is a measure of participation and consists of 540 hours of enrollment over a period of 180 days.
3. Procedures
 - a. An annual program budget shall be developed by the WCSC Director and submitted to the Administrative Council for approval. When approved, the budget shall be transmitted to the Board of Directors of the Meridian School District for action. A program budget account and format shall be maintained for auditing, accounting and reporting purposes.
 - b. The WCSC budget shall be developed and staffed based on minimum projected enrollment figures and for fluidity of program changes.

- c. The Administrative Council targets a goal of ten percent (10%) of the current expenditures to address potential general fund needs and maintain an acceptable and adequate minimum fund balance for WCSC Operations.
- d. Meridian School District shall report enrollment and claim state apportionment based on the state allocation for each student enrolled in the WCSC in a 540-hour instructional program. When WCSC also serves a student in academic courses not qualifying for career and technical education funding, the Academy shall ensure that the student's combined FTE reported for state funding does not exceed 1.6 FTE
- e. In the case where the approved budget revenue is short, WCSC's ending fund balance will be used to meet the budget shortfall.
- f. If the ending fund balance falls below zero, the shortfall will be shared among all Member Districts according to their percentage of student size and participation in the WCSC unless the Administrative Council determines otherwise.
- g. The Meridian School District shall claim any other federal, state, local or private grants or allotments available to the WCSC.
- h. The Meridian School District shall control, monitor and audit all financial transactions of the WCSC by following procedures of the State of Washington Accounting Manual for School Districts and report monthly to the Administrative Council on the financial status of the WCSC. When possible, the Meridian School District shall identify any additional costs and present the matter to the Administrative Council no later than March 31, prior to preparation of the budgets by the Member Districts.
- i. The Meridian School District shall be paid not less than five percent (5%) of the apportionment dollars expected by the WCSC for its services as Fiscal Management Agency. This indirect cost will be reimbursed to the Meridian School District through the apportionment process.
- j. Transportation costs for transporting students to and from the WCSC in district buses shall be borne by the district of student residence.
- k. Special education costs and services related to a student's enrollment to the WCSC are the responsibility of the student's school district.

4. Employment

- a. The Meridian School District will employ the Director of the WCSC in accordance with Meridian School District's policies and procedures and as authorized by the budget approved by the Administrative Council.
- b. Hiring agencies for WCSC are responsible for paying salaries and mandatory costs of employment.
- c. Criminal record checks, in accordance with Chapter RCW 28A.400 300 section of *Hiring and Discharge* will be performed for all adults acting as an employee on behalf of WCSC who have regularly unsupervised access to students, will be performed prior to their access to supervising students.

5. Special Education Funding

Consortium districts will contribute a portion of funding to support a special education support coordinator for WCSC (See Attachment A)

6. Student Records

In accordance with the CDC, FERPA allows schools to disclose information from a student's education record, without parental consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions:

- School officials with legitimate educational interest
- Other schools to which a student is transferring

Schools and districts will share student information and records in service of the student with WCSC. WCSC will ensure all records are stored in accordance with district policy.

7. Shared Transportation

At times it is a benefit between consortium members to permit transportation of students from other consortium districts on behalf of student participation of WCSC. Consortium members will work collaboratively to access the availability of shared transportation.

8. Provisions Not Covered

Any situations not covered in the foregoing provisions shall be resolved by decisions of the Administrative Council.

VI. Program Scope, Eligibility and Retention

A. Program

The program or course offerings of the WCSC shall be recommended by the WCSC Director with approval by the Administrative Council. Areas in which new courses may be offered will be first examined through a feasibility study.

The WCSC facilities may be made available for purposes other than secondary career and technical education only after the demands of secondary career and technical education are met and when the other uses do not interfere with WCSC operations.

B. Promotional Access

Consortium districts agree to promote and support WCSC programming and enrollment, including and not limited to providing contact information, promotion of open houses, hosting information sessions and summer school opportunities.

C. Approval

The program and course offerings of the WCSC shall be determined by the Administrative Council. The WCSC's career and technical education program shall consist of career and technical courses approved by the state of Washington.

D. Services

Pursuant to WAC 392-600-020 (10), Member Districts shall be responsible for all ancillary services for students who reside in their district, including but not limited to transportation, special education, and other non-core skill center needs of the students.

E. Eligibility

Any student enrolled in a high school of any Member District, is eligible to attend the Skills Center, subject to the following:

1. General admission requirements as established by the Administrative Council,
2. Requirements set by the Board of Directors of the district of student residence, and,
3. Availability of space

F. Retention

Continued enrollment of students in the WCSC shall be governed by policies established by the Administrative Council.

VII. Resolution of Conflict

A majority vote of the Administrative Council shall govern in all matters. In the event a

majority vote cannot be reached by the Council on an issue requiring resolution, the matter shall be referred to a mutually acceptable third-party mediator for final resolution. If the matter cannot be resolved there, it will be referred to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

VIII. Withdrawal

It is hereby agreed that any Member District may withdraw at any time after the initial ten-year period provided it shall be done on an orderly basis and pursuant to the following:

- A. In the event that a Member District desires to withdraw from the program, such Member District desiring withdrawal shall give notice in writing to WCSC and all Member Districts no later than October 1 of the fiscal year preceding withdrawal, said withdrawal to be effective on September 1 of the next succeeding fiscal year.
- B. Land, improvements and equipment purchased for the WCSC shall be the property of and remain with the WCSC.

