



2023 WFAA Conference WSAC Update

October 2023

Carla Idohl-Corwin, Senior Associate Director





Agenda

- **WSAC Overview**
- **2023 Legislative Session Review & 2024 Preview**
- **Washington College Grant and WA Bridge Grant**
- **Other State Aid Programs**
- **WSAC Initiatives**
- **Resources**
- **Q&A**



About the Council



Our Mission:

We advance educational opportunities and attainment in Washington. In pursuit of our mission, the **Washington Student Achievement Council:**

- Leads statewide strategic planning to improve educational coordination and transitions.
- Supports Washingtonians through the administration of financial aid, a college savings plan, and support services.
- Advocates for the economic, social, and civic benefits of postsecondary education.



The Council



Jeff Vincent, Chair
Retired CEO & President
Laird Norton Company



Jeff Charbonneau, Vice Chair
Principal
Zillah School District



Sativah Jones, Secretary
Assistant Director of College
and Career Readiness
Highline Public Schools



Evangelina Shreeve
Chief Diversity Officer &
Director, STEM Education
Pacific NW Nat'l Laboratory



Ruben Flores
Interim Executive Director
Council of Presidents



Paul Francis
Executive Director
State Board for Community
and Technical Colleges



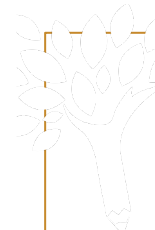
Chris Reykdal
Superintendent
Office of Superintendent of
Public Instruction



Dr. Terri Standish-Kuon
CEO & President
Independent Colleges of
Washington



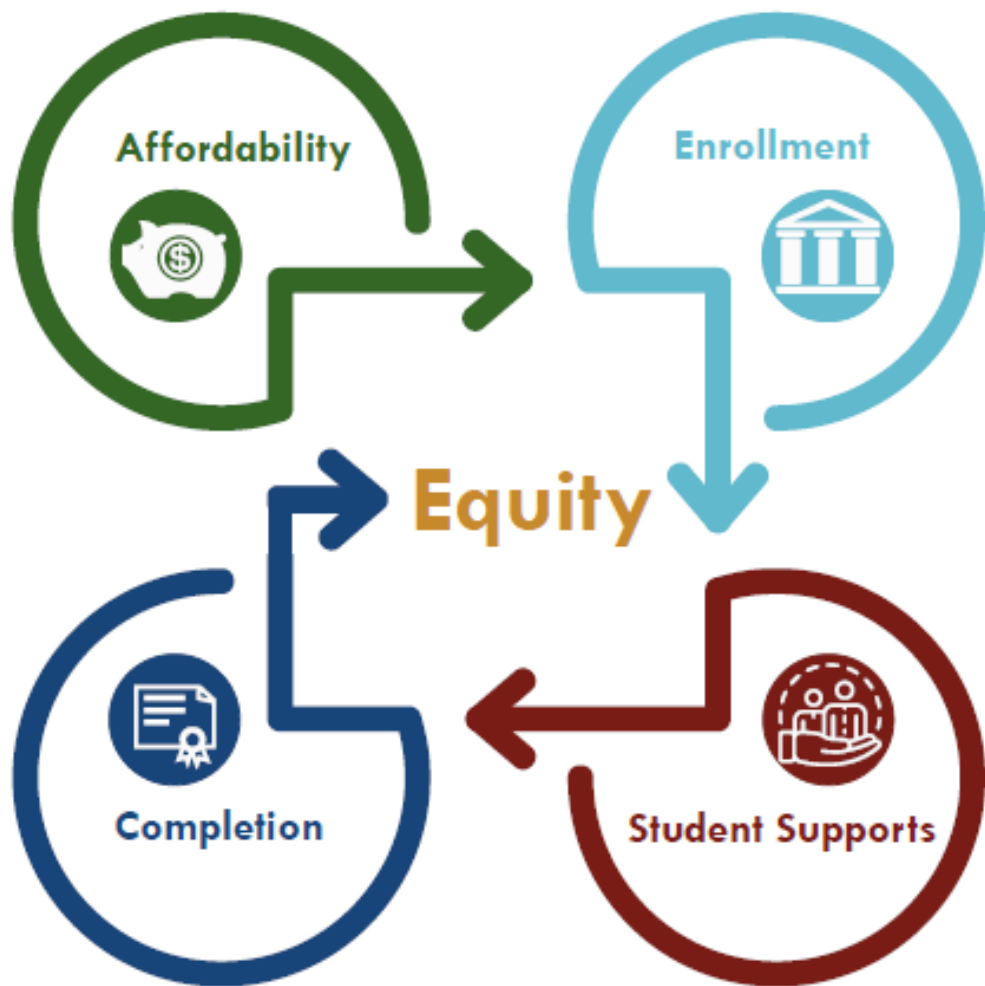
Mustapha Samateh
Student
University of Washington



Vacant
Student



Strategic framework



If we build an **affordable** and **supportive** educational environment, more Washington residents will **enroll** in and **complete** a credential-bearing program.

