

1 AN ACT Relating to recommendations of the college bound
2 scholarship program work group; amending RCW 28B.118.040; reenacting
3 and amending RCW 28B.118.010; adding new sections to chapter 28B.118
4 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the college
7 bound scholarship program has demonstrated that an early promise of
8 financial aid results in increased high school graduation rates for
9 low-income students. The promise of state financial aid to students
10 from low-income families who work to graduate with sufficient grades
11 and no felony convictions provides them with a path toward greater
12 educational attainment and upward mobility. The scholarship program
13 has the potential to move Washington toward its long-term goal of a
14 better trained and educated workforce. Among the first two cohorts,
15 college bound enrollees were fifteen percent and nineteen percent
16 more likely to graduate from high school in 2012 and 2013 compared to
17 low-income peers who were not part of the program.

18 The legislature also finds that a comprehensive review of the
19 college bound scholarship program in 2014 resulted in unanimous
20 recommendations to improve and enhance certain components of the
21 program, including data collection, outreach, and program outcomes.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.118.010 and 2012 c 229 s 402 and 2012 c 163 s 8
2 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

3 The office of student financial assistance shall design the
4 Washington college bound scholarship program in accordance with this
5 section and in alignment with the state need grant program in chapter
6 28B.92 RCW unless otherwise provided in this section.

7 (1) "Eligible students" are those students who:

8 (a) Qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. If a student
9 qualifies in the seventh grade, the student remains eligible even if
10 the student does not receive free or reduced-price lunches
11 thereafter; or

12 (b) Are dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW and:

13 (i) In grade seven through twelve; or

14 (ii) Are between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one and have not
15 graduated from high school.

16 (2) Eligible students shall be notified of their eligibility for
17 the Washington college bound scholarship program beginning in their
18 seventh grade year. Students shall also be notified of the
19 requirements for award of the scholarship.

20 (3)(a) To be eligible for a Washington college bound scholarship,
21 a student eligible under subsection (1)(a) of this section must sign
22 a pledge during seventh or eighth grade that includes a commitment to
23 graduate from high school with at least a C average and with no
24 felony convictions. The pledge must be witnessed by a parent or
25 guardian and forwarded to the office of student financial assistance
26 by mail or electronically, as indicated on the pledge form.

27 (b) A student eligible under subsection (1)(b) of this section
28 shall be automatically enrolled, with no action necessary by the
29 student or the student's family, and the enrollment form must be
30 forwarded by the department of social and health services to the
31 higher education coordinating board or its successor by mail or
32 electronically, as indicated on the form.

33 (4)(a) Scholarships shall be awarded to eligible students
34 graduating from public high schools, approved private high schools
35 under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or who received home-based instruction
36 under chapter 28A.200 RCW.

37 (b) To receive the Washington college bound scholarship, a
38 student must graduate with at least a "C" average from a public high
39 school or an approved private high school under chapter 28A.195 RCW
40 in Washington or have received home-based instruction under chapter

1 28A.200 RCW, must have no felony convictions, and must be a resident
2 student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a) through (d).

3 (5) A student's family income will be assessed upon graduation
4 before awarding the scholarship.

5 (6) If at graduation from high school the student's family income
6 does not exceed sixty-five percent of the state median family income,
7 scholarship award amounts shall be as provided in this section.

8 (a) For students attending two or four-year institutions of
9 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, the value of the award
10 shall be (i) the difference between the student's tuition and
11 required fees, less the value of any state-funded grant, scholarship,
12 or waiver assistance the student receives; (ii) plus five hundred
13 dollars for books and materials.

14 (b) For students attending private four-year institutions of
15 higher education in Washington, the award amount shall be the
16 (~~representative average~~) equivalent of the maximum college bound
17 scholarship awards granted to students in public research
18 universities in Washington, less any state-funded grant or
19 scholarship assistance the student receives.

20 (c) For students attending private vocational schools in
21 Washington, the award amount shall be the (~~representative average~~)
22 equivalent of the maximum college bound scholarship awards granted to
23 students in public community and technical colleges in Washington,
24 less any state-funded grant or scholarship assistance the student
25 receives.

26 (7) Recipients may receive no more than four full-time years'
27 worth of scholarship awards.

28 (8) Institutions of higher education shall award the student all
29 need-based and merit-based financial aid for which the student would
30 otherwise qualify. The Washington college bound scholarship is
31 intended to replace unmet need, loans, and, at the student's option,
32 work-study award before any other grants or scholarships are reduced.

33 (9) The first scholarships shall be awarded to students
34 graduating in 2012.