IX. Dissolution Provisions

The cooperative operation of the facility under this Agreement can be dissolved only under the following procedures.

- A. Procedures for the dissolution of the operation of the school plant facilities under an inter-district cooperative plan shall not be instituted prior to the expiration of ten years after the date of State Board of Education approval of the financial plan for the construction of such facilities; provided, however, that a request for dissolution prior to the expiration of ten years may be approved when in the judgment of the State Board of Education there is sufficient cause.
- B. Any plan for dissolution in paragraph A. above shall be submitted to the State Board of Education for review and approval prior to proceeding with dissolution action.

X. Admission of New District

Whenever a new district wishes to become a member of the WCSC or to buy slots by way of payment of a share of the capital investment, it shall submit to the Administrative Council a formal proposal based on approved guidelines and procedures established by the Administrative Council.

XI. Gifts

The WCSC may receive gifts, cash, equipment, or services from any source whatsoever,

contingent upon acceptance by the Administrative Council and, where applicable, approval of the Board of Directors of the Meridian School District.

XII. Amendment

This Agreement may be amended by agreement of all Member Districts party hereto.

XIII. Joint Resolutions

Resolutions by the Member Districts have been duly consummated, and by this reference and attachment are made a part of this Agreement.

ATTACHMENT A**SPECIAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR ACCOUNT
CONTRIBUTIONS BY CONSORTIUM DISTRICTS**

Consortium districts will contribute a portion of funding to support a special education support coordinator for WCSC. This coordinator's duties will be:

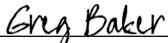
- Primarily responsible for the development, implementation and ongoing improvement of support services for SPED students enrolled at WCSC
- Screen SPED student applications and IEPs to assure appropriate placements into WCSC programs and to communicate with and meet with IEP teams prior to enrollment
- Communicate and provide direction and coaching, for WCSC teachers regarding the SPED students in their classes and the specific support needs of each student.
- Provide leadership and provide direct support to teachers to modify instructional lessons to meet learning goals and accommodations required for each SPED student and to adapt the lessons to meet the developmental needs of each student
- Monitor student progress on a periodic basis and provide immediate interventions and support when students do not meet progress expectations. This includes weekly behavior checks for students who have behavior concerns indicated on their IEP as well as attendance, assignment completion and grades
- Communicate regularly with IEP support teachers in home districts to provide progress reports and to coordinate for specific district-provided support or assistance individual students need to meet learning goals

Each consortium district will contribute funds to support this position based on an equitable percentage of 14.285% until a rounded proportion of their 3-year average enrollments can be established from 2026-27 through 2028-29 (and moving forward) as indicated in the table below. The initial value of the position will be \$154,000.

District	Percentage	3 Year Avg.	Annual Contribution
Bellingham	14.285%	TBD	\$22,000
Blaine	14.285%	TBD	\$22,000
Ferndale	14.285%	TBD	\$22,000
Lynden	14.285%	TBD	\$22,000
Meridian	14.285%	TBD	\$22,000
Nooksack Valley	14.285%	TBD	\$22,000
Mount Baker	14.285%	TBD	\$22,000
Total	100%		\$154,000

RESOLUTION APPROVAL BY WCSC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Signed by:4/17/2025 | 8:08 PM PDT



Superintendent, Bellingham School DistrictDate

DocuSigned by:3/26/2025 | 10:09 AM PDT



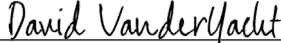
Superintendent, Blaine School DistrictDate

Signed by:4/1/2025 | 1:06 PM PDT



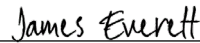
Superintendent, Ferndale School DistrictDate

Signed by:3/20/2025 | 9:48 PM PDT



Superintendent, Lynden School DistrictDate

Signed by:3/28/2025 | 12:04 PM PDT



Superintendent, Meridian School DistrictDate

Signed by:3/27/2025 | 6:49 PM PDT



Superintendent, Mount Baker School DistrictDate

DocuSigned by:4/17/2025 | 12:57 PM PDT



Superintendent, Nooksack Valley School DistrictDate

APPENDIX C

NOOKSACK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 506 RESOLUTION NO. 10 2022-2023

The Board of Directors of Nooksack Valley School District 506 intends to participate in the Branch/Core Campus of the Northwest Career & Technical Academy in Bellingham, Washington.

The Board of Directors of Nooksack Valley School District 506 will also follow the responsibilities as outlined by WAC 392-600-020 with regards to student participation in accessing the skills center. These shall include, but are not limited to transportation, special education services and other non-core skill center needs of the student.

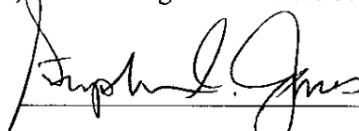
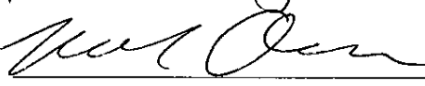
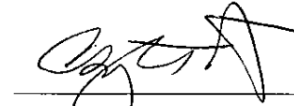
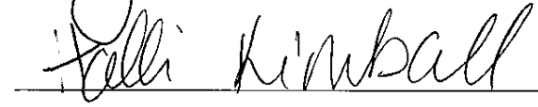
The Board also recognizes the requirement to contribute to the capital maintenance account per WAC 392-600-040 which will be set up by the Administrative Council's Interdistrict Agreement for Finance and Operations of the Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center.