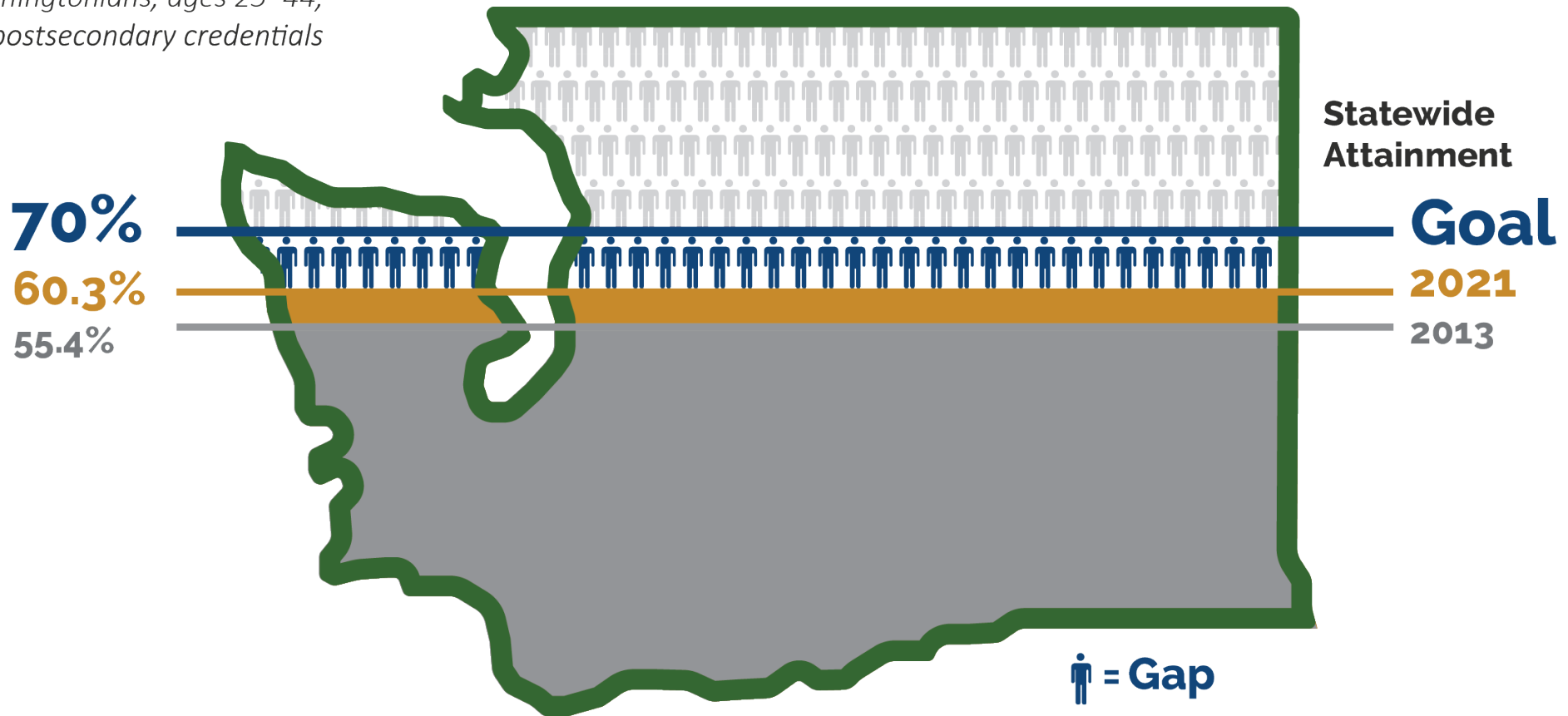
***Equity** is an outcome in which justice is realized within our society through a continuous, intentional process of identifying and abolishing racism and all forms of oppression designed to marginalize students, communities, and families who are Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, regardless of immigration status, and all oppressed groups.*

