

WorkFirst Education and Training

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Education Benefits Families and Society:

- **Financial Benefits**
 - Higher personal income
 - Lower unemployment
 - More competitive economy
 - Increased tax revenue
 - Lower public subsidies
 - Improved health outcomes
- **Citizenship**
 - Higher levels of voting, volunteering and other civic behaviors
- **Parents Preparing Children**
 - Increased participation in activities related to sports, religion and culture
 - Increased savings for college
 - Improved health outcomes

From July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, more than 13,500 parents were served:

- Customized Job Skills: 2,979
- Adult Basic Education, GED, ESL, & job training: 6,589
- High Wage/High Demand, I-BEST, Vocational Education, & Wage Progression: 3,948

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For more information about the WorkFirst program, visit www.workfirst.wa.gov.

What is WorkFirst Education and Training?

Education and training services are available to WorkFirst and low-income parents on all 34 community and technical college campuses along with community-based organizations and private colleges. Education and training is a great option to help parents enhance employability, increase earnings, and/or to help them advance in the workplace.

What kinds of Education and Training Programs are available?

- **Customized Job Skills Training (CJST)** is short-term, employer-driven training for WorkFirst parents to quickly (8 -22 weeks) develop skills and go to work.
- **High Wage/High Demand, I-BEST, and Vocational Education** are one year (12 month) certificate and degree programs. These programs target high wage jobs in demand occupations. WorkFirst Tuition Assistance is available to help cover tuition, books, and fees for WorkFirst parents enrolled in these programs.
- **Work-Based Learning** includes externships, clinical experiences, cooperative learning, and Work Study opportunities which are available to WorkFirst parents. Work-Based Learning provides WorkFirst parents with 'real' work experiences in conjunction with formal training. This dual approach to training can enhance employability and help secure higher wages at job entry.
- **Wage Progression** includes job skills and education for working parents to help them increase skills and earning potential. These offerings may include part-time vocational education courses.
- **Other Basic Skills and Employment-Related Training** is available to those parents with specific training gaps, including limited English and/or basic skill deficiencies. Training may be focused on building job skills, through improved English or literacy levels.

For more on education and training, please visit the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges website at: www.sbctc.ctc.edu and select Workforce Education from the College System menu.