



90% of high school students want to continue their education, but only 40% are projected to complete a postsecondary program by age 26.

Royal High School students in Royal City, Washington, part of the 2023 H2P cohort.

Washington STEM leads the High School to Postsecondary (“H2P”) Collaborative, working with 40+ high schools, districts, and regional leaders across the state to bridge this transition to education after high school.

Throughout the year, members of the Collaborative come together to imagine, design, and implement a postsecondary preparation system that is inclusive of all student aspirations, lights up possible post secondary pathways, and fosters a sense of belonging in school communities.

It started with a hunch...

The seeds of the H2P Collaborative were planted in 2019 when a director of college and career readiness at Eisenhower High School (EHS) in Yakima had a hunch that students were not accessing dual credit courses equitably. Washington STEM and the South-Central STEM Network partnered with EHS to dig into the data and engage with the school community.

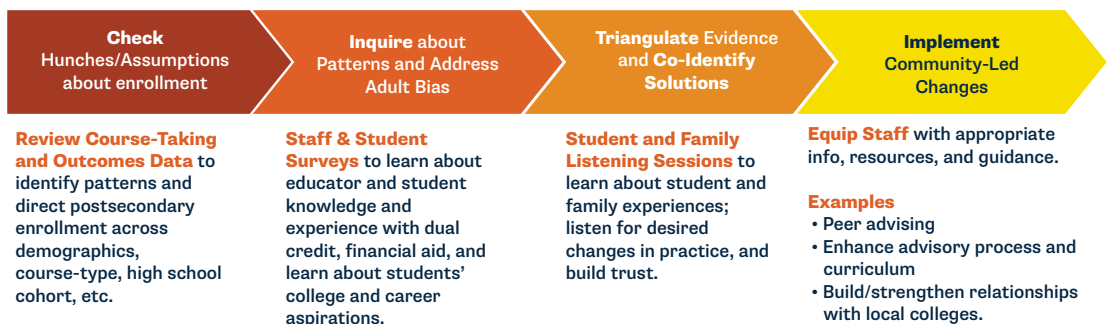
Together we discovered:

- **88% of students surveyed aspire to pursue a postsecondary credential.**
- School staff surveyed **believe that only 48% of students aspire** to pursue a postsecondary credential—a 40% discrepancy that suggests school staff largely do not yet have enough information about student aspirations and postsecondary pathways.
- Students largely rely on teaching staff and peers to share information about dual credit and postsecondary pathways.
- Students want postsecondary information early, often, and in-class: i.e., financial aid information starting in 9th grade or earlier and regular class periods (advisory/homeroom) dedicated to filling out forms and learning about postsecondary pathways.

High school teams and education leaders in the H2P Collaborative:

- check assumptions against course-taking data,
- collect surveys,
- host listening sessions with students and their families, and
- receive professional development in dual credit options.

THE PROCESS



IN STUDENTS' OWN WORDS

Student survey responses provided insights into how schools can help more students access dual credit courses towards postsecondary pathways.

“Teach us about the steps to take to go to college or other things like that instead of just expecting us to know. And, if we are meant to be learning about that stuff in advisory, then have advisory more often instead of for 15 minutes once a month.”

-EHS student, Improving Outcomes report

“In dual credit the teachers hold you to a completely different standard than normal classes. It makes the class a lot more challenging when you’re striving for a goal.”

-Latinx/White, Male, EHS 12th grader

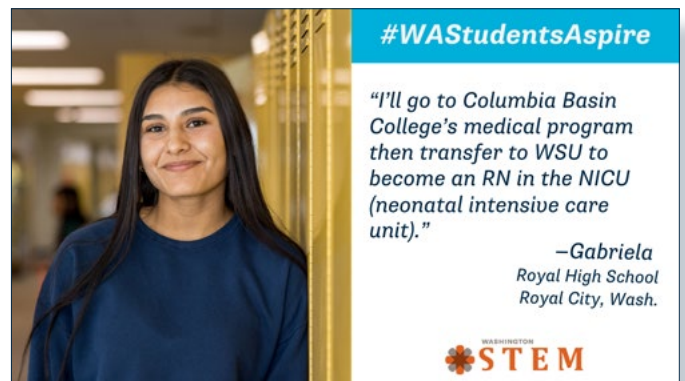


WASHINGTON STUDENTS HAVE BIG DREAMS - VIDEO

Maria Cisneros is a senior at Royal High School in Royal City, Wash. She is enrolled in Running Start, a dual credit program that allows her to take classes at a local college and earn college credit while still in high school. Maria attends classes at Columbia Basin College and aspires to transfer to Eastern Washington University and become a registered nurse.

LEARN MORE:

- Read the [High School to Postsecondary Collaborative Case Study](#)
- Learn how we collected data at Eisenhower High School - [Improving Outcomes, technical report, 2022](#)
- Start the Conversation at your school: [College to Career Readiness Toolkit](#)
- Join [Washington STEM Advocacy Coalition](#). We are coordinating policy solutions across the state to help schools know their data and be responsive to student aspirations.
- Follow the #WashingtonStudentsAspire campaign on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)



ABOUT WASHINGTON STEM:

Washington STEM is a statewide, education nonprofit leveraging STEM for social change, removing barriers to credential attainment, and creating pathways to long-term economic security for historically excluded students. This is done through three main strategies: partnership, direct support, and advocacy. We collaborate with STEM Networks across the state to identify, amplify, and spread solutions to persistent big issues in STEM education.