
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1311

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By House College & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Bergquist, Ortiz-Self, Stonier, Dolan, Frame, Paul, Ryu, Sells, Valdez, Lekanoff, Stanford, Leavitt, Thai, and Wylie)

READ FIRST TIME 02/14/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to college bound scholarship eligible students;
2 amending RCW 28B.118.040, 28B.118.090, and 28B.92.060; and reenacting
3 and amending RCW 28B.118.010.

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

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

7 The office of student financial assistance shall design the
8 Washington college bound scholarship program in accordance with this
9 section and in alignment with the state need grant program in chapter
10 28B.92 RCW unless otherwise provided in this section.

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

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

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

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

1 (iii) Beginning in the 2020-21 academic year, if a student
2 qualifies for free or reduced-price lunches in the tenth grade and
3 was previously ineligible during the seventh or eighth grade while he
4 or she was a student in Washington, the student is eligible for the
5 college bound scholarship program; or

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

7 (i) In grade seven through twelve; or

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

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

14 (2) Eligible students and the students' parents or guardians
15 shall be notified of the student's eligibility for the Washington
16 college bound scholarship program (~~beginning in the student's~~
17 ~~seventh grade year~~). Students and the students' parents or guardians
18 shall also be notified of the requirements for award of the
19 scholarship.

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

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

34 (ii) If the signature of the student's parent or guardian is not
35 obtained, the office of student financial assistance may partner with
36 the school counselor or administrator to secure the parent's or
37 guardian's signature to witness the pledge. The school counselor or
38 administrator shall make multiple attempts via all phone numbers,
39 email addresses, and mailing addresses on record to secure the
40 parent's or guardian's signature. All attempts to contact the parent

1 or guardian must be documented and maintained in the student's
2 official file.

3 (iii) If a parent's or guardian's signature is still not
4 obtained, the school counselor or administrator shall indicate to the
5 office of student financial assistance the nature of the unsuccessful
6 efforts to contact the student's parent or guardian and the reasons
7 the signature is not available. Then the school counselor or
8 administrator may witness the pledge unless the parent or guardian
9 has indicated that he or she does not wish for the student to
10 participate in the program.

11 (c) A student eligible under subsection (1)(b) of this section
12 shall be automatically enrolled, with no action necessary by the
13 student or the student's family, and the enrollment form must be
14 forwarded by the department of social and health services to the
15 office of student financial assistance by mail or electronically, as
16 indicated on the form.

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

21 (b)(i) To receive the Washington college bound scholarship, a
22 student must graduate with at least a "C" average from a public high
23 school or an approved private high school under chapter 28A.195 RCW
24 in Washington or have received home-based instruction under chapter
25 28A.200 RCW, must have no felony convictions, and must be a resident
26 student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a) through (e). A student
27 who is eligible to receive the Washington college bound scholarship
28 because the student is a resident student under RCW 28B.15.012(2)(e)
29 must provide the institution, as defined in RCW 28B.15.012, an
30 affidavit indicating that the individual will file an application to
31 become a permanent resident at the earliest opportunity the
32 individual is eligible to do so and a willingness to engage in any
33 other activities necessary to acquire citizenship, including but not
34 limited to citizenship or civics review courses.

35 (ii) For eligible children as defined in subsection (1)(b) and
36 (c) of this section, to receive the Washington college bound
37 scholarship, a student must have received a high school equivalency
38 certificate as provided in RCW 28B.50.536 or have graduated with at
39 least a "C" average from a public high school or an approved private
40 high school under chapter 28A.195 RCW in Washington or have received

1 home-based instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW, must have no felony
2 convictions, and must be a resident student as defined in RCW
3 28B.15.012(2) (a) through (e).

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

10 (5) A student's family income will be assessed upon graduation
11 before awarding the scholarship. ~~((+6))~~ If at graduation from high
12 school the student's family income does not exceed the following
13 parameters, the student shall receive a scholarship award amount as
14 provided in this section:

15 (a) Until the 2023-24 academic year, sixty-five percent of the
16 state median family income~~((, scholarship award amounts shall be as~~
17 ~~provided in this section))~~; or

18 (b) Beginning with the 2023-24 academic year, seventy percent of
19 the state median family income.

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

26 (b) For students attending private four-year institutions of
27 higher education in Washington, the award amount shall be the
28 representative average of awards granted to students in public
29 research universities in Washington or the representative average of
30 awards granted to students in public research universities in
31 Washington in the 2014-15 academic year, whichever is greater.

