

2008 Washington State Education Policy Priorities

K-12 Education Policy Priorities

A well-educated and technically competent work force is the cornerstone of Washington State's high technology industry's ability to successfully compete in the global economy.

A strong public school system is the foundation of a healthy democracy and sound economy. Most importantly, a quality education can open the doors of the future to our children, providing them with choices and opportunities in life.

To provide the work force for the future, it is critical that we maintain our commitment to clear and challenging academic standards, meaningful assessment, accountability for results, and greater flexibility in education regulations to allow schools to meet these challenges.

To do less will compromise our children's ability to succeed in the future.

AeA Positions for 2008 Legislative Action

Because high quality education is a bottom line issue for high-tech companies, AeA's focus is on providing challenging standards for students in math and science, staying the course on the WASL assessments, creating accountability and ensuring quality of instruction in these areas. AeA supports the following:

- ❖ Continued funding and support for the implementation of standards-based education reform, the Education Reform Act of 1993 (HB 1209).
- ❖ Continue to support programs that improve math and science curricula, student support, and teacher training to assist students in reaching their academic potential. AeA is focused on three such programs: Math Engineering & Science Achievement (MESA), Leadership and Research in Science Education Reform (LASER) and Project Lead the Way (PLTW).

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

MATH SCORES

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS AT OR ABOVE "PROFICIENT"

Ranked By 8th Grade 2005 Scores	4th Grade		8th Grade	
	2000	2005	2000	2005
1. Massachusetts	31%	49%	30%	43%
1. Minnesota	33%	47%	39%	43%
3. Vermont	29%	44%	31%	38%
4. Montana	24%	38%	36%	36%
4. New Jersey	N/A	45%	N/A	36%
4. South Dakota	N/A	41%	N/A	36%
4. Washington	N/A	42%	25%	36%
4. Wisconsin	N/A	40%	N/A	36%
9. Connecticut	31%	42%	33%	35%
9. Nebraska	24%	36%	30%	35%
13. Oregon	23%	37%	31%	34%
23. Idaho	20%	40%	26%	30%
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National Average	22%	35%	25%	28%

SCIENCE SCORES

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS AT OR ABOVE "PROFICIENT"

Ranked By 8th Grade 2005 Scores	4th Grade		8th Grade	
	2000	2005	2000	2005
1. North Dakota	36%	36%	38%	43%
2. Montana	36%	37%	44%	42%
3. Massachusetts	42%	38%	39%	41%
3. New Hampshire	N/A	37%	N/A	41%
3. South Dakota	N/A	35%	N/A	41%
3. Vermont	38%	38%	39%	41%
7. Minnesota	34%	33%	41%	39%
7. Wisconsin	N/A	35%	N/A	39%
9. Wyoming	31%	32%	34%	37%
10. Idaho	29%	29%	37%	36%
16. Washington	N/A	28%	N/A	33%
21. Oregon	27%	26%	34%	32%
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National Average	26%	27%	29%	27%

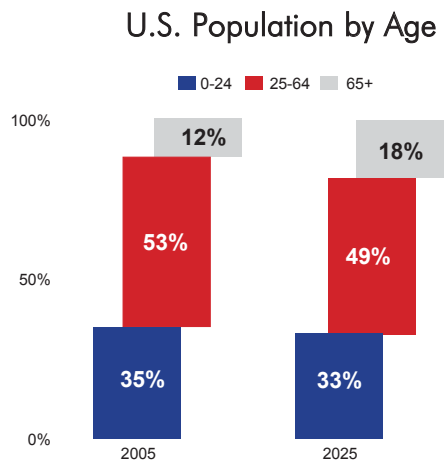
AeA, founded in 1943, is a nationwide non-profit trade association that represents all segments of the technology industry and is dedicated solely to helping our member's succeed. The more than 170 Washington based members of AeA share common goals; they compete in world markets, hire and retain outstanding employees, act as good stewards of the environment, and support their local communities. The industry seeks a partnership with government that recognizes these goals and supports public policy initiatives that bolster the technology companies already located here and that support new company formation and growth.

Higher Education Policy Priorities

The high technology industry believes higher education is vital to a strong national and state economy. It provides individuals with the skills necessary to access and succeed in fulfilling and economically rewarding careers. These are the careers that will provide solutions to the issues facing our State and country and determine our future quality of life.

