

E2SHB 1311 - S COMM AMD
By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED 04/12/2019

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 **"Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.118.010 and 2018 c 204 s 1 and 2018 c 12 s 1
4 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

5 The office of student financial assistance shall design the
6 Washington college bound scholarship program in accordance with this
7 section and in alignment with the state need grant program in chapter
8 28B.92 RCW unless otherwise provided in this section.

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

10 (a) Qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.

11 (i) If a student qualifies in the seventh or eighth grade, the
12 student remains eligible even if the student does not receive free or
13 reduced-price lunches thereafter.

14 (ii) Beginning in the 2019-20 academic year, if a student
15 qualifies for free or reduced-price lunches in the ninth grade and
16 was previously ineligible during the seventh or eighth grade while he
17 or she was a student in Washington, the student is eligible for the
18 college bound scholarship program;

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

20 (i) In grade seven through twelve; or

21 (ii) Are between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one and have not
22 graduated from high school; or

23 (c) Were dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW and were adopted
24 between the ages of fourteen and eighteen with a negotiated adoption
25 agreement that includes continued eligibility for the Washington
26 state college bound scholarship program pursuant to RCW 74.13A.025.

27 (2) Eligible students and the students' parents or guardians
28 shall be notified of the student's eligibility for the Washington
29 college bound scholarship program (~~beginning in the student's~~
30 ~~seventh grade year~~). Students and the students' parents or guardians
31 shall also be notified of the requirements for award of the
32 scholarship.

1 (3) (a) To be eligible for a Washington college bound scholarship,
2 a student eligible under subsection (1) (a) (i) of this section must
3 sign a pledge during seventh or eighth grade (~~(that includes)~~) or a
4 student eligible under subsection (1) (a) (ii) of this section must
5 sign a pledge during ninth grade. The pledge must include a
6 commitment to graduate from high school with at least a C average and
7 with no felony convictions. The pledge must be witnessed by a parent
8 or guardian and forwarded to the office of student financial
9 assistance by mail or electronically, as indicated on the pledge
10 form.

11 (b) (i) Beginning in the 2018-19 academic year, the office of
12 student financial assistance shall make multiple attempts to secure
13 the signature of the student's parent or guardian for the purpose of
14 witnessing the pledge.

15 (ii) If the signature of the student's parent or guardian is not
16 obtained, the office of student financial assistance may partner with
17 the school counselor or administrator to secure the parent's or
18 guardian's signature to witness the pledge. The school counselor or
19 administrator shall make multiple attempts via all phone numbers,
20 email addresses, and mailing addresses on record to secure the
21 parent's or guardian's signature. All attempts to contact the parent
22 or guardian must be documented and maintained in the student's
23 official file.

24 (iii) If a parent's or guardian's signature is still not
25 obtained, the school counselor or administrator shall indicate to the
26 office of student financial assistance the nature of the unsuccessful
27 efforts to contact the student's parent or guardian and the reasons
28 the signature is not available. Then the school counselor or
29 administrator may witness the pledge unless the parent or guardian
30 has indicated that he or she does not wish for the student to
31 participate in the program.

32 (c) A student eligible under subsection (1) (b) of this section
33 shall be automatically enrolled, with no action necessary by the
34 student or the student's family, and the enrollment form must be
35 forwarded by the department of social and health services to the
36 office of student financial assistance by mail or electronically, as
37 indicated on the form.

38 (4) (a) Scholarships shall be awarded to eligible students
39 graduating from public high schools, approved private high schools

1 under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or who received home-based instruction
2 under chapter 28A.200 RCW.

3 (b) (i) To receive the Washington college bound scholarship, a
4 student must graduate with at least a "C" average from a public high
5 school or an approved private high school under chapter 28A.195 RCW
6 in Washington or have received home-based instruction under chapter
7 28A.200 RCW, must have no felony convictions, and must be a resident
8 student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a) through (e). A student
9 who is eligible to receive the Washington college bound scholarship
10 because the student is a resident student under RCW 28B.15.012(2) (e)
11 must provide the institution, as defined in RCW 28B.15.012, an
12 affidavit indicating that the individual will file an application to
13 become a permanent resident at the earliest opportunity the
14 individual is eligible to do so and a willingness to engage in any
15 other activities necessary to acquire citizenship, including but not
16 limited to citizenship or civics review courses.

17 (ii) For eligible children as defined in subsection (1)(b) and
18 (c) of this section, to receive the Washington college bound
19 scholarship, a student must have received a high school equivalency
20 certificate as provided in RCW 28B.50.536 or have graduated with at
21 least a "C" average from a public high school or an approved private
22 high school under chapter 28A.195 RCW in Washington or have received
23 home-based instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW, must have no felony
24 convictions, and must be a resident student as defined in RCW
25 28B.15.012(2) (a) through (e).

