
SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1311

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

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

READ FIRST TIME 03/01/19.

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

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 sixty-five percent
13 of the state median family income, scholarship award amounts shall be
14 as provided in this section.

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

21 (b) For students attending private four-year institutions of
22 higher education in Washington, the award amount shall be the
23 representative average of awards granted to students in public
24 research universities in Washington or the representative average of
25 awards granted to students in public research universities in
26 Washington in the 2014-15 academic year, whichever is greater.

27 (c) For students attending private vocational schools in
28 Washington, the award amount shall be the representative average of
29 awards granted to students in public community and technical colleges
30 in Washington or the representative average of awards granted to
31 students in public community and technical colleges in Washington in
32 the 2014-15 academic year, whichever is greater.

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

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

1 (9) The first scholarships shall be awarded to students
2 graduating in 2012.

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

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

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

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

17 The office of student financial assistance shall:

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

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

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

29 (4) Annually in March, with the assistance of the office of the
30 superintendent of public instruction, distribute to tenth grade
31 college bound scholarship students and their families: (a)
32 Notification that, to qualify for the scholarship, a student's family
33 income may not exceed sixty-five percent of the state median family
34 income at graduation from high school; (b) the current year's value
35 for sixty-five percent of the state median family income; and (c) a
36 statement that a student should consult their school counselor if
37 their family makes, or is projected to make, more than this value
38 before the student graduates;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 (d) Persistence and completion rates of college bound scholarship
2 recipients disaggregated by institutions of higher education;
3 (e) College bound scholarship recipient grade point averages;
4 (f) The number of college bound scholarship recipients who did
5 not remain eligible and reasons for ineligibility;
6 (g) College bound scholarship program costs; and
7 (h) Impacts to the state need grant program.

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

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

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

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

22 (a) College bound scholarship eligibility. Eligible students as
23 defined in RCW 28B.118.010 who meet the requirements in RCW
24 28B.118.010(4)(b)(i) for the college bound scholarship may not be
25 denied state need grant funding due to institutional policies or
26 delayed awarding of college bound scholarship students. College bound
27 scholarship eligible students whose family income does not exceed
28 seventy percent of the state median family income, shall be
29 prioritized and awarded the maximum state need grant for which the
30 student is eligible;

31 (b) Financial need as determined by the amount of the family
32 contribution; and

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

37 (2) The financial need of the highest ranked students shall be
38 met by grants depending upon the evaluation of financial need until
39 the total allocation has been disbursed. Funds from grants which are

1 declined, forfeited or otherwise unused shall be reawarded until
2 disbursed, except that eligible former foster youth shall be assured
3 receipt of a grant. The office, in consultation with four-year
4 institutions of higher education, the council, and the state board
5 for community and technical colleges, shall develop award criteria
6 and methods of disbursement based on level of need, and not solely
7 rely on a first-come, first-served basis.

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

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

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

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

38 (c) An institution of higher education may award a state need
39 grant to an eligible student enrolled in three to six credit-bearing

1 quarter credits, or the semester equivalent, on a provisional basis
2 if:

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

5 (ii) The student completes the required free application for
6 federal student aid;

7 (iii) The institution has reviewed the student's financial
8 condition, and the financial condition of the student's family if the
9 student is a dependent student, and has determined that the student
10 is likely eligible for a state need grant; and

11 (iv) The student has signed a document attesting to the fact that
12 the financial information provided on the free application for
13 federal student aid and any additional financial information provided
14 directly to the institution is accurate and complete, and that the
15 student agrees to repay the institution for the grant amount if the
16 student submitted false or incomplete information.

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

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If specific funding for the purposes of
22 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
23 provided by June 30, 2019, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
24 act is null and void.

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