June 5, 2020 (X) Action Required
Due date: 2020–21 School Year
( ) Informational

ADDENDUM TO BULLETIN NO. 041-20 SYSTEM AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
    School District Superintendents
    School District Business Managers
    School District Technology Directors
    School Building Principals
    School Counselors

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: List of Approved Online Vendors for the High School and Beyond Plan

CONTACT: Kim Reykdal, Program Supervisor Lead for Secondary School Counseling
          kim.reykdal@k12.wa.us, 360-725-6168

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

With the passage of House Bill 1599 (2019), the Legislature acknowledged the importance of providing students with access to an online electronic platform for the High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP). This new requirement to provide all students access to an electronic HSBP platform is intended to assist educators, school counselors, and other school support staff in providing a meaningful, individualized guidance and planning experience for all students.

The envisioned outcomes include, but are not limited to, increased student engagement in their learning, improved relevancy and rigor of student course decisions, enhanced relationships between students and staff, increased family engagement, higher graduation rates, and increased matriculation to a variety of post-high school education and training opportunities.

In Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 28A.230.215, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) was tasked with facilitating the creation of a list of available electronic platforms that meet the following requirements:
1. Enable students to create, personalize, and revise their HSBP.
2. Grant parents and guardians, educators, school counselors, and other support staff appropriate access to students’ HSBPs for the purpose of supporting their academic and career goals.
3. Utilize a technology that can be modified as graduation requirements change.
4. Include a sample financial aid award letter and link to the financial aid calculator.**
5. Comply with state and federal requirements for student privacy.
6. Allow for portability of HSBP information between platforms.

**Note: Senate Bill 6141 (2020) added another requirement to the list above that mandates vendors include a sample financial aid award letter and link to the financial aid calculator once those resources have been created. This new requirement will be included in RCW 28A.230.215 moving forward; however, it was not included in OSPI’s original process of creating the list of available electronic platforms per House Bill 1599 (2019). Subject to future policy change, there is currently no mandate for OSPI to update this list of vendors following the creation of this original list.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ONLINE HSBP PLATFORM

Beginning in the 2020–21 school year, districts must ensure all students can access an electronic HSBP platform. The creation of this list provides districts with information on the extent to which vendors have already aligned, or have committed to align, their platform with current graduation requirements. There is no legislative mandate for districts to use one of the platforms on OSPI’s list of vendors.

OSPI staff conducted a thorough market research process to identify vendors currently being used across the state and available nationally. Per the statutory requirement to include online platforms already in use as much as possible, an initial list of vendors was created from the State Board of Education’s annual compliance survey report from fall 2019. Additional vendors were contacted following a survey sent via the System and School Improvement February 2020 newsletter, which invited districts to submit additional vendors for consideration.

Through the process outline above, ten vendors were identified as having potentially viable platforms and were selected to participate in a process of further analysis of alignment with statutory requirements and possible inclusion on OSPI’s list. Questions about the vendor identification process can be directed to Tim Vessey, Project Management Office Director, at tim.vessey@k12.wa.us or 360-725-4958.
Findings from the Vendor Analysis Process

The following chart indicates the rough percentage of platform alignment to the statutory requirements listed in House Bill 1599 (2019) only, both for fall of 2020 and as estimated by vendors for spring of 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>80% Aligned by Fall 2020</th>
<th>90% Aligned by Fall 2020</th>
<th>100% Aligned by Fall 2020</th>
<th>90% Aligned by Spring 2021</th>
<th>100% Aligned by Spring 2021</th>
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<td>School Data Solutions/WOIS*</td>
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* UPDATED June 5, 2020: Vendor names were corrected to include requested information.

** Note: Kuder reported that their product meets all requirements, but the data dictionary submitted as part of the analysis process does not support that percentage alignment. Districts are encouraged to use this chart as a means for understanding which online platforms will be fully or mostly aligned with Washington’s HSBP requirements. While access to an online HSBP platform must be provided to all students for the 2020–21 school year, there is no legislative mandate for districts to use one of the platforms on this list of vendors.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Kim Reykdal, Program Supervisor Lead for Secondary School Counseling, at kim.reykdal@k12.wa.us or 360-725-6168. For questions about the vendor identification process, please contact Tim Vessey, Project Management Office Director, at tim.vessey@k12.wa.us or 360-725-4958. The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the Bulletins page of the OSPI website.
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