



CONTACT:  
Maddy Thompson  
Director of Policy and Government Relations  
maddyt@wsac.wa.gov  
360-753-7635

# Passport to College Promise Scholarship

## OVERVIEW

In 2007, Washington created the Passport to College Promise Scholarship program to provide higher education opportunities to youth and alumni of foster care. Institutions can also receive incentive grants to enhance and target support services to foster youth.

Three primary components are administered by the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC):

- 1) A student scholarship for former foster youth.
- 2) Campus incentive funding to colleges that designate campus support staff and take other steps to recruit and retain former foster youth.
- 3) A partnership with the College Success Foundation to provide additional student intervention and retention services to foster youth, and training and technical assistance to campus staff.



## BENEFITS STUDENTS

Passport provides foster youth with assistance in preparing for college and specialized support services from college staff. Students receive a scholarship that helps cover the cost of attending college (tuition, fees, books, housing, transportation, and some personal expenses), and recipients get priority consideration for the State Need Grant. In the 2016-17 academic year, the program served 335 students.

Without significant intervention,  
**less than 2%**  
of foster youth are likely to attain a **bachelor's degree.**



## BENEFITS THE STATE

A college education can improve lifelong outcomes for this disadvantaged population, helping them become productive and contributing adults in their communities.

Passport also provides the first opportunity to obtain verifiable baseline data on foster youth aspirations and performance in postsecondary education in Washington.

## PROGRAM FUNDING

The maximum Passport award is evaluated each year based on available funds and projected enrollments. Since 2012-13, the award has been \$4,500. In 2015-16, students received \$1,160,526 in scholarship funds. Institutions received \$389,500 to provide enhanced support services to Passport-eligible students.

The College Success Foundation also received nearly \$500,000 to provide student intervention, campus support, and community integration services.

“I am able to have a college experience and make something out of myself. I’m so appreciative.”

“This program taught me to grow up, taught me responsibilities, and most of all that you believe in your students.”

## DATA EXCHANGE

A groundbreaking data exchange was developed between the Washington Student Achievement Council, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), and colleges. In 2016-17, over 2,200 records were reviewed by DSHS, and of those, 210 students were determined eligible.

## VIABLE PLAN

Intensive support services on college campuses assist student retention rates and postsecondary success. Currently, 47 institutions are participating in the “viable plan” to offer these support services. Colleges provide direct services, such as emergency funding, tutoring, meals, incentives for meeting academic goals, housing, school supplies, counseling, and transportation assistance.

Passport Students by Sector						
Sector	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Research	36	43	46	46	49	43
Public 4-Year	47	54	54	54	59	43
Private 4-Year	28	32	25	27	24	27
Comm. & Tech.	261	271	259	244	263	219
Private Career	1	4	12	4	6	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>335</b>

### Washington’s student financial aid programs are known collectively as Opportunity Pathways.

The Washington Student Achievement Council administers these programs, helping tens of thousands of students earn college certificates and degrees annually.

Student and parent information about Passport can be found at [www.readysetgrad.org/passport](http://www.readysetgrad.org/passport).



**WASHINGTON**  
OPPORTUNITY PATHWAYS