As our world becomes a smaller place due to improved communications and travel options, businesses are forced to compete in a global market. Countries across our planet are making dramatic strides forward to improve their educational resources and are providing more of their citizens with access to excellent higher education opportunities than ever before.

Unfortunately, predictions by both government and business alike indicate that as we move farther into the 21st Century the United States will see a serious shortage of educated individuals to fill job openings. Due to a retiring baby boom generation and lower birth rates we may face a skilled worker shortage of 14 million individuals by 2020.

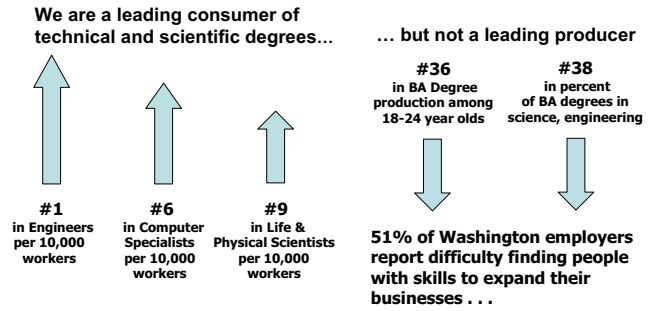


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Meanwhile other countries are stepping up to the challenge and investing in their economic future by providing greater higher education opportunities to their citizens. The United States awards only 17 percent of bachelors degrees in engineering and science. Washington State graduates 15 percent in those disciplines while China confers 58 percent in the same areas, Taiwan 34 percent and Germany 31 percent. From 1987 to 2001 the raw number of American students receiving PhDs in science, math and engineering disciplines declined while the number of Asian citizens earning PhDs in those fields rose by a factor of five.

For our nation and State to remain a leader in innovation it is vital that we provide the opportunity for students to reach their full academic potential. Our higher education system should provide world-class education in technical fields combined with a solid foundation in general studies and communication skills.

Washington will need many more workers with bachelor's and advanced degrees in technical and scientific fields as the global economy grows



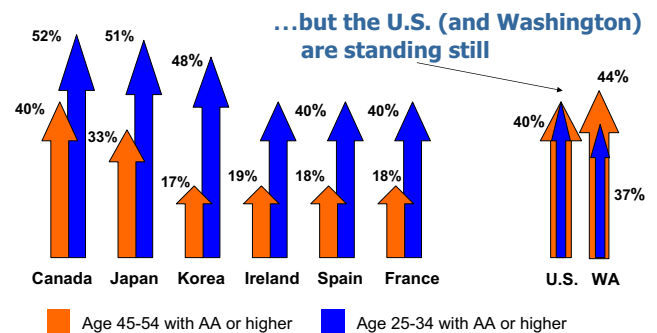
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

AeA Positions for 2008 Legislative Action

For over 30 years the AeA Washington Council has been an advocate for higher education opportunities. As an association, AeA supports policies which:

- ❖ Increase the number of graduates in scientific, engineering, mathematics, and technical fields through ideas such as: funding to insure optimal use of current facility capacity at public institutions; differentiated funding for high cost programs; improved academic preparation and articulation, and increased student retention rates.
- ❖ Enable multiple pathways for students to obtain baccalaureate degrees
- ❖ Grow the number of graduates across all disciplines to provide students with a high quality education to further their life goals and assist companies in innovation and growth.
- ❖ Explore resource options to assist institutions to successfully compete for research and development funding, especially in disciplines related to economic development in Washington State.
- ❖ Increase the efficient transfer of university technology to commercial applications by expanding resources for commercialization, and providing cooperative intellectual property policies.

Other nations with advanced economies know educating the next generation is essential to future economic success...



AND THE HIGH-TECH INDUSTRY



JOBS	156,524
ESTABLISHMENTS	6,778
PAYROLL	\$13.1 b
AVERAGE WAGE	\$83,655
AVERAGE PRIVATE SECTOR WAGE	\$40,224
STATEWIDE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	5.0%

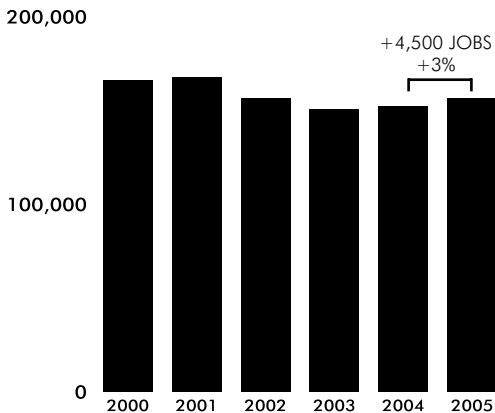
STATE RANKINGS

14TH IN HIGH-TECH EMPLOYMENT
4TH IN HIGH-TECH AVERAGE WAGE

HIGH-TECH EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

(2000 - 2005)