The Superintendent of Nooksack Valley School District 506 will participate in, and be a voting member of the Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center.

This resolution is null and void if 1) the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, State of Washington does not approve the formation and subsequent operation of the Northwest Career & Technical Academy, Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center in Bellingham, Washington; 2) the legislature does not supply capital funding for the establishment of the skills center; or 3) the participating school districts fail to complete a mutually-agreeable interlocal agreement pursuant to WAC 392-600-020.

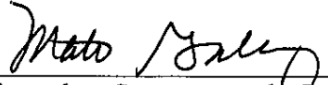
The forgoing resolution was adopted at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the aforesaid school district on the sixteenth day of February 2023, the undersigned directors being present and voting.

By:


Directors

Attest:



Superintendent Secretary to the Board

Resolution 02-23

Northwest Career & Technical Academy
Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center
Bellingham, WA
Agreement to Participate

The Board of Directors of Meridian School District 505 intends to participate in the Branch/Core Campus of the Northwest Career & Technical Academy in Bellingham, Washington.

The Board of Directors of Meridian School District 505 will also follow the responsibilities as outlined by WAC 392-600-020 with regards to student participation in accessing the skills center. These shall include, but are not limited to transportation, special education services and other non-core skill center needs of the student.

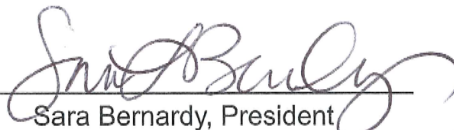
The Board also recognizes the requirement to contribute to the capital maintenance account per WAC 392-600-040 which will be set up by the Administrative Council's Interdistrict Agreement for Finance and Operations of the Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center.

The Superintendent of Meridian School District 505 will participate in, and be a voting member of the Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center.

This resolution is null and void if 1) the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, State of Washington does not approve the formation and subsequent operation of the Northwest Career & Technical Academy, Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center in Bellingham, Washington; 2) the legislature does not supply capital funding for the establishment of the skills center; or 3) the participating school districts fail to complete a mutually-agreeable interlocal agreement pursuant to WAC 392-600-020.

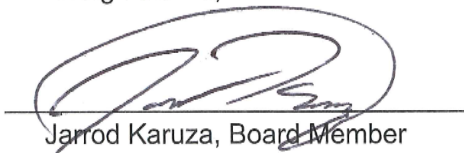
Meridian School District, No. 505
Bellingham, Washington

BOARD of EDUCATION


Sara Bernardy, President

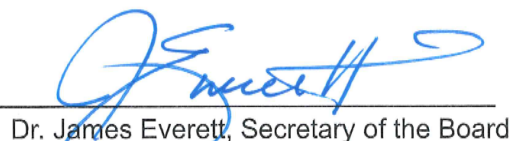

Craig Mitchell, Vice President


Marty Gray, Board Member


Jarrod Karuza, Board Member


Steve Corwin, Board Member

ATTESTED:


Dr. James Everett, Secretary of the Board

Northwest Career & Technical Academy
Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center
Bellingham, WA
Agreement to Participate

The Board of Directors of Ferndale School District 502 intends to participate in the Branch/Core Campus of the Northwest Career & Technical Academy in Bellingham, Washington.

The Board of Directors of Ferndale School District 502 will also follow the responsibilities as outlined by WAC 392-600-020 with regards to student participation in accessing the skills center. These shall include, but are not limited to transportation, special education services and other non-core skill center needs of the student.

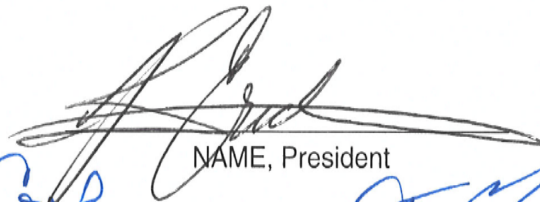
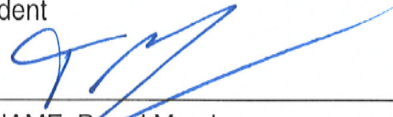
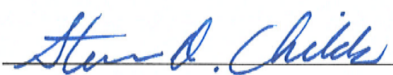
The Board also recognizes the requirement to contribute to the capital maintenance account per WAC 392-600-040 which will be set up by the Administrative Council's Interdistrict Agreement for Finance and Operations of the Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center.

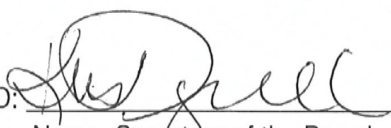
The Superintendent of Ferndale School District 502 will participate in, and be a voting member of the Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center.

This resolution is null and void if 1) the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, State of Washington does not approve the formation and subsequent operation of the Northwest Career & Technical Academy, Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center in Bellingham, Washington; 2) the legislature does not supply capital funding for the establishment of the skills center; or 3) the participating school districts fail to complete a mutually-agreeable interlocal agreement pursuant to WAC 392-600-020.

Ferndale School District 502
Ferndale, Washington

BOARD of EDUCATION

 _____ NAME, Vice President	 _____ NAME, President	 _____ NAME, Board Member
_____ NAME, Board Member	 _____ NAME, Board Member	

ATTESTED: 

Name, Secretary of the Board

Adopted at a regular meeting of the Ferndale School District 502 Board of Directors on 3/28/23

Northwest Career & Technical Academy
Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center
Bellingham, WA
Agreement to Participate

The Board of Directors of Lynden School District 504 intends to participate in the Branch/Core Campus of the Northwest Career & Technical Academy in Bellingham, Washington.