WSAC Equity Definition



Statewide Attainment Goal Progress

*Washingtonians, ages 25–44,
with postsecondary credentials*

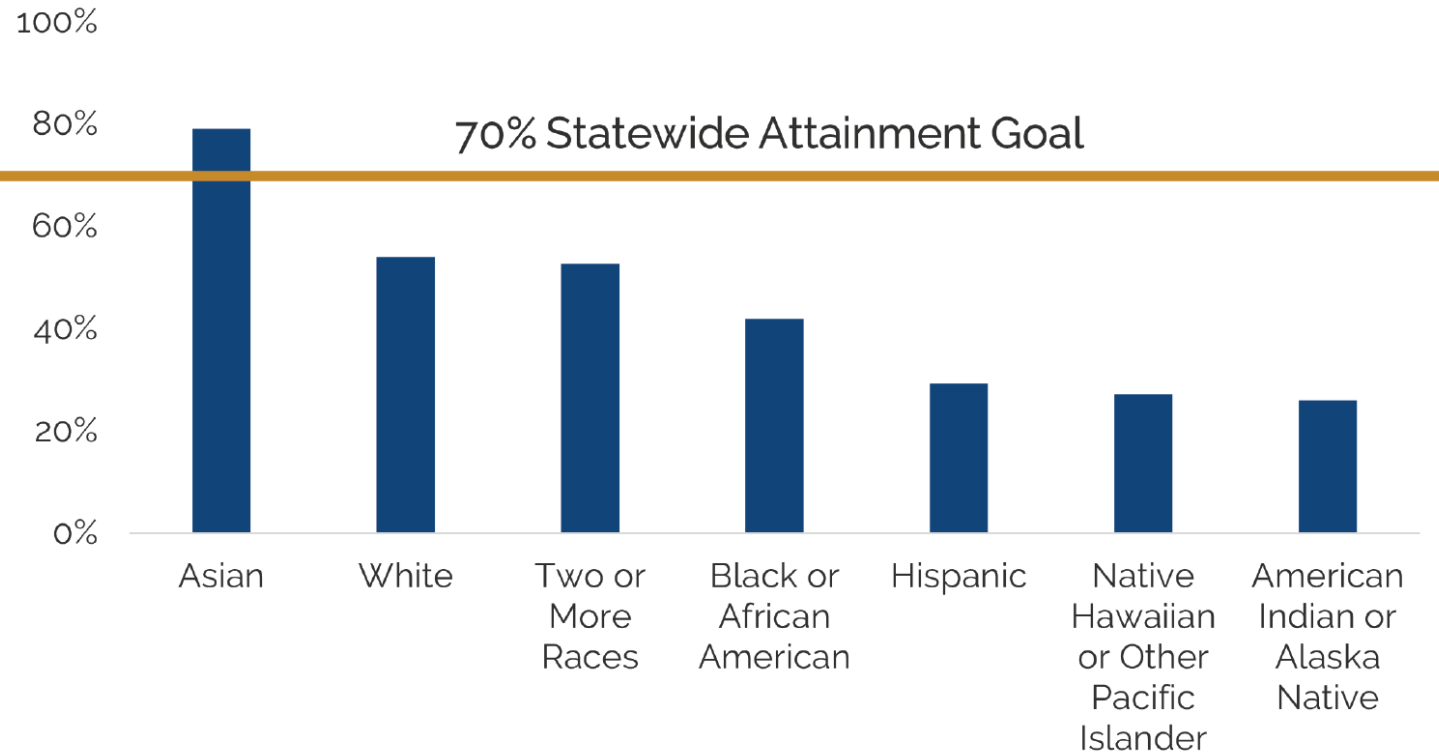




Equity in Educational Attainment

2021 Attainment by Race/Ethnicity

*Washingtonians, ages 25–44,
with postsecondary credentials*





2023 Legislative Session Review & 2024 Preview



2023 Session Update – SFA Bill Tracker - House Bills

SFA-Related Bills
WSAC Tracked Bills

Bill	Title	Status	Chapter / Law	Sponsor
	HOUSE BILLS			
2SHB 1013	Establishing regional apprenticeship programs.	Governor Signed	Chapter 128 / Law 23	Maycumber
HB 1030	Concerning applied doctorate degree-granting authority.	Governor Signed	Chapter 130 / Law 23	Leavitt
2SHB 1176	Developing opportunities for service and workforce programs to support climate-ready communities.	Governor Signed	Chapter 231 / Law 23	Slatter
HB 1232	Enhancing the college bound scholarship program.	Governor Signed	Chapter 174 / Law 23	Bergquist
E2SHB 1238	Providing free school meals for all.	Governor Signed	Chapter 379 / Law 23	Riccelli
SHB 1289	Program admin. for the WA state opportunity scholarship program.	Governor Signed	Chapter 176 / Law 23	Reed
HB 1308	Concerning high school graduation pathway options.	Governor Signed	Chapter 349 / Law 23	Stonier
2SHB 1316	Expanding access to dual credit programs. (Summer Running Start)	Governor Signed	Chapter 350 / Law 23	Paul
2SHB 1522	Addressing sexual misconduct at scholarly or professional associations.	Governor Signed	Chapter 79 / Law 23	Pollett
2SHB 1525	Concerning eligibility for working connections child care benefits for persons participating in state registered apprenticeships.	Governor Signed	Chapter 294 / Law 23	Fosse
2SHB 1559	Establishing student basic needs at public postsecondary institutions act	Governor Signed	Chapter 421 / Law 23	Entenman
HB 1622	Supporting the needs of students experiencing homelessness.	Governor Signed	Chapter 386 / Law 23	Fey
HB 1679	Modifying and extending requirements of a work group to address the needs of students in foster care, experiencing homelessness, or both.	Governor Signed	Chapter 300 / Law 23	Rule
HB 1763	Relating to ensuring completion of conditional scholarship obligations and reducing penalties for excusable incomplete obligations.	Governor Signed	Chapter 159 / Law 23	Eslick
EHB 1823	Modifying the Washington student loan program.	Governor Signed	Chapter 389 / Law 23	Timmons



