Welcome 2026 Cohort!

Your First Steps to High School and Beyond Planning Implementation

Purpose of this Document

Embarking on HSBP implementation is an exciting journey, and our goal is to reduce uncertainty, clarify expectations, and help districts plan with confidence. Districts are **not** expected to have everything figured out at the start; OSPI will support implementation step by step. This document provides early orientation and outlines what steps to take now, why it matters, and what to expect next. School districts in the 2026 cohort will receive detailed, tailored guidance beginning in March.

Action Steps: What You Need to Do First

These steps create the foundation for all future work. Completing them early will help make the implementation smoother.

1. Review the HSBP Pre-Implementation Guide

The **HSBP 2026 Pre-Implementation Guide** outlines key steps, expectations, and timelines for implementation. Review this guide early to support planning, coordination, and understanding of required actions and milestones ahead of launch.. Reference this guide throughout the pre-implementation process to stay aligned and on track.

2. Building Your HSBP Implementation Team

A cross-functional team drives strong HSBP implementation by drawing from the knowledge and expertise of district leaders and day-to-day practitioners. Each district must clearly identify a District Program Manager (DPM) and HSBP SchooLinks Champions at each school. These roles have distinct responsibilities and levels of access within SchooLinks, and both are essential for successful implementation.

District Program Manager (DPM) (recommended Administrator, District Lead)	HSBP SchooLinks Champion (recommended Principal, Assistant Principal, Lead Counselor)
- Project managers leading district-level implementation - Access to ALL data and system elements - Decision-making authority who assigns and adjusts roles based on staffing needs and district data access protocols - Ensure proper training on implementation responsibilities	- eLead SchooLinks rollout at the building-level - Customize SchooLinks settings - Manage administrative functions for most modules - Maintain close communication with the district's decision-making authority

SchooLinks Roles x Capabilities Crosswalk Here

Tip: Choose individuals with enough authority and time to lead, not just technical access.

3. Rostering and Data Integration (District IT & SIS Managers)

Districts use the rostering process to import staff and student information from their Student Information System (SIS) into the SchooLinks HSBP platform. This ensures roles and permission access are accurate and up-to-date so that staff members can access the HSBP platform, and essential HSBP communications and resources reach individuals responsible for HSBP implementation and support.

The Legislature's Vision Quick Review

SSB 5243 was passed in 2023 to ensure every student in Washington has access to the same online tool for early, meaningful career exploration and a universal High School & Beyond Planning experience. The bill aligns state systems and supports districts in delivering clear, personalized pathways to postsecondary goals.

Implementation Insights from the 2025 Cohort

Feedback from the 2025 have shaped more proactive guidance, clearer timelines, and targeted resources for the 2026 cohort! Districts that planned early, clearly defined roles and responsibilities, and partnered closely with their IT teams on data integration and rostering experienced the smoothest launches.

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District IT and data teams manage rostering and data integration, as the process requires technical system setup and ongoing maintenance of accurate SIS data. To learn more about data integration, read the **Data Integration Guide here**.

4. Kickoff Training

The SchooLinks Kickoff Training begins in March and is essential for DPMs, SchooLinks Champions, and other district implementation team members. Participants will walk through the full implementation timeline and phases, clarify roles and responsibilities, and gain an overview of middle school and high school HSBP expectations. Ideally, districts will have their DSA signed prior to their Kickoff training.

This session also outlines support throughout the year and how the SchooLinks and OSPI teams will partner with districts during implementation. **Register for the Kickoff Training by February 27th.**

What You'll Receive Next

Sign the Data Sharing Agreement (DSA): In the coming weeks, you will receive the DSA. Once reviewed, sign and submit your district's DSA by emailing it to HSBP@schoolinks.com **by February 27th**. A member of the SchooLinks team will confirm receipt and follow up with the next steps for rostering.

HSBP Newsletter: A monthly resource for district administrators with guidance on state-required Scope & Sequence components, making district-level decisions, customizing local activities and course sequences, staff role management, and SIS-specific data sharing with SchooLinks. The 2026 cohort will receive their first newsletter in March. *DPMs participating in the 2026 cohort will be automatically subscribed using the contact information collected from school districts. If your district requires updates to their contacts, please fill out the* **HSBP 2026 Point of Contact Form here**.

Scope and Sequence: A guide that outlines the minimum state requirements of HSBP learning activities by grade level, andexplains what students engage in, when activities are implemented, and how they build over time to meet statutory requirements while supporting student development, exploration, and postsecondary readiness.

Pulse Checks: Pulse checks are scheduled data pulls that provide a snapshot of how 2026 cohort districts are engaging with the HSBP platform. They provide high-level insight into readiness, early platform use, and support needs, allowing us to tailor training, technical assistance, and communications. More information on Pulse Checks will be provided during trainings.

HSBP Quick Resources

HSBP Middle School Need to Know: This video and the accompanying slide deck (linked in the video description) highlight HSBP expectations and requirements at the middle school level, explain how these expectations may differ from past practice, and clarifies the role of middle school staff in supporting HSBP implementation.

HSBP Equitable Access: This resource guides school districts in establishing staffing and training practices that ensure equitable, consistent implementation of the universal HSBP experience for students in flexible learning options and nontraditional settings. It clarifies district responsibilities for training, platform access, and collaboration so that all students experience a comparable, aligned HSBP process regardless of setting or program type.

HSBP Office Hours: Recurring sessions hosted by the HSBP team to provide live guidance, answer questions, and share implementation updates. Office hours offer districts a space to troubleshoot challenges, clarify requirements, and share best practices.

HSBP Point of Contact Form: Fill out *only* if your district requires updates to your HSBP points of contact, including DPMs and Data/ IT team members.

Contact Information

Implementation Support	Technical Issues and Platform Support
OSPI HSBP Implementation Team	SchooLinks HSBP Technical Team
HSBP@k12.wa.us	HSBP@schoolinks.com