35 (10) The state of Washington retains legal ownership of tuition
36 units awarded as scholarships under this chapter until the tuition
37 units are redeemed. These tuition units shall remain separately held
38 from any tuition units owned under chapter 28B.95 RCW by a Washington
39 college bound scholarship recipient.

1 (11) The scholarship award must be used within five years of
2 receipt. The recipient must enroll in an institution of higher
3 education no later than the fall term one academic year following
4 high school graduation. Any unused scholarship tuition units revert
5 to the Washington college bound scholarship account.

6 (12) Should the recipient terminate his or her enrollment for any
7 reason during the academic year, the unused portion of the
8 scholarship tuition units shall revert to the Washington college
9 bound scholarship account.

10 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.118.040 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 228 are each
11 amended to read as follows:

12 The office of student financial assistance shall:

13 (1) With the assistance of the office of the superintendent of
14 public instruction, implement and administer the Washington college
15 bound scholarship program;

16 (2) Develop and distribute, to all schools with students enrolled
17 in grade seven or eight, a pledge form that can be completed and
18 returned electronically or by mail by the student or the school to
19 the office of student financial assistance;

20 (3) Develop and implement a student application, selection, and
21 notification process for scholarships, which includes working with
22 other state agencies, law enforcement, or the court system to verify
23 that eligible students do not have felony convictions;

24 (4) Develop comprehensive social media outreach with grade-level
25 specific information designed to keep students on track to graduate
26 and leverage current tools such as the high school and beyond plan
27 required by the state board of education and the ready set grad web
28 site maintained by the student achievement council;

29 (5) Track scholarship recipients to ensure continued eligibility
30 and determine student compliance for awarding of scholarships;

31 ~~((+5))~~ (6) Within existing resources, collaborate with college
32 access providers and K-12, postsecondary, and youth-serving
33 organizations to map and coordinate mentoring and advising resources
34 across the state;

35 (7) Subject to appropriation, deposit funds into the state
36 educational trust fund;

37 ~~((+6))~~ (8) Purchase tuition units under the advanced college
38 tuition payment program in chapter 28B.95 RCW to be owned and held in

1 trust by the board, for the purpose of scholarship awards as provided
2 for in this section; and

3 ~~((7))~~ (9) Distribute scholarship funds, in the form of tuition
4 units purchased under the advanced college tuition payment program in
5 chapter 28B.95 RCW or through direct payments from the state
6 educational trust fund, to institutions of higher education on behalf
7 of scholarship recipients identified by the office, as long as
8 recipients maintain satisfactory academic progress.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.118
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 Each institution of higher education is encouraged to tailor
12 advising resources for any enrolled student who is the recipient of a
13 college bound scholarship. The institutions of higher education
14 should identify campus officials, resources, programs, and other
15 college bound scholarship students available to work with college
16 bound scholarship recipients.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.118
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 The student achievement council and all institutions of higher
20 education eligible to participate in the college bound scholarship
21 program shall ensure data needed to analyze and evaluate the
22 effectiveness of the college bound scholarship program is annually
23 provided to the education data center created in RCW 43.41.400 so
24 that it is available and easily accessible. The data to be reported
25 should include but not be limited to:

26 (1) The number of students who sign up for the college bound
27 scholarship program in seventh or eighth grade;

28 (2) The number of college bound scholarship students who graduate
29 from high school;

30 (3) The number of college bound scholarship students who enroll
31 in postsecondary education;

32 (4) Persistence and completion rates of college bound scholarship
33 recipients disaggregated by institutions of higher education;

34 (5) College bound scholarship recipient grade point averages;

35 (6) The number of college bound scholarship recipients who did
36 not remain eligible and reasons for ineligibility;

37 (7) College bound scholarship program costs; and

38 (8) Impacts to the state need grant program.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.118
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The Washington state institute for public policy shall
4 complete an evaluation of the college bound scholarship program and
5 submit a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by
6 December 1, 2018. The report shall complement studies on the college
7 bound scholarship program conducted at the University of Washington
8 or elsewhere. To the extent it is not duplicative of other studies,
9 the report shall evaluate educational outcomes emphasizing degree
10 completion rates at both secondary and postsecondary levels. The
11 report shall study certain aspects of the college bound scholarship
12 program, including but not limited to:

13 (a) College bound scholarship recipient grade point average and
14 its relationship to positive outcomes;

15 (b) Variance in remediation needed between college bound
16 scholarship recipient and their peers;

17 (c) Differentials in persistence between college bound
18 scholarship recipients and their peers; and

19 (d) The impact of ineligibility for the college bound scholarship
20 program, for reasons such as moving into the state after middle
21 school or change in family income.

22 (2) This section expires August 1, 2019.

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