2023 Session Update – Senate and Budget Bills

SFA-Related Bills

WSAC Tracked Bills

Bill	Title	Status	Chapter / Law	Sponsor
SENATE BILLS				
2SSB 5048	Eliminating college in high school fees.	Governor Signed	Chapter 314 / Law 23	Mullet
SB 5079	Concerning the date by which tuition operating fees are established.	Governor Signed	Chapter 9 / Law 23	Braun
2SSB 5225	Increasing access to the working connections child care program.	Governor Signed	Chapter 222 / Law 23	Wilson
E2SSB 5243	Concerning high school and beyond plans.	Governor Signed	Chapter 271 / Law 23	Wellman
ESSB 5512	Financial transparency reporting requirements to public four-year dashboard.	Governor Signed	Chapter 98 / Law 23	Holy
2SSB 5518	Protection of critical constituent and state operational data against the financial and personal harm caused by ransomware and cyber activities.	Governor Signed	Chapter 124 / Law 23	Boehnke
SSB 5523	Addressing the forensic pathologist shortage.	Governor Signed		Dhingra
ESB 5534	Concerning workforce education investment accountability and oversight board staffing changes.	Governor Signed	Chapter 282 / Law 23	Randall
E2SSB 5582	Reducing barriers and expanding educational opportunities to increase the supply of nurses in WA.	Governor Signed	Chapter 126 / Law 23	Holy
2SSB 5593	Improving equity in the transfer of student data between K-12 schools and institutions of higher ed.	Governor Signed	Chapter 406 / Law 23	Lias
SSB 5687	Creating postsecondary wrestling grant programs.	Governor Signed	Chapter 190 / Law 23	Van De Wege
ESSB 5702	Expanding students experiencing homelessness & foster youth pilot.	Governor Signed	Chapter 339 / Law 23	Trudeau
BUDGET BILL				
ESSB 5187	Making 2023-25 fiscal biennium operating appropriations – (Budget)	Delivered to Gov.	Bill signing May 16	Rolfes



2023 Session Update – Financial Aid Related Legislation

HB 1232 – College Bound Scholarship

- First time enrollees for 2023-24, 2.0 GPA only required for direct admission to 4-year public or private institutions.
- 2.0 GPA requirement eliminated for attendance at other types of institutions.
- Requires WSAC to submit an annual report to the Legislature.
- Adds additional data points on grade point averages added to the data:
 - How many students enroll that graduated with < 2.0 GPA
 - Persistence and completion rates of CBS recipients disaggregated by institution and by high school GPA



2023 Session Update – Financial Aid Related Legislation

HB 1763 – Ensuring completion of conditional scholarship obligations and reducing penalties for excusable incomplete obligations

- Loan interest rate and repayment interest rate for conditional scholarships under the Washington Health Corps limited to 2%.
- Allows WSAC to make exceptions for conditions for participation and repayment obligations due to substantial circumstances beyond the participant's control.



2023 Session Update – Financial Aid Related Legislation

HB 1823 – Modifying the state student loan program

- Interest rates capped at 2.5% or below, and accrue during all periods, except when enrolled in an eligible graduate degree program.
- Limited to \$20,000 per borrower per year and repayment must not exceed 25 years.
- WSAC may select one or more financial institutions for loan origination and servicing.
- Limited to Graduate students only enrolled in specialized fields of study that have a workforce shortage or are considered high demand.
- Priority given to demographically underrepresented or those who do not qualify for federal funding student financial aid.
- WSAC may award loans beginning 2025-26.



Undocumented Student Loan Program

SB 6561 - Undocumented Student Loan Program (2020)

- Contingent on private donations that would be matched with state funds up to \$2M/biennium.
 - Private funding **has not been secured.**



2023 Session Update – Financial Aid Related Legislation

2SHB 1835 – Creating outreach and completion initiatives to increase postsecondary enrollment. (Ongoing from 2022)

- Automatic WCG income eligibility for students receiving the following public benefit programs, or for students whose parent is receiving, while in grade 10, 11, or 12.
 - Aged, blind, or disabled assistance benefits
 - Essential Needs and Housing Support Benefits
 - Pregnant Women Assistance Program
 - Referred to as WCG-Connect



2023 Session Update – Financial Aid Related Legislation

2SHB 1835 – (Continued)

- Promotion of Washington College Grant and FAFSA/WASFA
 - WSAC shall conduct a statewide advertising campaign to increase awareness of WCG.
 - SBCTC will administer pilot program and award grants to CTCs to provide outreach specialists to boost FAFSA and WASFA completion rates.
 - State library administered a grant pilot program to increase FAFSA/WASFA filing rates. They did not receive continued funding.
 - WSAC will collaborate and share data with DSHS to increase awareness and usage of WCG.