26 For a student who does not meet the "C" average requirement, and
27 who completes fewer than two quarters in the running start program,
28 under chapter 28A.600 RCW, the student's first quarter of running
29 start course grades must be excluded from the student's overall grade
30 point average for purposes of determining their eligibility to
31 receive the scholarship.

32 (5) A student's family income will be assessed upon graduation
33 before awarding the scholarship. (~~(+6)~~) If at graduation from high
34 school the student's family income does not exceed sixty-five percent
35 of the state median family income, scholarship award amounts shall be
36 as provided in this section.

37 (6)(a) For students attending two or four-year institutions of
38 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, the value of the award
39 shall be (i) the difference between the student's tuition and
40 required fees, less the value of any state-funded grant, scholarship,

1 or waiver assistance the student receives; (ii) plus five hundred
2 dollars for books and materials.

3 (b) For students attending private four-year institutions of
4 higher education in Washington, the award amount shall be the
5 representative average of awards granted to students in public
6 research universities in Washington or the representative average of
7 awards granted to students in public research universities in
8 Washington in the 2014-15 academic year, whichever is greater.

9 (c) For students attending private vocational schools in
10 Washington, the award amount shall be the representative average of
11 awards granted to students in public community and technical colleges
12 in Washington or the representative average of awards granted to
13 students in public community and technical colleges in Washington in
14 the 2014-15 academic year, whichever is greater.

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

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

22 (9) The first scholarships shall be awarded to students
23 graduating in 2012.

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

29 (11) The scholarship award must be used within five years of
30 receipt. Any unused scholarship tuition units revert to the
31 Washington college bound scholarship account.

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

36 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.118.040 and 2018 c 12 s 2 are each amended to
37 read as follows:

38 The office of student financial assistance shall:

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

4 (2) Develop and distribute, to all schools with students enrolled
5 in grades seven (~~or eight~~) through nine, a pledge form that can be
6 completed and returned electronically or by mail by the student or
7 the school to the office of student financial assistance;

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

12 (4) Annually in March, with the assistance of the office of the
13 superintendent of public instruction, distribute to tenth grade
14 college bound scholarship students and their families: (a)
15 Notification that, to qualify for the scholarship, a student's family
16 income may not exceed sixty-five percent of the state median family
17 income at graduation from high school; (b) the current year's value
18 for sixty-five percent of the state median family income; and (c) a
19 statement that a student should consult their school counselor if
20 their family makes, or is projected to make, more than this value
21 before the student graduates;

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

27 (6) Track scholarship recipients to ensure continued eligibility
28 and determine student compliance for awarding of scholarships;

29 (7) Within existing resources, collaborate with college access
30 providers and K-12, postsecondary, and youth-serving organizations to
31 map and coordinate mentoring and advising resources across the state;

32 (8) Subject to appropriation, deposit funds into the state
33 educational trust fund;

34 (9) Purchase tuition units under the advanced college tuition
35 payment program in chapter 28B.95 RCW to be owned and held in trust
36 by the office of student financial assistance, for the purpose of
37 scholarship awards as provided for in this section; and

38 (10) Distribute scholarship funds, in the form of tuition units
39 purchased under the advanced college tuition payment program in
40 chapter 28B.95 RCW or through direct payments from the state

1 educational trust fund, to institutions of higher education on behalf
2 of scholarship recipients identified by the office, as long as
3 recipients maintain satisfactory academic progress.

4 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.118.090 and 2015 c 244 s 6 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Beginning January 1, 2015, and at a minimum every year
7 thereafter, the student achievement council and all institutions of
8 higher education eligible to participate in the college bound
9 scholarship program shall ensure data needed to analyze and evaluate
10 the effectiveness of the college bound scholarship program is
11 promptly transmitted to the education data center created in RCW
12 43.41.400 so that it is available and easily accessible. The data to
13 be reported should include but not be limited to:

14 (a) The number of students who sign up for the college bound
15 scholarship program in seventh (~~(~~se~~)~~), eighth, or ninth grade;

16 (b) The number of college bound scholarship students who graduate
17 from high school;

18 (c) The number of college bound scholarship students who enroll
19 in postsecondary education;

20 (d) Persistence and completion rates of college bound scholarship
21 recipients disaggregated by institutions of higher education;

22 (e) College bound scholarship recipient grade point averages;

23 (f) The number of college bound scholarship recipients who did
24 not remain eligible and reasons for ineligibility;

25 (g) College bound scholarship program costs; and

26 (h) Impacts to the state need grant program.

27 (2) Beginning May 12, 2015, and at a minimum every December 1st
28 thereafter, the student achievement council shall submit student unit
29 record data for the college bound scholarship program applicants and
30 recipients to the education data center.