-9,500 JOBS
-6%



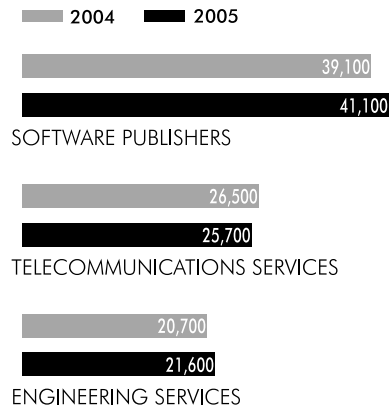
69
OF EVERY
1,000
PRIVATE SECTOR
WORKERS IN
WASHINGTON
ARE EMPLOYED
BY HIGH-TECH
FIRMS

STATE RANKINGS

6TH IN R&D PER CAPITA
5TH IN VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

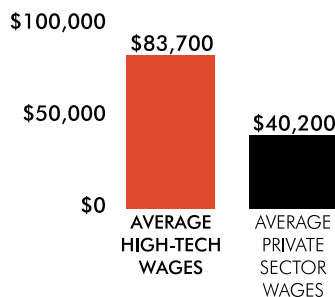
LEADING HIGH-TECH INDUSTRY SECTORS

(EMPLOYMENT)



HIGH-TECH WAGES

HIGH-TECH WAGES ARE **108%** MORE



Washington Council Members 2008

10KInfo	Crane Electronics	Lightfleet	Rane Corporation
Abacast	Cray Inc.	Linear Technology	Schippers & Crew
AcousTx	Cyber Speed Tech	Lionbridge Technologies	Semitool
ACT Teleconferencing	DAP Enterprise	Logic 20/20	Sharp Laboratories
Adobe Systems	Data I/O Corporation	Lucomm Technologies	Sharp Microelectronics
Aerojet	DeYoung Mfg. Inc.	Lumera	Silicon Forest Electronics
Agilent Technologies	Efficere Technologies	Metal Motion	Simco Electronics
Antares Advanced Test	Electronetics	Micro Encoder, Inc.	SinglePoint
Apple Computer, Inc.	Emulex	Microsoft Corporation	Sonic Concepts
Applied Materials	Eng3	MOD Systems	Spectrum Controls, Inc.
Applied Precision, Inc.	Enpria	Motorola	Stratos Product Development
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Areva T&D	Esterline Technologies	Nlight Photonics	TeleCommunications Systems.
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Avtech Corp	GM Nameplate	Onvia	Tirraappendi, Inc
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Captaris Inc.	Hallmark Refining Corp.	PNW National Laboratory	Twisted Pair Solutions
Carlyle, Inc.	Hi-Rel Laboratories	PayScale	Ultreo
Cascade Plastics	Honeywell Aerospace	Philips Medical Cardiac	Universal Avionics Systems
Citrix Systems	Huntron, Inc.	Physio Control	UNIWEST
Coco Communications	HYTEK Finishes Co.	Pioneer Enterprises	Verathon
Coinstar	Impinj	Pivotal Project Mgt	Vulcan Products
Comtech AHA	Index Sensors & Controls	Plateau Software	Wacom Technology Corp.
Concur Technologies	Intel Corporation	POSDATA	Xerox
Crane Aerospace Electronics	Intermec	Pro Clarity	XKL LLC
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	Korry Electronics Co.	QualityLogic, Inc.	

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Hyogo Business & Cultural Center	SIRTI
WA State Dept. of Trade & Economic Development	Washington Technology Center
ITT Technical Institute, Everett	Greater Spokane, Inc.

About AeA

AeA, founded in 1943, is the largest nationwide non-profit trade association that represents all segments of the technology industry and is dedicated solely to helping our members' top line and bottom line. We do this in partnership with our small, medium, and large member companies by lobbying governments at the state, federal, and international levels, providing access to capital and business opportunities, and offering select business services and networking programs. For more information, please visit our website: www.aeanet.org.

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