WA Grant – Advertising Campaign

 GA:CREATIVE

Developing a brand and driving awareness
of Washington College Grant



2023 Session Update – Financial Aid Related Legislation

SB 5079 – Tuition operating fees established by October 1

- Office of Financial Management (OFM) is required to calculate, and transmit to the institutions of higher education, the maximum annual increase in tuition operating fees for resident undergraduate students for the following academic year.



2023 Session Update – Financial Aid Related Legislation

2SSB 5789 – Creating the Washington career and college pathways innovation challenge program (or Regional Challenge Grant)

- WSAC received an additional \$16 M for Biennium 2024-25, for Regional Challenge Grant
 - To date, WSAC has awarded 8 competitive Regional Challenge Grants* to support regional partnerships between K-12, higher education institutions, and community-based organizations.
 - Grantees implement or expand interventions to increase college enrollment and completion for high school graduates and adult learners.
 - Grantee strategies are responsive to their regional needs and focus on eliminating opportunity gaps.

**The next application cycle will open in January '24 with Council reviews in June '24*



Regional Partnerships

Regional Challenge Grant Cohort - Totaling \$4.85 million in grant awards

Lead Partner Name	Primary County	Grant Tier
Foundation for Tacoma Students	Pierce	Implementation
City of Seattle's Department of Education and Early Learning	King	Implementation
Launch NW and the Innovia Foundation	Spokane	Implementation
Chehalis School District	Lewis	Implementation
The STEM Foundation	Benton	Partnership Formation
Yakima Valley Partners for Education	Yakima	Partnership Formation
Methow Valley School District	Okanogan	Partnership Formation
United Way of the Blue Mountains	Walla Walla	Partnership Formation



2023 Session Update – Financial Aid Related Legislation

ESSB 5187 – Creating the Budget: 2023-2025 fiscal biennium operating appropriations and the 2021-23 fiscal biennium second supplemental operating appropriations

- Provides funding for the WA Bridge Grant for each of the next two years.
- Establishes the Median Family Income for WCG for maximum award for up to 65% MFI.
- Passport Implementation Review to include short and long term recommendations to improve the reach and effectiveness of the program.



WSAC – Agency Request Legislation and Budget Requests

- Maximum State Aid Time Frame – est. \$8.3M
 - Align WCG, CBS and PTC maximum eligibility time frame with the federal Pell Grant/18 FT quarters, or the equivalent.
 - Statute change to eliminate the 5 year from HS graduation requirement for CBS and the 27 year old age limit for PTC.
 - Important change for students that have had disruptive events (like illness or economic hardship) that are close to graduating complete
 - Reduces FAA administrative burden



WSAC – Agency Request Legislation and Budget Requests

- Washington College Grant-Connect and SNAP
 - This would allow recipients of Basic Food (SNAP) and the WA Food Assistance Programs to meet income requirements for WCG without filing a FAFSA/WASFA.
 - This would be adding another program determined to meet eligibility within the WCG-Connect program.



WSAC – Agency Request Legislation and Budget Requests

- College and Career Mentorship through SWS – est. \$1.5M
 - Would allow SWS positions at public and nonprofit employers that engage in college access work or provide near peer mentorship to be exempt from an employer match rate.
- Passport to Careers – est. \$2M
 - Funding to keep up with forecasted increase in eligible students.
 - Request includes funding for student grants, campus funding and contracted support services.
- National Guard Grant – est. \$1.57 M
 - Funding to allow awards at allowable maximum (tuition at public rates, plus \$500 for books/supplies)



**Washington College Grant
College Bound &
Washington Bridge Grant**



2023-24 Interim Reporting Dates

Report	Due Dates
Fall Interim Report	November 13, 2023
Winter Interim Report	February 19, 2024
Spring Interim Report	May 6, 2024
Final Interim Report*	July 15, 2024

*The interim report in CSAW opens four weeks before the interim report due date. Colleges can upload their interim report data any time within that four-week window.