31 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.92.060 and 2012 c 229 s 558 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 In awarding need grants, the office shall proceed substantially
34 as follows: PROVIDED, That nothing contained herein shall be
35 construed to prevent the office, in the exercise of its sound
36 discretion, from following another procedure when the best interest
37 of the program so dictates:

1 (1) The office shall annually select the financial aid award
2 recipients from among Washington residents applying for student
3 financial aid who have been ranked according to:

4 (a) College bound scholarship eligibility. Eligible students as
5 defined in RCW 28B.118.010 who meet the requirements in RCW
6 28B.118.010(4)(b)(i) for the college bound scholarship may not be
7 denied state need grant funding due to institutional policies or
8 delayed awarding of college bound scholarship students. College bound
9 scholarship eligible students whose family income exceeds sixty-five
10 percent of the state median family income, but who are eligible for
11 the state need grant, shall be prioritized and awarded the maximum
12 state need grant for which the student is eligible;

13 (b) Financial need as determined by the amount of the family
14 contribution; and

15 (~~(b)~~) (c) Other considerations, such as whether the student is
16 a former foster youth, or is a placebound student who has completed
17 an associate of arts or associate of science degree or its
18 equivalent.

19 (2) The financial need of the highest ranked students shall be
20 met by grants depending upon the evaluation of financial need until
21 the total allocation has been disbursed. Funds from grants which are
22 declined, forfeited or otherwise unused shall be reawarded until
23 disbursed, except that eligible former foster youth shall be assured
24 receipt of a grant. The office, in consultation with four-year
25 institutions of higher education, the council, and the state board
26 for community and technical colleges, shall develop award criteria
27 and methods of disbursement based on level of need, and not solely
28 rely on a first-come, first-served basis.

29 (3) A student shall be eligible to receive a state need grant for
30 up to five years, or the credit or clock hour equivalent of five
31 years, or up to one hundred twenty-five percent of the published
32 length of time of the student's program. A student may not start a
33 new associate degree program as a state need grant recipient until at
34 least five years have elapsed since earning an associate degree as a
35 need grant recipient, except that a student may earn two associate
36 degrees concurrently. Qualifications for renewal will include
37 maintaining satisfactory academic progress toward completion of an
38 eligible program as determined by the office. Should the recipient
39 terminate his or her enrollment for any reason during the academic
40 year, the unused portion of the grant shall be returned to the state

1 educational grant fund by the institution according to the
2 institution's own policy for issuing refunds, except as provided in
3 RCW 28B.92.070.

4 (4) In computing financial need, the office shall determine a
5 maximum student expense budget allowance, not to exceed an amount
6 equal to the total maximum student expense budget at the public
7 institutions plus the current average state appropriation per student
8 for operating expense in the public institutions. Any child support
9 payments received by students who are parents attending less than
10 half-time shall not be used in computing financial need.

11 (5)(a) A student who is enrolled in three to six credit-bearing
12 quarter credits, or the equivalent semester credits, may receive a
13 grant for up to one academic year before beginning a program that
14 leads to a degree or certificate.

15 (b) An eligible student enrolled on a less-than-full-time basis
16 shall receive a prorated portion of his or her state need grant for
17 any academic period in which he or she is enrolled on a less-than-
18 full-time basis, as long as funds are available.

19 (c) An institution of higher education may award a state need
20 grant to an eligible student enrolled in three to six credit-bearing
21 quarter credits, or the semester equivalent, on a provisional basis
22 if:

23 (i) The student has not previously received a state need grant
24 from that institution;

25 (ii) The student completes the required free application for
26 federal student aid;

27 (iii) The institution has reviewed the student's financial
28 condition, and the financial condition of the student's family if the
29 student is a dependent student, and has determined that the student
30 is likely eligible for a state need grant; and

31 (iv) The student has signed a document attesting to the fact that
32 the financial information provided on the free application for
33 federal student aid and any additional financial information provided
34 directly to the institution is accurate and complete, and that the
35 student agrees to repay the institution for the grant amount if the
36 student submitted false or incomplete information.

37 (6) As used in this section, "former foster youth" means a person
38 who is at least eighteen years of age, but not more than twenty-four
39 years of age, who was a dependent of the department of social and
40 health services at the time he or she attained the age of eighteen.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If specific funding for the purposes of
2 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
3 provided by June 30, 2019, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
4 act is null and void."

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ADOPTED 04/12/2019

5 On page 1, beginning on line 1 of the title, after "students;"
6 strike the remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW
7 28B.118.040, 28B.118.090, and 28B.92.060; reenacting and amending RCW
8 28B.118.010; and creating a new section."

EFFECT: Expands the College Bound Scholarship signup to students
in ninth-grade who were previously ineligible for the award in
seventh- or eighth-grade, instead of expanding to students in both
ninth- and tenth-grades.

--- END ---