The Board of Directors of Lynden School District 504 will also follow the responsibilities as outlined by WAC 392-600-020 with regards to student participation in accessing the skills center. These shall include, but are not limited to transportation, special education services and other non-core skill center needs of the student.

The Board also recognizes the requirement to contribute to the capital maintenance account per WAC 392-600-040 which will be set up by the Administrative Council's Interdistrict Agreement for Finance and Operations of the Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center.

The Superintendent of Lynden School District 504 will participate in, and be a voting member of the Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center.

This resolution is null and void if 1) the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, State of Washington does not approve the formation and subsequent operation of the Northwest Career & Technical Academy, Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center in Bellingham, Washington; 2) the legislature does not supply capital funding for the establishment of the skills center; or 3) the participating school districts fail to complete a mutually-agreeable interlocal agreement pursuant to WAC 392-600-020.

Lynden School District 504
Lynden, Washington

BOARD of EDUCATION


Vice President

Board Member


President


Board Member


Board Member

ATTESTED: 
Name, Secretary of the Board

Adopted at a regular meeting of the Lynden School District 504 Board of Directors on March 23, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 09-23

**INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN BRANCH/CORE CAMPUS
OF THE NORTHWEST CAREER & TECHNICAL ACADEMY IN
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON**

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Bellingham School District No. 501 intends to participate in the Branch/Core Campus of the Northwest Career & Technical Academy in Bellingham, Washington.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Directors of Bellingham School District No. 501 will follow the responsibilities as outlined by WAC 392-600-020 with regards to student participation in accessing the skills center. These shall include, but are not limited to transportation, special education services and other non-core skill center needs of the student.

The Board also recognizes the requirement to contribute to the capital maintenance account per WAC 392-600-040 which will be set up by the Administrative Council's Interdistrict Agreement for Finance and Operations of the Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center.

The Superintendent of Bellingham School District 501 will participate in and be a voting member of the Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center.

This resolution is null and void if 1) the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, State of Washington does not approve the formation and subsequent operation of the Northwest Career & Technical Academy, Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center in Bellingham, Washington; 2) the legislature does not supply capital funding for the establishment of the skills center; or 3) the participating school districts fail to complete a mutually-agreeable interlocal agreement pursuant to WAC 392-600-020.

ADOPTED this 16th day of March, 2023.

**Board of Directors
Bellingham School District No. 501
Whatcom County, Washington**

Kelly M. Bashaw

Douglas W. Benjamin

Camille Diaz Hackler

Jennifer I. Mason

Katie Rose

Attest:

Greg W. Baker
Secretary to the Board

Northwest Career & Technical Academy
Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center
Bellingham, WA
Agreement to Participate

The Board of Directors of Blaine School District 503 intends to participate in the Branch/Core Campus of the Northwest Career & Technical Academy in Bellingham, Washington.

The Board of Directors of Blaine School District 503 will also follow the responsibilities as outlined by WAC 392-600-020 with regards to student participation in accessing the skills center. These shall include, but are not limited to transportation, special education services and other non-core skill center needs of the student.

The Board also recognizes the requirement to contribute to the capital maintenance account per WAC 392-600-040 which will be set up by the Administrative Council's Interdistrict Agreement for Finance and Operations of the Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center.

The Superintendent of Blaine School District 503 will participate in, and be a voting member of the Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center.

This resolution is null and void if 1) the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, State of Washington does not approve the formation and subsequent operation of the Northwest Career & Technical Academy, Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center in Bellingham, Washington; 2) the legislature does not supply capital funding for the establishment of the skills center; or 3) the participating school districts fail to complete a mutually-agreeable interlocal agreement pursuant to WAC 392-600-020.

Blaine School District 503
Blaine, Washington

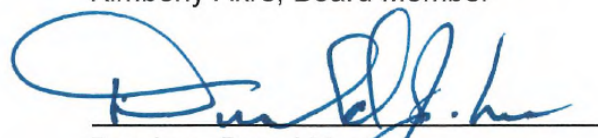
BOARD of EDUCATION


Dougal Thomas, President


Charles Gibson, Vice President


Kimberly Akre, Board Member


Erika Creydt, Board Member


Don Leu, Board Member

ATTESTED: 
Dr. Christopher Granger, Secretary of the Board

Northwest Career & Technical Academy
Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center
Bellingham, WA
Agreement to Participate

The Board of Directors of Mount Baker School District 507 intends to participate in the Branch/Core Campus of the Northwest Career & Technical Academy in Bellingham, Washington.

The Board of Directors of Mount Baker School District 507 will also follow the responsibilities as outlined by WAC 392-600-020 with regards to student participation in accessing the skills center. These shall include, but are not limited to transportation, special education services and other non-core skill center needs of the student.

The Board also recognizes the requirement to contribute to the capital maintenance account per WAC 392-600-040 which will be set up by the Administrative Council's Interdistrict Agreement for Finance and Operations of the Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center.

The Superintendent of Mount Baker School District 507 will participate in, and be a voting member of the Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center.