WCG, CBS, and Bridge Grants

Academic Year Head Counts	Washington College Grant	WCG - Apprenticeship	College Bound Scholarship	WA Bridge Grant
2022-23	91,660	114	18,017	51,570
2021-22	94,156	55	18,247	n/a
2020-21	99,091	9	19,034	n/a

Academic Year	Washington College Grant	WCG - Apprenticeship	College Bound Scholarship	WA Bridge Grant
2022-23	\$435,751,340	\$331,195	\$14,484,799	\$24,473,524
2021-22	\$424,361,951	\$87,789	\$16,928,012	n/a
2020-21	\$440,346,191	\$9,660	\$17,704,961	n/a

College Bound

- New logo/branding
- References to College Bound will be as an early commitment
- Labeled as College Bound Scholarship on Financial Aid Offers





Washington Bridge Grant

- WA Bridge Grant extended for 2023-24 and 2024-25
 - ESSB 5187 – This program extended by a proviso in the budget.
- Maximum annual award amount is \$500
 - Students will receive either a lump sum payment, or
 - It may be disbursed over enrolled terms
 - Each institution will determine which is in the best interest of the student
 - Award amount may be less - based on student need



Washington Bridge Grant

- Who is eligible to receive the WA Bridge Grant?
 - Students who receive a maximum Washington College Grant award and still have need remaining
 - 0-65% MFI
 - Are enrolled in at least three credits at an eligible institution; and
 - Meet satisfactory academic progress.



Washington Bridge Grant

- College Bound Scholarship eligible students **are not** eligible to receive the Washington Bridge Grant.
 - Please refer to “CBS Eligibility Checker” to determine eligibility.
- However, some examples of CBS students who might be eligible for a WA Bridge Grant include:
 - Students who signed up for CBS but did not meet the high school graduation requirement, did not meet the enrollment deadline, and those who are past the 5-year eligibility.



Other State Aid and Workforce Programs



State Work Study Portal

Updates to WSAC Portal for SWS including:

- New CSV file format for timesheets, uploaded directly by institutions.
- Fully electronic process for contracts and job descriptions and updated renewal pages.
- New cash request page for public colleges.
- Updates implemented at the beginning of March 2023.
- Contact sws@wsac.wa.gov with questions.



Passport to Careers - PLT

Passport Leadership Team (PLT) is a 28-member, cross-sector team of student support professionals, which includes representatives from postsecondary institutions, community partners, and state agencies.

Three strategic goals:

1. Passport program data
2. Passport program infrastructure
3. PLT advising structure



Passport by the Numbers

Academic Year	Scholarship Funds	Student Support Funds to Institutions
2022-23	\$4,670,398	\$1,428,250
2021-22	\$3,700,857	\$2,031,600
2020-21	\$2,886,778	\$2,569,250

Academic Year	Foster Youth	Unaccompanied Homeless Youth	Apprentice or Pre-Apprentice
2022-23	447	695	62
2021-22	449	496	32
2020-21	467	418	17



Passport Student Survey

- 78% of students said they would not have enrolled, or stayed enrolled without Passport; or that Passport increased their likeliness to enroll
- 81% of students said the support they received helped them continue
- 26% needed to stop out at some point since they started. Most cited reasons are:
 - Mental health challenges
 - Housing insecurity
 - Lack of funds
- 69% of respondents are employed
 - Of those employed, 40% are working 30 or more hours per week



Educator Workforce Programs (EWP)

Conditional Scholarships:

1. Must teach in WA public K-12
2. Complete a Promissory Note
3. Teach in a shortage area
4. Repay if obligation not fulfilled



WA National Guard Grant Postsecondary Grant (NGG)

- NGG has awarded more than 110 service members pursuing Associate, Bachelor's, Master's, and Professional/Doctoral Degrees.
- NGG demand is forecasted to exceed budget appropriation
 - WA National Guard Advisory Committee Reduced Max NGG Awards
 - WSAC and the WA National Guard Exploring Other Financial Resources
- Continued FAA Support to Complete Certifications/Verifications is Much Appreciated!



Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE)

- 2023-2024 Application Cycle
 - 108 high-performing students selected for merit-based CTE awards
- 2024-2025 Application Cycle
 - Hosted on the WashBoard.org
 - Coordinated by the Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board
 - Expected to open in late winter/early spring
 - Possible three (3) recipients per legislative district for a total of 147 awards: two (2) high school and one (1) CTC student per district
 - Visit www.wtb.wa.gov/wave for more information





2022-23 Unit Record Reporting Timeline

Date	Action
July - August 2023	URR training webinars
August 7, 2023	URR application available for initial upload of data into WSAC Portal
October 9, 2023	Unit Record Report final submission date
October – December 2023	WSAC staff data editing and review
December 2023	URR data finalized
January 2024	URR Institutional Profile reports available for 2022-23 year

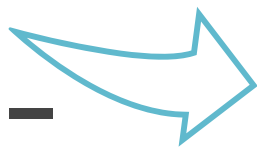


WSAC Initiatives and Resources



State SFA Advisory Workgroup – Better FAFSA related

Questions and considerations for state aid eligibility – that are being worked on with the State Aid Advisory Work Group



