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**HOUSE BILL 1232**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Bergquist, Chambers, Entenman, Slatter, Paul, Ramos, Mena, Street, Riccelli, Pollet, Callan, Hackney, Thai, Reeves, Reed, Ortiz-Self, Kloba, Duerr, Doglio, Morgan, Ramel, Goodman, Tharinger, Lekanoff, Gregerson, and Santos

Read first time 01/11/23. Referred to Committee on Postsecondary Education & Workforce.

1 AN ACT Relating to enhancing the college bound scholarship  
2 program by increasing opportunities for students to attend community  
3 and technical colleges; amending RCW 28B.118.010 and 28B.118.090; and  
4 creating a new section.

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 is an important financial aid program that prompts  
8 students to begin to have a college going mindset early in high  
9 school. The data indicates that since the first cohort of college  
10 bound scholarship students, there were just under 5,000 students who  
11 were college bound scholarship applicants but had grade point  
12 averages below 2.0. Despite not meeting the requirements to receive  
13 the college bound scholarship, these students still went on to pursue  
14 postsecondary education. The legislature recognizes that community  
15 and technical colleges do not require a certain grade point average  
16 to enroll, but that strong academic performance is still a  
17 requirement for direct admittance to a four-year institution of  
18 higher education from high school. Since the legislature believes  
19 that many students who may not have performed well academically in  
20 high school can still thrive at a community and technical college, it  
21 is the legislature's intent to keep students' dreams of higher

1 education alive by allowing students without a "C" average to still  
2 qualify for college bound scholarships.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.118.010 and 2021 c 283 s 2 are each amended to  
4 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 Washington college grant program in  
8 chapter 28B.92 RCW unless otherwise provided in this section. The  
9 right of an eligible student to receive a college bound scholarship  
10 vest upon enrollment in the program that is earned by meeting the  
11 requirements of this section as it exists at the time of the  
12 student's enrollment under subsection (2) of this section.

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

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

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

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

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

24 (i) In grade seven through (~~twelve~~) 12; or

25 (ii) Are between the ages of (~~eighteen~~) 18 and (~~twenty-one~~)  
26 21 and have not graduated from high school; or

27 (c) Were dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW and were adopted  
28 between the ages of (~~fourteen~~) 14 and (~~eighteen~~) 18 with a  
29 negotiated adoption agreement that includes continued eligibility for  
30 the Washington state college bound scholarship program pursuant to  
31 RCW 74.13A.025.

32 (2)(a) Every eligible student shall be automatically enrolled by  
33 the office of student financial assistance, with no action necessary  
34 by the student, student's family, or student's guardians.

35 (b) Eligible students and the students' parents or guardians  
36 shall be notified of the student's enrollment in the Washington  
37 college bound scholarship program and the requirements for award of  
38 the scholarship by the office of student financial assistance. To the  
39 maximum extent practicable, an eligible student must acknowledge

1 enrollment in the college bound scholarship program and receipt of  
2 the requirements for award of the scholarship.

3 (c) The office of the superintendent of public instruction and  
4 the department of children, youth, and families must provide the  
5 office of student financial assistance with a list of eligible  
6 students when requested. The office of student financial assistance  
7 must determine the most effective methods, including timing and  
8 frequency, to notify eligible students of enrollment in the  
9 Washington college bound scholarship program. The office of student  
10 financial assistance must take reasonable steps to ensure that  
11 eligible students acknowledge enrollment in the college bound  
12 scholarship program and receipt of the requirements for award of the  
13 scholarship. The office of student financial assistance shall also  
14 make available to every school district information, brochures, and  
15 posters to increase awareness and to enable school districts to  
16 notify eligible students directly or through school teachers,  
17 counselors, or school activities.

18 (3) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, an  
19 eligible student must:

20 (a) (i) Graduate (~~(with at least a "C" average)~~) from a public  
21 high school under RCW 28A.150.010, an approved private high school  
22 under chapter 28A.195 RCW in Washington, or have received home-based  
23 instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW; and

24 (ii) For eligible students enrolling in a postsecondary  
25 educational institution for the first time beginning with the 2023-24  
26 academic year, graduate with at least a "C" average for consideration  
27 of direct admission to a public or private four-year institution of  
28 higher education;

29 (b) Have no felony convictions;

30 (c) Be a resident student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a)  
31 through (e); and

32 (d) Have a family income that does not exceed 65 percent of the  
33 state median family income at the time of high school graduation.

34 (4) (a) An eligible student who is a resident student under RCW  
35 28B.15.012(2) (e) must also provide the institution, as defined in RCW  
36 28B.15.012, an affidavit indicating that the individual will file an  
37 application to become a permanent resident at the earliest  
38 opportunity the individual is eligible to do so and a willingness to  
39 engage in any other activities necessary to acquire citizenship,  
40 including but not limited to citizenship or civics review courses.

1 (b) For eligible students as defined in subsection (1)(b) and (c)  
2 of this section, a student may also meet the requirement in  
3 subsection (3)(a) of this section by receiving a high school  
4 equivalency certificate as provided in RCW 28B.50.536.

5 ~~((c) For a student who does not meet the "C" average  
6 requirement, and who completes fewer than two quarters in the running  
7 start program, under chapter 28A.600 RCW, the student's first quarter  
8 of running start course grades must be excluded from the student's  
9 overall grade point average for purposes of determining if the  
10 requirement in subsection (3)(a) of this section is met.))~~

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

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

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

29 (6) Eligible students must enroll no later than the fall term, as  
30 defined by the institution of higher education, one academic year  
31 following high school graduation. Eligible students may receive no  
32 more than four full-time years' worth of scholarship awards within a  
33 five-year period.

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

39 (8) The first scholarships shall be awarded to students  
40 graduating in 2012.

1 (9) The eligible student has a property right in the award, but  
2 the state of Washington retains legal ownership of tuition units  
3 awarded as scholarships under this chapter until the tuition units  
4 are redeemed. These tuition units shall remain separately held from  
5 any tuition units owned under chapter 28B.95 RCW by a Washington  
6 college bound scholarship recipient.

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

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

14 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.118.090 and 2021 c 283 s 4 are each amended to  
15 read as follows:

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

24 (a) The number of enrolled students for the college bound  
25 scholarship program in seventh, eighth, or ninth grade;

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

28 (c) The number of college bound scholarship students who enroll  
29 in postsecondary education, including how many enroll who graduated  
30 high school with less than a "C" average;

31 (d) Persistence and completion rates of college bound scholarship  
32 recipients disaggregated by institutions of higher education and by  
33 high school grade point average;

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 Washington college 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 (3) Beginning July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the  
6 education data center shall submit to the student achievement council  
7 the data listed in this section that is submitted by institutions of  
8 higher education for the purposes of completing the annual  
9 legislative report required by this section.

10 (4) Beginning November 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the  
11 student achievement council shall submit a report to the higher  
12 education committees of the legislature in accordance with RCW  
13 43.01.036 on the data listed in this section.

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