

# College Bound Scholarship



## BACKGROUND

The College Bound Scholarship is an early commitment of state funding intended to improve high school graduation and college enrollment and completion rates for low-income students.

The program is intended to alleviate the financial barriers that may prevent low-income students from considering the possibility of a higher education.

Eligible students, typically those who are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch, apply in 7th or 8th grade. They pledge to graduate from high school with a 2.0 GPA or higher, not to be convicted of a felony, and file the FAFSA in a timely manner to determine their income eligibility.

The scholarship combines with State Need Grant and other state aid to cover the cost of average tuition (at comparable public college rates), some fees, and a small book allowance.

*"Since applying for the scholarship, my future is brighter. After looking at all the schools I could attend, I am really excited about college. The College Bound Scholarship has and will open doors for me."*

## FUNDING

The Legislature provided \$48 million in funding for the 2013-15 biennium.

## PARTNERSHIPS

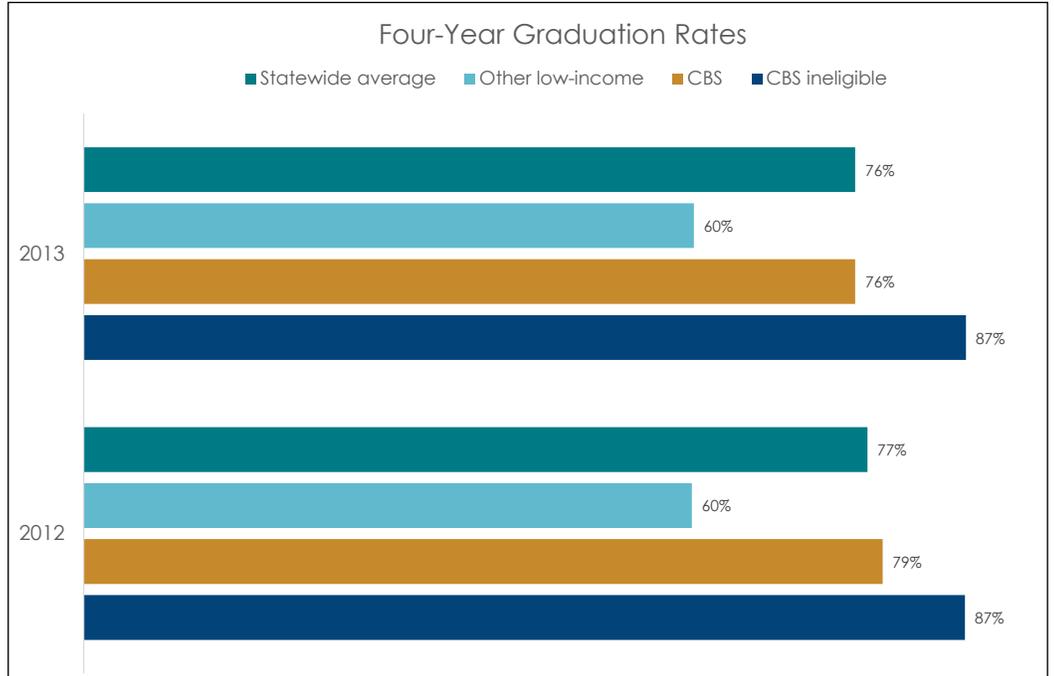
The program works collaboratively with the K-12 system, state agencies, non-profit organizations, and regional college access groups to help students as they move through middle and high school.

Statewide partners such as the College Success Foundation assist students and families with the sign up process and filing the FAFSA.



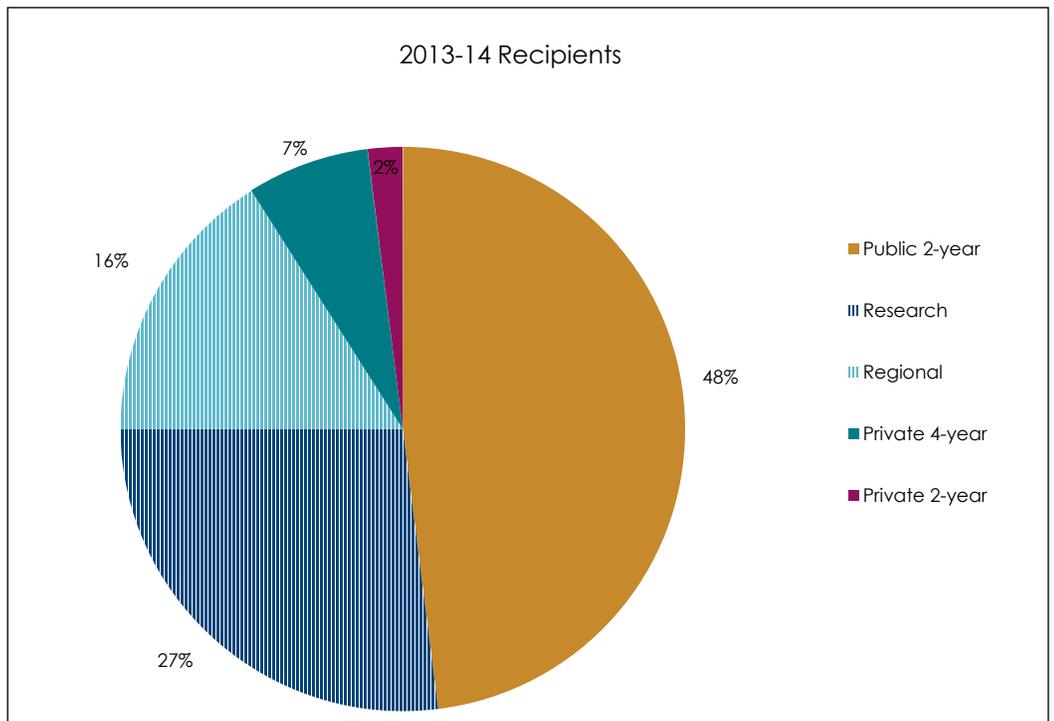
# PROGRAM RESULTS

CBS students' high school graduation rates were 19 and 15 percentage points higher than their low-income peers for the first two cohorts.



Source: OSPI staff analysis of WSAC CBS Applicant Data.

More scholarship recipients are attending four-year institutions than anticipated.



Source: WSAC May Interim Report, 2013-14 (May 2014). CBS recipients

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Washington's student financial aid programs are known collectively as **Opportunity Pathways**. The Washington Student Achievement Council administers these programs, helping thousands of students earn college certificates and degrees annually.