- ✓ SAI not being prorated
- ✓ Enrollment intensity
- Number in College
- ✓ Treatment of Child Support received = Asset
- ✓ Family farm/business
- Use of FTI - restrictions
- WASFA connection
- SWS earnings

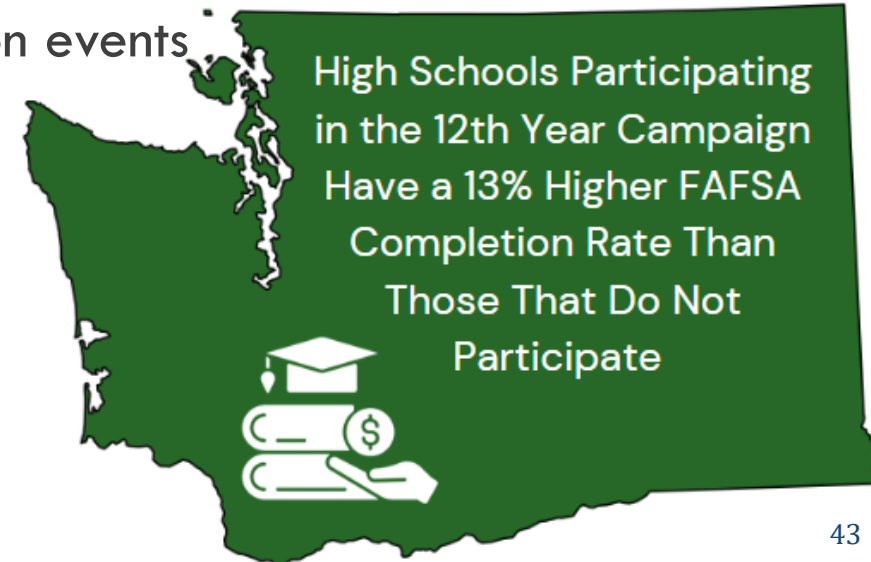
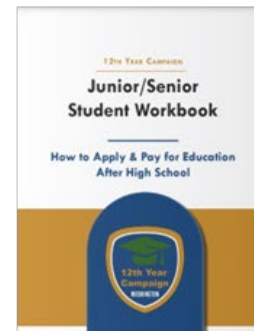
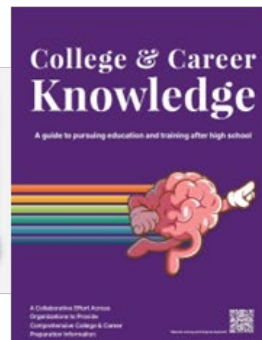


FAFSA/WASFA Completion Initiatives – 12th Year Campaign



The 12th Year Campaign boosts college and financial aid application rates in Washington by helping those working with high school seniors and their families complete applications for college admissions and financial aid.

- Free training
- Printed and digital resources
- Online financial aid information and completion events





FAFSA/WASFA Completion Initiatives – OtterBot



A free texting service to support all Washington high school students and their parents/guardians.

It is designed for seniors and juniors who are enrolled in College Bound.

A great source of info about financial aid, college planning, and reminders.



WSAC Aim Higher Initiative



<https://wsac.wa.gov/aim-higher-training>

Join us for Aim Higher Washington Trainings

Financial Aid Navigation

November 7th

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Walk through the WASFA and 2024-25 FAFSA with us! We will discuss common application challenges, and errors as well as next steps. This session will prepare participants to assist students as they apply for financial aid and train others.

FAFSA Simplification In-Person Trainings

Date and Time		Location
11/13/23	12pm - 3pm	Lower Columbia College
11/14/23	9am - 12pm	Highline School District
11/15/23	9am - 12pm	Columbia Basin College
11/16/23	9am - 12pm	Gonzaga University





Resource: Student Loan Advocate



<https://www.studentloaned.wa.gov>

loanadvocate@wsac.wa.gov





Student Loan Advocate Updates

- **Return to Repayment**
 - **"On-ramp" period** (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024)
 - Interest will still accrue, but will not capitalize
 - Late, missed, and partial payments will not be reported to credit bureaus, not considered in default, and not referred to collection agencies
- **Key Dates**
 - **September 1, 2023** – interest began to accrue on Dept. Of Education (ED)-held loans.
 - **October 2023** – 1st payments due on ED-held loans since the beginning of the payment pause on March 13, 2020.
 - **September 30, 2024** – end of "on-ramp" period. After 90 days late, borrowers start being reported as delinquent.



