



TO Interested Parties
FROM Miranda Everitt
FM3 Research
RE: Washington Voter Views on Education Beyond High School
DATE December 9, 2025

Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) recently completed a survey of 607 Washington voters to assess their views on issues related to education and training after high school.ⁱ The results show that voters broadly value education beyond high school, including a degree, apprenticeship, or industry-aligned certificate or license. They specifically support the state’s goal of increasing post-high school education attainment to 70% by 2030, and although they believe such education and training is well worth the cost, they are concerned about its expense. In this context, **voters broadly disapprove of recent cuts to education after high school.**

Key findings of the survey include:

- **Though voters are worried about the cost of education beyond high school, they see great value in it.** As detailed in Figure 1, 77% believe some education beyond high school is “necessary for a person to be successful in today’s work world, whether that means a certificate, a two-year career-training degree or a four-year degree” – and 74% believe people who have completed training after high school are better off than those who do not. At the same time, they worry about student loan debt preventing people from pursuing education (73%) or getting ahead in life (69%).

Figure 1: Voter Perceptions of Education and Training Beyond High School

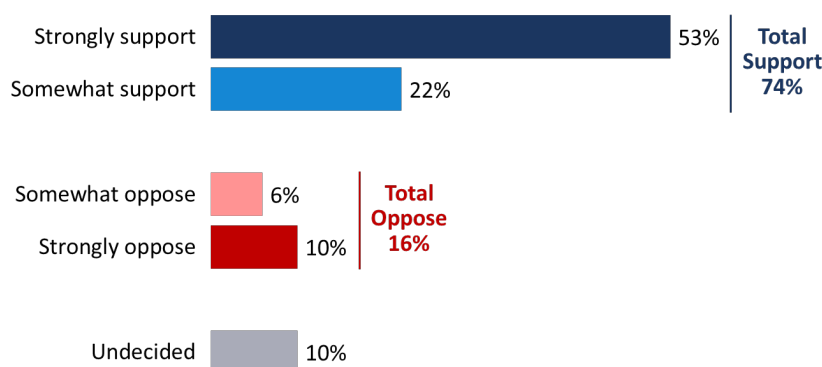
Statement	Total Agree	Total Disagree
We should provide career-connected learning programs and apprenticeship opportunities connected to earning degrees and credentials	87%	11%
Some education beyond high school is necessary for a person to be successful in today’s work world, whether that means a certificate, a two-year career-training degree or a four-year degree	77%	21%
People who have completed education or training after high school are usually better off than those who do not	74%	25%

Statement	Total Agree	Total Disagree
Student loan debt is preventing many people from pursuing education after high school	73%	23%
Student loan debt is preventing many people from getting ahead in life	69%	26%

- Three-quarters support the goal of 70% of Washington students completing education beyond high school by 2030.** Seventy-four percent support the goal that by 2030 at least 70% of Washington students will complete education beyond high school, including a degree, apprenticeship, or industry-aligned certificate or license. More than half (53%) say they "strongly" support the attainment goal. In addition, support cuts across party lines with 92% of Democrats, 61% of independents, and 56% of Republicans in favor.

Figure 2: Support for 2030 Education Attainment Goal

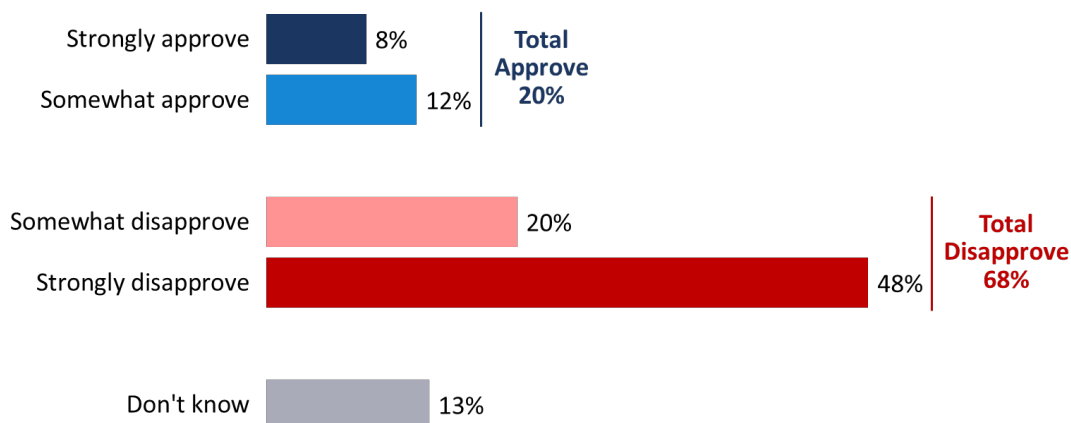
Washington is working toward a goal that by 2030, at least 70% of Washington students will complete education beyond high school, including a degree, apprenticeship, or industry-aligned certificate or license. This goal is directly related to projections that 70% of Washington’s job openings will require completion of education beyond high school. Do you support or oppose this goal?



- Nearly seven in ten disapprove of recent cuts to education beyond high school.** Figure 3 on the next page shows that Washington voters broadly reject the State Legislature’s recent action to shift funds away from education beyond high school. Nearly half (48%) “strongly disapprove” of these cuts to classes, financial aid, and student supports. This view is shared broadly across every major demographic and geographic group, including across party lines.

Figure 3: Views of Cuts to Education Beyond High School

Earlier this year, the State Legislature increased taxes and shifted funds away from higher education to address the budget deficit. They cut \$400 million from education beyond high school, including funding for classes and programs at colleges and universities, financial aid for students, and student supports such as advising, housing, and food security, in order to help balance the state budget. Do you approve or disapprove of this action?



- **The same share sees a need for additional funding for higher education.** Nearly two-thirds (67%) believe higher education has a “great” or “some need” for more funding.

In conclusion, the survey results show that Washington voters strongly and broadly back the state’s goal of 70% of students obtaining education beyond high school by 2030 – a goal aligned with projections for the state. **They also see a need for additional funding for education, and overwhelmingly reject the recent \$400 million cut to higher education.**

ⁱ **Methodology:** From November 11-16, 2025, FM3 completed 609 online and telephone interviews with Washington voters. The margin of sampling error for the study is +/-4.0% at the 95% confidence level; margins of error for population subgroups within the sample will be higher. Due to rounding, not all totals will sum to 100%.