
HOUSE BILL 1311

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By Representatives Bergquist, Ortiz-Self, Stonier, Dolan, Frame, Paul, Ryu, Sells, Valdez, Lekanoff, Stanford, Leavitt, Thai, and Wylie

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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 or tenth
18 grade and was previously ineligible during the seventh or eighth
19 grade while he or she was a student in Washington, the student is
20 eligible for the college bound scholarship program; or

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

1 (i) In grade seven through twelve; or

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

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

8 (2) Eligible students and the students' parents or guardians
9 shall be notified of the student's eligibility for the Washington
10 college bound scholarship program (~~beginning in the student's~~
11 ~~seventh grade year~~). Students and the students' parents or guardians
12 shall also be notified of the requirements for award of the
13 scholarship.

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

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

28 (ii) If the signature of the student's parent or guardian is not
29 obtained, the office of student financial assistance may partner with
30 the school counselor or administrator to secure the parent's or
31 guardian's signature to witness the pledge. The school counselor or
32 administrator shall make multiple attempts via all phone numbers,
33 email addresses, and mailing addresses on record to secure the
34 parent's or guardian's signature. All attempts to contact the parent
35 or guardian must be documented and maintained in the student's
36 official file.

37 (iii) If a parent's or guardian's signature is still not
38 obtained, the school counselor or administrator shall indicate to the
39 office of student financial assistance the nature of the unsuccessful
40 efforts to contact the student's parent or guardian and the reasons

1 the signature is not available. Then the school counselor or
2 administrator may witness the pledge unless the parent or guardian
3 has indicated that he or she does not wish for the student to
4 participate in the program.

5 (c) A student eligible under subsection (1)(b) of this section
6 shall be automatically enrolled, with no action necessary by the
7 student or the student's family, and the enrollment form must be
8 forwarded by the department of social and health services to the
9 office of student financial assistance by mail or electronically, as
10 indicated on the form.

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

15 (b)(i) To receive the Washington college bound scholarship, a
16 student must graduate with at least a "C" average from a public high
17 school or an approved private high school under chapter 28A.195 RCW
18 in Washington or have received home-based instruction under chapter
19 28A.200 RCW, must have no felony convictions, and must be a resident
20 student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a) through (e). A student
21 who is eligible to receive the Washington college bound scholarship
22 because the student is a resident student under RCW 28B.15.012(2)(e)
23 must provide the institution, as defined in RCW 28B.15.012, an
24 affidavit indicating that the individual will file an application to
25 become a permanent resident at the earliest opportunity the
26 individual is eligible to do so and a willingness to engage in any
27 other activities necessary to acquire citizenship, including but not
28 limited to citizenship or civics review courses.

29 (ii) For eligible children as defined in subsection (1)(b) and
30 (c) of this section, to receive the Washington college bound
31 scholarship, a student must have received a high school equivalency
32 certificate as provided in RCW 28B.50.536 or have graduated with at
33 least a "C" average from a public high school or an approved private
34 high school under chapter 28A.195 RCW in Washington or have received
35 home-based instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW, must have no felony
36 convictions, and must be a resident student as defined in RCW
37 28B.15.012(2) (a) through (e).

38 For a student who does not meet the "C" average requirement, and
39 who completes fewer than two quarters in the running start program,
40 under chapter 28A.600 RCW, the student's first quarter of running

1 start course grades must be excluded from the student's overall grade
2 point average for purposes of determining their eligibility to
3 receive the scholarship.

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

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

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

15 (b) For students attending private four-year institutions of
16 higher education in Washington, the award amount shall be the
17 representative average of awards granted to students in public
18 research universities in Washington or the representative average of
19 awards granted to students in public research universities in
20 Washington in the 2014-15 academic year, whichever is greater.

21 (c) For students attending private vocational schools in
22 Washington, the award amount shall be the representative average of
23 awards granted to students in public community and technical colleges
24 in Washington or the representative average of awards granted to
25 students in public community and technical colleges in Washington in
26 the 2014-15 academic year, whichever is greater.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 The office of student financial assistance shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 (1) Beginning January 1, 2015, and at a minimum every year
19 thereafter, the student achievement council and all institutions of
20 higher education eligible to participate in the college bound
21 scholarship program shall ensure data needed to analyze and evaluate
22 the effectiveness of the college bound scholarship program is
23 promptly transmitted to the education data center created in RCW
24 43.41.400 so that it is available and easily accessible. The data to
25 be reported should include but not be limited to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 (g) College bound scholarship program costs; and

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

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

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

7 In awarding need grants, the office shall proceed substantially
8 as follows: PROVIDED, That nothing contained herein shall be
9 construed to prevent the office, in the exercise of its sound
10 discretion, from following another procedure when the best interest
11 of the program so dictates:

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

15 (a) College bound scholarship eligibility. Eligible students as
16 defined in RCW 28B.118.010 who meet the requirements in RCW
17 28B.118.010(4)(b)(i) for the college bound scholarship may not be
18 denied state need grant funding due to institutional policies or
19 delayed awarding of college bound scholarship students. These
20 students shall be prioritized based on the following:

21 (i) Eligible students whose median family incomes are in the zero
22 to seventy percent median family income range, shall be prioritized
23 and awarded the maximum state need grant for the institution the
24 student attends; and

25 (ii) Eligible students whose median family incomes are in the
26 seventy to one hundred percent median family income range, shall be
27 prioritized and awarded a state need grant no less than the award
28 given to state need grant recipients in the seventy percent median
29 family income range for the institution the student attends;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 (ii) The student completes the required free application for
4 federal student aid;

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

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

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

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