

---

**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION  
4408**

---

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2008 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session**

**By** House Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Wallace, Haigh, and Sells)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/08.

1            WHEREAS, Washington State is an economic leader in a globally  
2 competitive environment where human capital is becoming the prime  
3 currency; and  
4            WHEREAS, The legislature wishes to craft a vision for our education  
5 system that truly nurtures and develops each person to realize their  
6 limitless potential; and  
7            WHEREAS, Postsecondary education is the crowning jewel in our  
8 state's human capital development plan and it is the legislature's  
9 intent to focus on the long-term goal of providing the necessary levels  
10 of education to our residents required to catapult Washington into  
11 global educational leadership; and  
12            WHEREAS, This goal of providing the necessary levels of education  
13 will necessitate development of creative and visionary approaches to  
14 educational reform that include financing and revenue reform and  
15 implementation strategies to overcome the challenges in simultaneously  
16 funding all of the state's legitimate needs; and  
17            WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board is charged under  
18 RCW 28B.76.200 with developing a statewide strategic master plan for  
19 higher education, encompassing all sectors including the two-year

1 system, workforce training, the four-year institutions of higher  
2 education, and financial aid; and

3 WHEREAS, The legislature enacted chapter 458, Laws of 2007,  
4 requiring the strategic master plan to present a vision, measurable  
5 goals, and priorities spanning a ten-year period of time, with  
6 strategies for expanding access, affordability, quality, efficiency,  
7 and accountability; and

8 WHEREAS, The legislature supports taking the steps needed to  
9 implement this vision of global educational leadership and supports the  
10 incremental steps proposed in the strategic master plan to improve our  
11 higher education system so as not to fall behind the rest of the world  
12 as other countries rush to confront the same challenges; and

13 WHEREAS, The legislature supports the short-term goals and policies  
14 embedded in the master plan that would create a higher education system  
15 grounded in equality, access, affordability, and accountability as well  
16 as promote economic growth and innovation; and

17 WHEREAS, The legislature will continue to look at ways to improve  
18 Washington's system of higher education; and

19 WHEREAS, The law provides that the legislature shall by concurrent  
20 resolution approve or recommend changes to the plan, following public  
21 hearings, after which the board shall incorporate legislative changes  
22 and adopt a final plan by June of the year in which the legislature  
23 passes the concurrent resolution; and

24 WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board, from February  
25 through November 2007, conducted regular public meetings of the board  
26 and the board's advisory council and in fall 2007 organized public  
27 forums and focus group meetings around the state bringing educational,  
28 business, and community leaders together to engage stakeholders and the  
29 public in developing ideas for the strategic master plan; and

30 WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board received input for  
31 the plan from a wide range of perspectives through presentations  
32 provided by leaders from the legislature, business, public and  
33 independent baccalaureate institutions of higher education, community  
34 and technical colleges, workforce training agencies, the common school  
35 system, and representatives of the governor, students, faculty, and  
36 communities of color, economists, and other experts; and

37 WHEREAS, The final report issued by Washington Learns called for a  
38 world-class, learner-focused seamless educational system from preschool

1 through higher education and articulated a vision for the improvement  
2 of educational attainment at all levels of educational system in the  
3 state of Washington, a vision that lies at the heart of the proposed  
4 2008 update of the master plan submitted by the higher education  
5 coordinating board; and

6 WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board finds that while  
7 many of the world's developed nations have made huge gains in the  
8 educational attainment levels of their populations, the United States  
9 has not and Washingtonians aged twenty-five to thirty-four actually are  
10 less well-educated than Washingtonians aged forty-five to fifty-four;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Demographic projections indicate the population of  
13 Washington will grow thirty-seven percent by the year 2030 while the  
14 state's population simultaneously becomes much more diverse; and

15 WHEREAS, Over seventy percent of the workforce of the year 2030 is  
16 currently employed, and many will be required to upgrade their skills  
17 to keep up with technological and other workplace changes; and

