

Access

Affordability

Achievement



College Bound Scholarship Program

Funding

In 2007, the Legislature allocated \$7.4 million, which was invested in the GET program and has grown to more than \$12 million.

The Caseload Forecast Council will forecast the number and cost of students who are eligible for the College Bound Scholarship program and are expected to attend a participating institution of higher education.

The Scholarship amount is based on tuition rates at Washington public colleges and universities.

It covers the cost of tuition and fees (plus a small book allowance) that are not covered by the State Need Grant or other state financial aid.

Background

Established in 2007, the College Bound Scholarship program provides financial assistance to low-income students who want to achieve the dream of a college education.

The Scholarship is available to students who meet the income requirements for the free- and reduced-price lunch program, and who sign up in their 7th or 8th grade year.

Benefits to Students

The Scholarship enables students and families to aspire to higher education at a young age, without concern about rising costs.

The program utilizes partnerships across the state including schools and college access programs to provide guidance and support to students as they move through middle and high school.

Benefits to State

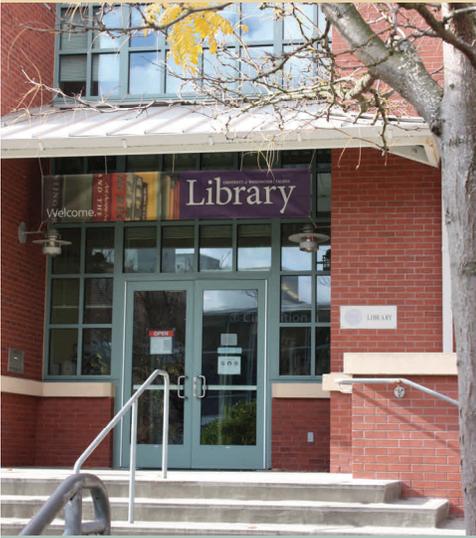
Washington currently ranks 40th nationally in the percentage of low-income students participating in postsecondary education (*Postsecondary Education Opportunity*, September 2010).

Within 10 years, these students will represent 33 percent of high school graduating classes and, without intervention, 72 percent of students from low-income families are unlikely to aspire to college.

The College Bound Scholarship is consistent with Washington's *Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education*, which calls for increasing efforts to make college more affordable and accessible as a way of raising educational attainment and creating a college-going culture in the state.



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Program Updates

Based on new legislation, students in dependent care in 7th through 12th grade, or up to age 21 and not yet graduated from high school, are eligible for College Bound. The Council and DSHS are creating a data sharing system to automatically enroll these students.

Technology enhancements now give K-12 staff access to the Council's portal website where they can obtain lists of their students who have completed applications, and compare them with names of eligible students. This also allows them an opportunity to monitor their sign-up numbers and target their recruiting efforts. High school teachers and counselors also use this feature to determine which seniors have completed their FAFSAs.



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Partnerships

The basis for successful sign-up and support efforts has been the Council's strong partnerships with the K-12 system, community-based and college access partners, and non-profit organizations.

In 2012, there were many partnerships to enroll eligible students, support them in high school, and to assist seniors in applying for college and completing the FAFSA. Examples include:

- ◆ A data-sharing agreement with OSPI allows schools and the Council to monitor the progress of College Bound students.
- ◆ The College Success Foundation, Community Center for Education Results, and the Seattle Community colleges hosted events to assist with college and financial aid applications.
- ◆ Tacoma Public Schools, the University of Puget Sound, and Tacoma Community College held a Gold Star Reception to honor and inform their College Bound seniors.
- ◆ Bellingham Public Schools, Advocates for Multicultural Student Achievement, and Western Washington University co-sponsored a celebration for College Bound students who filed the FAFSA.
- ◆ Washington College Access Network organized events for College Bound high school students at the University of Washington and UW Tacoma.
- ◆ The Northwest Education Loan Association scheduled more than 54 College Goal Sunday events, which provide students with help in filing the FAFSA.

Program Results

- ◆ To date, more than 115,000 students have applied for the College Bound Scholarship.
 - ◇ In the first five cohorts, about 66 percent of eligible students applied.
 - ◇ In 2011-12, 77 percent of the 8th grade class signed up by the deadline.
- ◆ To date more than 9,800 College Bound 2012 seniors, who are the first cohort to graduate, have filed their FAFSA.
- ◆ 90 percent of College Bound students have a 2.0 GPA or higher and 50 percent have more than a 3.0.
- ◆ More students than expected will be attending four-year colleges.

More Information

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