Student Loan Advocate Updates

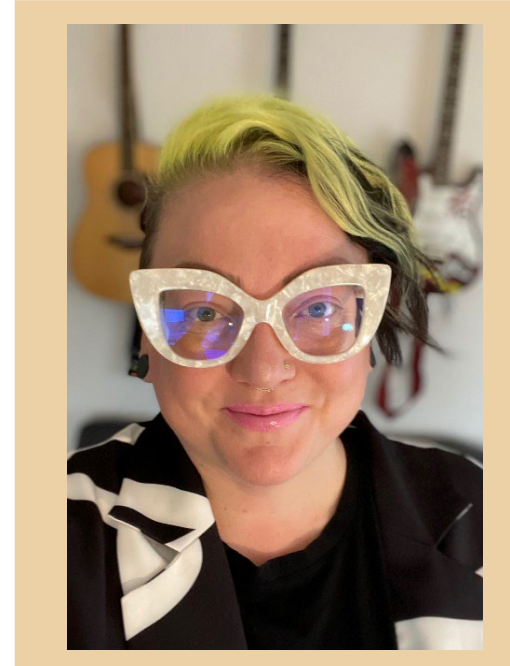
- **Past and upcoming webinars available at wsac.wa.gov/loan-advocacy:**
 - Get Ready for Student Loan Repayment
 - Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)
 - IDR Account Adjustment
- **Students/borrowers with questions or concerns?**
 - Complete our complaint/questions form to get assistance from us at [Studentcomplaints.wa.gov](https://studentcomplaints.wa.gov): Make sure to select “**Student Loan Questions and Complaints Form**”!
 - Currently, wait time for a response is about 4 weeks.



SFA New Team Members



Lyle Irimata
Assistant Director,
Need Based
Programs, Contracts
& Reporting



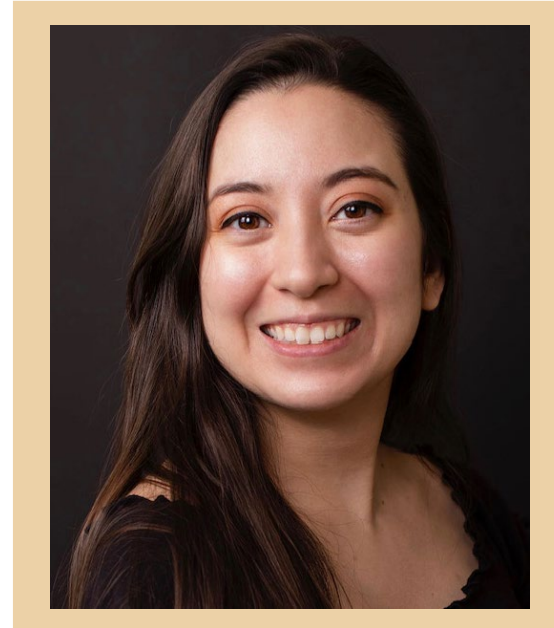
Carlie Curlee
Assistant Director,
Need Based
Programs



SFA New Team Members



Inez Olive
Associate Director
Workforce Programs



Jessica Murillo-Davis
Program Manager,
WAVE, NCG,
Workforce Programs



Student Financial Assistance Team





The WashBoard.org matches Washington students to scholarships from institutions, local businesses and rotaries, and other donors.

Smarter > Scholarship Matches

Looking for scholarships? theWashBoard.org makes it simple. We connect Washington students of all types with Washington scholarship providers...for FREE.

Whether you'll be attending in state or out, you save time by entering your profile once and letting us find the scholarship opportunities that fit. theWashBoard.org is spam-free and will never sell your information.

[Check us out in this video](#)

Sign In or Register Today!

> Sign In

[Forgot your password?](#)



For Seekers



Create a profile and let us do the rest. We will match you with scholarships you are most likely to qualify for and applying online is easy. [Check us out in this video](#)

> [Seeker Registration](#)

News & Announcements

The Washington Student Achievement Council administers the 12th Year Campaign to provide high school seniors with support for two important processes: applying to colleges and [applying for financial aid](#).

For Providers



Post your scholarship to reach a larger group of students. We make reviewing and evaluating applications easy. Find the next recipients of your scholarship. [Check us out in this video](#)

> [Provider Registration](#)



Contact Information

Questions/Subject	Email us at:
Financial Aid Administrators – WCG and General Questions	wcg@wsac.wa.gov
Repayments	repayment@wsac.wa.gov
Students – State Financial Aid Questions	finaid@wsac.wa.gov
Unit Record Report	unitrecord@wsac.wa.gov
WASFA Help	wasfa@wsac.wa.gov

Online	On Facebook	On Twitter
www.wsac.wa.gov	www.facebook.com/WSACouncil	@WSACouncil
www.theWashBoard.org	www.facebook.com/pg/thewashboardorg	



WSAC Website Resources

- Program Manuals
- WSAC Portal
- theWashBoard.org



theWashBoard.org

Questions?