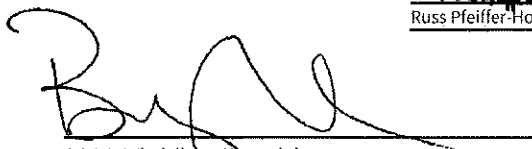
This resolution is null and void if 1) the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, State of Washington does not approve the formation and subsequent operation of the Northwest Career & Technical Academy, Whatcom County Branch/Core Campus Skills Center in Bellingham, Washington; 2) the legislature does not supply capital funding for the establishment of the skills center; or 3) the participating school districts fail to complete a mutually-agreeable interlocal agreement pursuant to WAC 392-600-020.

Mount Baker School District 507
Deming, Washington

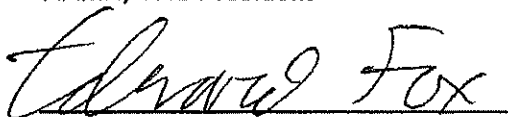
BOARD of EDUCATION


Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt (Mar 10, 2023 08:38 PST)

NAME, President

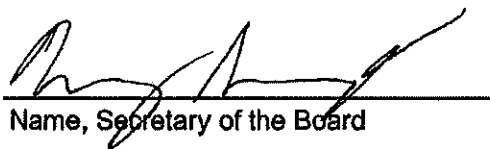

NAME, Vice President

NAME, Board Member


NAME, Board Member

NAME, Board Member

ATTESTED:


Name, Secretary of the Board

Adopted at a regular meeting of the Mount Baker School District 507 Board of Directors on 3/9/23.



ISLAND
265 NE Kettle St., Ste.
102
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
360.675.5966

SAN JUAN
540 Guard St., Ste. 160
(PO Box 1696)
Friday Harbor, WA 98250
360.378.4662

SKAGIT
2005 E. College Way
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
360.416.3600

WHATCOM
101 Prospect Street
(PO Box 2009)
Bellingham, WA 98225
360.676.3241

June 8, 2026

Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
School Facilities and Organization
Olympia, Washington

RE: Letter of Support for the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Northwest Workforce Council, the Local Workforce Development Board serving Whatcom, Skagit, Island, and San Juan Counties, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the proposed Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus and its request for state capital funding.

Employers throughout Northwest Washington continue to experience workforce shortages across a wide range of industries, including healthcare, skilled trades, transportation, aviation, maritime, public safety, hospitality, and early childhood education. The proposed Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus represents a critical investment in developing the future workforce needed to support our regional economy and address both current and projected workforce demands.

The Whatcom County Skills Center will provide students with access to high-quality career and technical education pathways that align directly with occupations experiencing significant hiring challenges throughout our region. By connecting students to industry-relevant training, technical skill development, industry-recognized credentials, and work-based learning opportunities, the Skills Center will help prepare young people for successful careers while strengthening regional talent pipelines.

As a workforce development partner, Northwest Workforce Council recognizes the importance of creating meaningful career-connected learning experiences that bridge education and employment. The proposed Core Campus will expand opportunities for students to gain exposure to industry standards, workplace expectations, apprenticeship pathways, postsecondary education options, and in-demand careers while still in high school.

The Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus will create educational opportunities that do not currently exist within Northwest Washington and will serve as a valuable resource for students, employers, school districts, and communities throughout the region. This investment aligns closely with

regional workforce priorities and will help ensure that local employers have access to a skilled workforce prepared to meet future economic needs.

Importantly, the Core Campus will expand access to specialized career and technical education opportunities for students across multiple school districts, creating a centralized regional hub for workforce preparation that benefits the entire Northwest Washington region. By increasing access to high-demand career pathways and industry-connected learning opportunities, the project will strengthen both educational outcomes and long-term economic vitality.

Northwest Workforce Council values the opportunity to partner with the Whatcom County Skills Center through advisory participation, labor market information, career exploration activities, internships, work-based learning opportunities, apprenticeship connections, and other workforce development initiatives that support student success.

We respectfully encourage support for the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus and appreciate the opportunity to endorse this important investment in Northwest Washington's future workforce.

Sincerely,



Marissa B. Cahill
Executive Director / CEO

E: mbcahill@workforcenorthwest.org M: 360.739.9352 W: nwboard.org

Serving Whatcom, Skagit, Island, and San Juan Counties



June 8, 2026

Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
School Facilities and Organization
Olympia, Washington

RE: Letter of Support for the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to offer our strong support for the proposed Whatcom County Skills Center (WCSC) Core Campus and its request for state capital funding. The Port of Bellingham serves as the designated Associate Development Organization (ADO) for Whatcom County. In this role, we are the primary local liaison for Washington State Department of Commerce, administering economic development initiatives and developing the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) countywide. One of our core strategies is connecting workforce development and educational pipelines to businesses. There is no better example of this type of work than the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus.

Employers throughout Northwest Washington continue to experience workforce shortages across multiple sectors, including healthcare, skilled trades, transportation, aviation, maritime industries, public safety, hospitality and early childhood education. The proposed WCSC Core Campus represents a critical investment in developing the future workforce needed to support our regional economy and meet growing industry demand.

The Whatcom County Skills Center will provide students with access to workforce pathways that align directly with occupations experiencing significant hiring challenges throughout our region. By connecting students to industry relevant training, technical skills development, certifications and work based learning experiences, the project will help strengthen workforce pipelines and prepare students for successful careers.

As an industry partner, the Port of Bellingham recognizes the importance of creating authentic learning experiences that connect education to real world career opportunities. We support efforts that allow students to gain exposure to industry standards, workplace expectations and career pathways while still in high school.