32 (c) For students attending private vocational schools in
33 Washington, the award amount shall be the representative average of
34 awards granted to students in public community and technical colleges
35 in Washington or the representative average of awards granted to
36 students in public community and technical colleges in Washington in
37 the 2014-15 academic year, whichever is greater.

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

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

6 (9) The first scholarships shall be awarded to students
7 graduating in 2012.

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

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

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

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

22 The office of student financial assistance shall:

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

26 (2) Develop and distribute, to all schools with students enrolled
27 in grades seven (~~or eight~~) through ten, a pledge form that can be
28 completed and returned electronically or by mail by the student or
29 the school to the office of student financial assistance;

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

34 (4) Annually in March, with the assistance of the office of the
35 superintendent of public instruction, distribute to tenth grade
36 college bound scholarship students and their families: (a)
37 Notification that, to qualify for the scholarship, a student's family
38 income may not exceed sixty-five percent of the state median family
39 income at graduation from high school; (b) the current year's value

1 for sixty-five percent of the state median family income; and (c) a
2 statement that a student should consult their school counselor if
3 their family makes, or is projected to make, more than this value
4 before the student graduates;

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

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

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

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

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

21 (10) Distribute scholarship funds, in the form of tuition units
22 purchased under the advanced college tuition payment program in
23 chapter 28B.95 RCW or through direct payments from the state
24 educational trust fund, to institutions of higher education on behalf
25 of scholarship recipients identified by the office, as long as
26 recipients maintain satisfactory academic progress.

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

29 (1) Beginning January 1, 2015, and at a minimum every year
30 thereafter, the student achievement council and all institutions of
31 higher education eligible to participate in the college bound
32 scholarship program shall ensure data needed to analyze and evaluate
33 the effectiveness of the college bound scholarship program is
34 promptly transmitted to the education data center created in RCW
35 43.41.400 so that it is available and easily accessible. The data to
36 be reported should include but not be limited to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 (g) College bound scholarship program costs; and

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

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

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

18 In awarding need grants, the office shall proceed substantially
19 as follows: PROVIDED, That nothing contained herein shall be
20 construed to prevent the office, in the exercise of its sound
21 discretion, from following another procedure when the best interest
22 of the program so dictates:

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

26 (a) College bound scholarship eligibility. Eligible students as
27 defined in RCW 28B.118.010 who meet the requirements in RCW
28 28B.118.010(4)(b)(i) for the college bound scholarship may not be
29 denied state need grant funding due to institutional policies or
30 delayed awarding of college bound scholarship students. These
31 students shall be prioritized based on the following:

32 (i) An eligible student whose median family income does not
33 exceed seventy percent of the state median family income, shall be
34 prioritized and awarded the maximum state need grant for which the
35 student is eligible; and

36 (ii) Beginning with the 2023-24 academic year, an eligible
37 student whose median family income is in the seventy to one hundred
38 percent median family income range, shall be prioritized and awarded
39 a state need grant no less than the award given to a state need grant

1 recipient in the seventy percent median family income range for the
2 institution the student attends;

3 (b) Financial need as determined by the amount of the family
4 contribution; and

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

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

19 (3) A student shall be eligible to receive a state need grant for
20 up to five years, or the credit or clock hour equivalent of five
21 years, or up to one hundred twenty-five percent of the published
22 length of time of the student's program. A student may not start a
23 new associate degree program as a state need grant recipient until at
24 least five years have elapsed since earning an associate degree as a
25 need grant recipient, except that a student may earn two associate
26 degrees concurrently. Qualifications for renewal will include
27 maintaining satisfactory academic progress toward completion of an
28 eligible program as determined by the office. Should the recipient
29 terminate his or her enrollment for any reason during the academic
30 year, the unused portion of the grant shall be returned to the state
31 educational grant fund by the institution according to the
32 institution's own policy for issuing refunds, except as provided in
33 RCW 28B.92.070.

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

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

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

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

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

15 (ii) The student completes the required free application for
16 federal student aid;

17 (iii) The institution has reviewed the student's financial
18 condition, and the financial condition of the student's family if the
19 student is a dependent student, and has determined that the student
20 is likely eligible for a state need grant; and

21 (iv) The student has signed a document attesting to the fact that
22 the financial information provided on the free application for
23 federal student aid and any additional financial information provided
24 directly to the institution is accurate and complete, and that the
25 student agrees to repay the institution for the grant amount if the
26 student submitted false or incomplete information.

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

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