18 WHEREAS, One out of four people aged eighteen to twenty-four does  
19 not have a high school diploma and Washington's undereducated working  
20 population is equal in size to its next ten high school graduating  
21 classes; and

22 WHEREAS, Global competition, process automation, the increased pace  
23 of technological change, and the progressively shortened life span of  
24 many products has and will continue to result in worker layoffs, and  
25 laid-off workers will need to retool their skills in order to be  
26 reemployed; and

27 WHEREAS, Our growing economy also depends on a skilled workforce  
28 including workers who have completed certificates, associate degrees,  
29 and apprenticeship programs; and

30 WHEREAS, Washington must attract annually to the state over thirty-  
31 six thousand people who hold at least a bachelor's degree in order to  
32 fill the jobs being created by the state's economy, a net in-migration  
33 of highly educated workers second among Washington's Global Challenge  
34 State peers, behind only California, which attracts about thirty-nine  
35 thousand similarly educated people annually; and

36 WHEREAS, Depending on other states and nations to provide  
37 educational attainment levels necessary to fill the best jobs being

1 created in Washington may not be a sustainable economic strategy and  
2 misses the opportunity to prepare Washington residents for some of the  
3 best jobs being created by Washington's economy; and

4 WHEREAS, The higher education coordinating board recommends  
5 creating opportunities for Washington residents and fueling the growth  
6 of Washington's economy by increasing annual production of certificates  
7 and two-year degrees to an annual total of thirty-six thousand two  
8 hundred by 2018; and

9 WHEREAS, The proposed master plan update recommends raising  
10 educational attainment by addressing diversity, raising expectations in  
11 the common school system, promoting lifelong learning and improving  
12 affordable access, and recommends a series of strategies for promoting  
13 economic growth, innovation, and funding for accountability and  
14 results;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives of  
16 the state of Washington, the Senate concurring, That the statewide  
17 strategic master plan update submitted by the higher education  
18 coordinating board on December 15, 2007, be approved, provided that,  
19 during the development of the final plan, the higher education  
20 coordinating board should consider:

21 (1) Refining and prioritizing the proposed bachelor's degree and  
22 graduate degree production targets to base them more specifically upon  
23 the evolving needs of Washington's economy, rather than upon external  
24 benchmarks;

25 (2) Providing programs, degrees, and certificates that use industry  
26 best practices and an outcome-based approach for each academic subject  
27 offered including remedial and adult basic education;

28 (3) Maximizing the use of full-time faculty employment without  
29 hampering the institutions' ability to maintain an adequate level of  
30 flexibility and cost-effectiveness;

31 (4) Creating and maintaining sustainable, efficient, and cost-  
32 effective facilities, technology, and programs that provide enhanced  
33 access and delivery of postsecondary education throughout the state;

34 (5) Maximizing the use of state funding and reviewing the cost of  
35 service delivery including innovative approaches used by other nations  
36 such as review of the time to degree, credit hours required, and other  
37 methods to reduce costs while maintaining quality; and

1           (6) The program capacity at public, independent, and career schools  
2 when determining the public investments that the higher education  
3 coordinating board recommends to be made to the legislature for new  
4 program and facility development to meet the total demand for a skilled  
5 and educated workforce; and

6           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the higher education coordinating  
7 board shall actively involve public and independent two-year and four-  
8 year institutions of higher education, private vocational schools, the  
9 council of presidents, the independent colleges of Washington, the  
10 state board for community and technical colleges, the workforce  
11 training and education coordinating board, faculty from four-year  
12 institutions of higher education and the community and technical  
13 colleges, students, representatives of business and other interested  
14 stakeholders, the office of financial management, the office of the  
15 superintendent of public instruction, teachers and other  
16 representatives of the public school system, and appropriate committees  
17 of the legislature, in collaboratively refining the strategies and  
18 specifying next steps required to implement strategies recommended in  
19 the 2008 update of the master plan; and

20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the higher education coordinating  
21 board shall report to the higher education committees of the House of  
22 Representatives and the Senate on progress implementing the 2008 update  
23 of the master plan by February 1, 2009.

--- END ---