The WCSC Core Campus will create new educational opportunities that do not currently exist within Northwest Washington and will serve as an important resource for students, employers and communities throughout the region. We believe this investment will contribute significantly to workforce development efforts and help address current and future labor market needs.

The Port of Bellingham values the opportunity to partner with the Whatcom County Skills Center through advisory participation, career exploration activities, internships, work based learning opportunities, mentorship, apprenticeship pathways and workforce development initiatives.

We respectfully encourage support for the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus and appreciate the opportunity to support this important regional investment.

Sincerely,



Tyler Schroeder

Director of Economic Development
Port of Bellingham



Satpal Singh Sidhu
Whatcom County Executive
BSc, BSEE, MBA, Fulbright Scholar



May 29, 2026

Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
School Facilities and Organization
Olympia, Washington

RE: Letter of Support for the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus

To Whom It May Concern:

As Whatcom County Executive, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the proposed Whatcom County Skills Center (WCSC) Core Campus and its request for state capital funding.

In the greater Northwest Washington, employers continue to experience critical shortages across multiple sectors, including healthcare, skilled trades, transportation, aviation, maritime industries, public safety, hospitality and early childhood education. This facility is exactly what our community needs to develop the future workforce needed to grow our regional economy.

The Whatcom County Skills Center will provide students with direct routes to occupations experiencing significant hiring challenges throughout our region. By connecting students to industry relevant training, technical skills development, certifications and work-based learning experiences, the project will help strengthen workforce pipelines and prepare students for successful careers.

Whatcom County recognizes the importance of aligning our educational and technical training with real world career opportunities. We support efforts that allow students to gain exposure to industry standards, workplace expectations and career pathways while still in high school.

The WCSC Core Campus is ideally located in central Whatcom and will create new educational opportunities that do not currently exist within Northwest Washington. It will serve as an important resource for students, employers and communities throughout the region. We believe this investment will contribute significantly to workforce development efforts and help address current and future labor market needs.

Whatcom County values the opportunity to partner with Meridian School District to bring this project to fruition. We respectfully encourage support for the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus and appreciate the opportunity to support this important regional investment.

Sincerely,

Satpal Singh Sidhu
Whatcom County Executive

COUNTY COURTHOUSE

311 Grand Avenue, Suite #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
Phone: (360) 778-5010

**COUNCILMEMBER**

Kaylee Galloway

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

FROM THE DESK OF COUNCIL CHAIR KAYLEE GALLOWAY

Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
School Facilities and Organization
Olympia, Washington

June 8, 2026

RE: Letter of Support for the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus

To Whom It May Concern:

As Chair of the Whatcom County Council, I am pleased to offer my strong support for the proposed Whatcom County Skills Center (WCSC) Core Campus and its request for state capital funding.

Employers throughout Northwest Washington continue to experience workforce shortages across multiple sectors, including healthcare, skilled trades, transportation, aviation, maritime industries, public safety, hospitality and early childhood education. The proposed Skills Center Core Campus is exactly the right approach to ensuring that our community can fill these gaps well into the future.

By connecting students to industry relevant training early and directly tying it to technical skills development, certifications and work-based learning experiences, this project will help strengthen our workforce pipelines and prepare students for successful careers.

As Council Chair, I frequently hear from both educators and business leaders about the importance of creating authentic learning experiences that connect education to real world career opportunities. I support efforts that allow students to gain exposure to industry standards, workplace expectations, and career pathways while still in high school.

The Skills Center will create new educational opportunities that do not currently exist within Northwest Washington and will serve as an important resource for students, employers and communities throughout the region. I believe this investment will contribute significantly to workforce development efforts and help address current and future labor market needs.

Meridian School District is ideally located to support students across Whatcom County, and I strongly encourage support for the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus and appreciate the opportunity to support this important regional investment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kaylee Galloway". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kaylee" being more prominent than the last name "Galloway".

Kaylee Galloway
Whatcom County Council Chair



June 2026

Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
School Facilities and Organization
Olympia, Washington

RE: Letter of Support for the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Career Connect NW, we are pleased to express our strong support for the proposed Whatcom County Skills Center (WCSC) Core Campus and its request for state capital funding.

Career Connect NW serves as the Career Connected Learning network for the Northwest region including Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, Island, and San Juan counties and has three goals: to 1) Catalyze Regional Stakeholder Partnerships, Collaborations, and Strategies, 2) Increase Equity and Access to High Wage/High Demand Career Opportunities, and 3) Support Coherent Career Pathways and Workforce Readiness. The proposed Whatcom County Skills Center contributes to the regional success of each one of these goals.

The Whatcom County Skills Center represents a transformational opportunity for students, families and communities throughout Northwest Washington. The project addresses a longstanding regional need by creating the first permanent comprehensive skills center facility serving Whatcom County and surrounding communities.

The proposed WCSC Core Campus will expand access to career connected learning opportunities, workforce preparation programs, industry certifications and postsecondary pathways for students from urban, suburban and rural communities. By increasing access to high quality workforce education opportunities, the project helps ensure that a student's geographic location does not limit their ability to explore careers and prepare for future success.

Career Connect NW recognizes the positive impact this project will have on educational opportunity, economic mobility and regional prosperity. The skills center will strengthen workforce development efforts while helping students connect their education to meaningful careers and future opportunities.

The project has been developed through strong collaboration among school districts, employers, higher education institutions and community organizations. This regional approach reflects a shared commitment to preparing students for life after high school while supporting the long-term economic health of Northwest Washington.

