

April 2012

State Need Grant Policy Review

Information Item

New legislation directs the Student Achievement Council and the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) to prepare separate reports on the effectiveness of the State Need Grant program in meeting the higher education needs of low-income students and achieving the state's higher education goals.

The agency legislation (E2HB 2483) requires the Council to report on these issues:

- Outcomes of students receiving state need grants.
- Impacts on meeting the state's higher education goals for educational attainment.
- Options for prioritizing the State Need Grant.

The operating budget requires WSIPP to evaluate academic outcomes of SNG students and conduct a longitudinal study to determine:

- The extent to which this program has increased access and degree attainment for low-income students.
- Whether the funding has been utilized in the most efficient way possible to maximize the enrollment and degree attainment of low-income students.

In support of these efforts, the HECB has convened a workgroup of financial aid administrators and stakeholders to conduct a comprehensive policy review. The review will consider policies that provide students equitable opportunity across educational sectors and withstand economic cycles. The workgroup intends to evaluate the overarching policy goals and coordination with federal and campus aid.

The review aims to ultimately complement the WSIPP study and provide recommendations to the Council and legislators.