Washington Student Achievement Council

COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
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2013-2014 Questions & Answers

General Information and Application

Q: What is the College Bound Scholarship Program?

A: It is an early commitment of financial aid to 7th and 8th graders whose families are unable to pay for college. Eligible students apply for the College Bound Scholarship, which promises annual college tuition (at public institution rates) and a small book allowance. The Scholarship is a state-funded program administered by the Washington Student Achievement Council (the Council).

Q: What is the Student Pledge?

A: As a College Bound student, you pledge to:

- Do well in middle school and high school, and graduate with a cumulative high school grade point average of 2.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Be a good citizen in school and in your community, and not be convicted of a felony.
- Apply for financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in a timely manner when you apply for college.

Q: How much is the Scholarship award?

A: The College Bound Scholarship award amount will combine with Washington State Need Grant and other state funding to cover tuition/fees (at public institution rates) and a small book allowance. Additional financial aid for college expenses beyond tuition will likely be offered. This additional aid may be in the form of federal grants, work-study, scholarships and loans. You will receive your Scholarship through your college or university as part of your financial aid award.

Q: Where can I use the College Bound Scholarship?

A: You can earn an approved certificate or degree at a Washington public community or technical college, public four-year institution, an approved independent college or university, or private career school that participates in the Washington State Need Grant program. For a complete list go to www.collegebound.wa.gov

Q: How do I sign-up?

A: You and your parent/guardian must complete and sign the College Bound Scholarship application by June 30 at the end of your 8th grade year.

You may apply online or request a paper application at www.collegebound.wa.gov. The online application is secure, fast, and accurate. Either application requires you to mail the signature page to the Council.

Q: Do I have to have a Social Security number (SSN) to apply?

A: You do not need a SSN when you apply for College Bound in middle school. If you have a SSN, put it on the application; if you do not, use your State Student Identification Number. Ask your school for this number or find it on your Measure of Student Progress (MSP) scores.

When you apply to college, you must complete the FAFSA. At that time you must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen to receive the College Bound Scholarship.

Q: Can eligible home-school students and private school students apply?

A: Yes. Write in the name of your school or "home school" for the name of the school.

Q: How will I know if my College Bound Scholarship application was accepted by the Council?

A: You will receive a certificate within 4 weeks after submitting a complete application. If you do not, please call 1-888-535-0747 or email collegebound@wsac.wa.gov.

Q: How does the pledge to "Be a good citizen in school and in my community, and not be convicted of a felony" affect my College Bound Scholarship?

A: You will not be eligible to receive the Scholarship if you are convicted of a felony.

Family Income and Financial Eligibility

Q: What is the family income requirement to apply for the College Bound Scholarship?

A: You are eligible to apply if you meet one of these requirements:

- You are eligible for the federal free- or reduced-price lunch program.
- Your family receives basic food/TANF benefits.
- You are in foster care or a dependent of the state.
- Your family meets the income standards (see the income chart on the application).

Q: What if my family's income is greater than the income standard, can I apply anyway?

A: Sorry, no. For other ways to pay for your college education visit www.readysetgrad.org

Q: How do I know what my family income is?

A: Income is defined by USDA free- and reduced-price lunch guidelines as any money received on a recurring basis including gross earned income. Gross earned income means all money earned before deductions (income taxes, Social Security taxes, insurance premiums). Income includes but is not limited to:

- Salaries, tips, commissions
- Unemployment and Workers' Compensation
- Child support and alimony
- Social Security, disability, veterans benefits, Supplemental Security Income
- Net rental income, cash from savings, regular contributions from persons not living in household

Family size is everyone for whom your parent/guardian is responsible and provides more than half of their support.

Q: What if my parents are separated/divorced or I live with someone else?

A: Following free- and reduced-price lunch guidelines, if your parents are divorced or separated, you are generally part of the household of the parent that has custody of you. If you live with each parent equally and one parent meets the income eligibility, you are eligible. If you live with other relatives or family friends, you are considered a member of that household.

Q: What will the income requirement be to receive the Scholarship when I graduate from high school?

A: Your eligibility for the Scholarship will be based on your FAFSA, which you must complete in a timely manner when you apply for college. Your family's income during this period must fall within 65% of the state's median family income. If your family has questions, contact the financial aid office of the college you plan to attend.