We believe the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus will serve as a valuable regional resource for decades to come. Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to advancing equitable, career-connected learning opportunities for students across Washington State.

Sincerely,

Jenny Veltri
Director
Career Connect NW

Sinead Fitzpatrick Plagge
Administrator
Career Connect NW



Office of the President

Professional Technical Education

June 8, 2026

Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
School Facilities and Organization
Olympia, Washington

RE: Letter of Support for the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Bellingham Technical College, I am pleased to express our strong support for the proposed Whatcom County Skills Center (WCSC) Core Campus and its request for state capital funding.

As a higher education institution committed to preparing students for successful futures, we recognize the importance of creating clear and meaningful pathways between K–12 education, workforce preparation and postsecondary education. The proposed WCSC Core Campus will provide students throughout Northwest Washington with expanded access to career connected learning opportunities, industry aligned coursework and pathways that support both employment and continued education.

The Whatcom County Skills Center addresses a longstanding gap in educational access for students in Whatcom County and surrounding communities. The proposed facility will provide access to sixteen workforce pathways aligned with regional and statewide labor market needs while helping students explore careers, develop technical skills and earn credentials that support future academic and professional success.

We believe the WCSC Core Campus will strengthen alignment between secondary and postsecondary education by creating opportunities for dual credit, articulated credit, industry certifications and seamless transitions into certificate apprenticeship and degree programs. These opportunities will help students accelerate their educational journeys while reducing barriers to career preparation and postsecondary success.

Bellingham Technical College values the opportunity to collaborate with the Whatcom County Skills Center through activities such as dual credit programming, articulation agreements, curriculum alignment, career exploration opportunities and workforce pathway development. We view this project as an important investment in both student success and the long-term economic vitality of Northwest Washington.

We respectfully encourage support for the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus and appreciate the opportunity to partner in this important regional initiative.

Sincerely,

Jim Lemerond, Ed.D.
President



June 8, 2026

Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
School Facilities and Organization
Olympia, Washington

Letter of Support for Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus

Dear leadership,

We are writing to express our strong support for the proposed Whatcom County Skills Center (WCSC) Core Campus and its request for state capital funding.

The Whatcom County Skills Center represents a transformational opportunity for students, families and communities throughout Northwest Washington. The project addresses a longstanding regional need by creating the first permanent comprehensive skills center facility serving Whatcom County and surrounding communities.

The proposed WCSC Core Campus will expand access to career connected learning opportunities, workforce preparation programs, industry certifications and postsecondary pathways for students from urban, suburban and rural communities. By increasing access to high-quality workforce education opportunities, the project helps ensure that a student's geographic location does not limit their ability to explore careers and prepare for future success.

As a community and industry partner, PeaceHealth recognizes the positive impact this project will have on educational opportunity, economic mobility and regional prosperity. The skills center will strengthen workforce development efforts while helping students connect their education to meaningful careers and future opportunities, including those in healthcare.

The project has been developed through strong collaboration among school districts, employers, higher education institutions and community organizations. This regional approach reflects a shared commitment to preparing students for life after high school while supporting the long-term economic health of Northwest Washington.

We believe the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus will serve as a valuable regional resource for decades to come and respectfully encourage support for this important investment in students, workforce development and community success.

Sincerely,

Charles Prosper, MSPT, MBA
Chief Executive
PeaceHealth Northwest Region



WHATCOM
community
FOUNDATION

1500 Cornwall Ave., Suite 202
Bellingham, Washington 98225
360.671.6463 whatcomcf.org

Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
School Facilities and Organization
Olympia, Washington

RE: Letter of Support for the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus

June 8th, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Whatcom Community Foundation, I am pleased to express our strong support for the proposed Whatcom County Skills Center (WCSC) Core Campus and its request for state capital funding.

The Whatcom County Skills Center represents a transformational opportunity for students, families and communities throughout Northwest Washington. The project addresses a longstanding regional need by creating the first permanent comprehensive skills center facility serving Whatcom County and surrounding communities.

The proposed WCSC Core Campus will expand access to career connected learning opportunities, workforce preparation programs, industry certifications and postsecondary pathways for students from urban, suburban and rural communities. By increasing access to high quality workforce education opportunities, the project helps ensure that a student's geographic location does not limit their ability to explore careers and prepare for future success.

As a community partner, the Whatcom Community Foundation recognizes the positive impact this project will have on educational opportunity, economic mobility and regional prosperity. The skills center will strengthen workforce development efforts while helping students connect their education to meaningful careers and future opportunities.

The project has been developed through strong collaboration among school districts, employers, higher education institutions and community organizations. This regional approach reflects a shared commitment to preparing students for life after high school while supporting the long-term economic health of Northwest Washington.

We believe the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus will serve as a valuable regional resource for decades to come and respectfully encourage support for this important investment in students, workforce development and community success.

Lastly, I recognize the State's budget constraints make funding allocations even more challenging. This project leverages significant private philanthropic capital and cross-sector collaboration at a time when many young people are experiencing anxiety and despair about their future. The Whatcom County Skills Center will expand their opportunities and uplift their sense of agency.

With deep appreciation for your consideration,

Mauri Ingram
President & CEO
Whatcom Community Foundation



Northwest Educational Service District 189

Together We Can

Board of Directors:

Kelly Bashaw
Cory Duskin
Dr. Alan Erickson
Merle Kirkley
Ann McMurray
Beth Niemi
Sue Phillips
Mark Venn

1601 R. Avenue, Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 299-4000 | Fax (360) 299-4070
www.nwesd.org

Dr. Ismael Vivanco, *Superintendent*

June 8, 2026

Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
School Facilities and Organization
Olympia, Washington

RE: Letter of Support for the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Northwest Educational Service District #189 (NWESD), I am pleased to express our strong support for the proposed Whatcom County Skills Center (WCSC) Core Campus and its request for state capital funding.

The WCSC represents a transformational opportunity for students, families and communities throughout northwest Washington. The project addresses a longstanding regional need by creating the first permanent comprehensive skills center facility serving Whatcom County and surrounding communities.

The proposed WCSC Core Campus will expand access to career connected learning opportunities, workforce preparation programs, industry certifications and postsecondary pathways for students from urban, suburban and rural communities. By increasing access to high quality workforce education opportunities, the project helps ensure that a student's geographic location does not limit their ability to explore careers and prepare for future success.

As a community partner, NWESD recognizes the positive impact this project will have on educational opportunity, economic mobility and regional prosperity. The skills center will strengthen workforce development efforts while helping students connect their education to meaningful careers and future opportunities.

The project has been developed through strong collaboration among school districts, employers, higher education institutions and community organizations. This regional approach reflects a shared commitment to preparing students for life after high school while supporting the long-term economic health of northwest Washington.

We believe the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus will serve as a valuable regional resource for decades to come and respectfully encourage support for this important investment in students, workforce development and community success.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ismael Vivanco
Superintendent

ivivanco@nwesd.org | (360) 299-4003



Lynette Brower, Director Jerry Grisham, Assistant Director Aaron Smith, Assistant Director
2205 West Campus Place | Mount Vernon, WA 98221 | nwtech.k12.wa.us | 360 848-0706
LEARN DO LEAD

June 5, 2026

Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
School Facilities and Organization
Olympia, Washington

Subject: Letter of Support for the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the Northwest Career & Technical Academy (NCTA), I am pleased to express our strong support for the proposed Whatcom County Skills Center (WCSC) Core Campus and its request for state capital funding.

The Whatcom County Skills Center represents a transformational opportunity for students, families and communities throughout Northwest Washington. The project addresses a longstanding regional need by creating the first permanent comprehensive skills center facility serving Whatcom County and surrounding communities. The proposed WCSC Core Campus will expand access to career-connected learning opportunities, workforce preparation programs, industry-recognized credentials and postsecondary pathways for students from urban, suburban and rural communities. By increasing access to high-quality career and technical education, the project helps ensure that a student's geographic location does not limit their ability to explore careers, develop technical skills and prepare for future success.

As a fellow skills center serving students across multiple school districts, NCTA recognizes the critical role dedicated facilities play in delivering high-quality workforce education programs. Modern, purpose-built learning environments allow students to engage in hands-on instruction aligned with industry standards while supporting partnerships with employers, labor organizations and postsecondary institutions.

This project has been developed through strong collaboration among school districts, employers, higher education institutions and community organizations. Such regional partnerships are essential to ensuring students have access to programs that align with workforce needs and lead to meaningful employment and continued education.

The Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus will strengthen workforce development efforts throughout Northwest Washington while helping students connect their education to high-demand career opportunities. The facility will serve as a valuable regional resource for decades to come, supporting both student success and the economic vitality of our communities.

NCTA respectfully encourages the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and state policymakers to support this important investment in students, workforce development and community prosperity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Brower", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Lynette Brower



June 11, 2026

Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
School Facilities and Organization
Olympia, Washington

RE: Letter of Support for the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Chuckanut Health Foundation, I am pleased to express our strong support for the proposed Whatcom County Skills Center (WCSC) Core Campus and its request for state capital funding.

As education approaches continue to grow and innovate to meet the evolving needs of students today, and to align those needs with the changing world we find ourselves in, the Whatcom County Skills Center represents a transformational opportunity for students, families and communities throughout Northwest Washington. The project addresses a longstanding regional need by creating the first permanent comprehensive skills center facility serving Whatcom County and surrounding communities.

The proposed WCSC Core Campus will expand access to career connected learning opportunities, workforce preparation programs, industry certifications and postsecondary pathways for students from urban, suburban and rural communities. By increasing access to high quality workforce education opportunities, the project helps ensure that a student's geographic location does not limit their ability to explore careers and prepare for future success.

As a community partner, Chuckanut Health Foundation recognizes the positive impact this project will have on educational opportunity, economic mobility and regional prosperity. The skills center will strengthen workforce development efforts while helping students connect their education to meaningful careers and future opportunities.

The project has been developed through strong collaboration among school districts, employers, higher education institutions and community organizations. This regional approach reflects a shared commitment to preparing students for life after high school while supporting the long-term economic health of Northwest Washington.

We believe the Whatcom County Skills Center Core Campus will serve as a valuable regional resource for decades to come and respectfully encourage support for this important investment in students, workforce development and community success.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heather Flaherty".

Heather Flaherty
Executive Director
Heather@ChuckanutHealthFoundation.org

1500 Cornwall Avenue, Suite 201 | Bellingham, WA 98225
P: 360-671-3349 | E: info@ChuckanutHealthFoundation.org | www.ChuckanutHealthFoundation.org

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**Investing today for a
healthier tomorrow.**