
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2214

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By House Postsecondary Education & Workforce (originally sponsored by Representatives Slatter, Bergquist, Chopp, Ramel, Reeves, Paul, Morgan, Gregerson, Ormsby, Alvarado, Reed, Fosse, Macri, Goodman, Pollet, Leavitt, Timmons, Davis, Riccelli, and Duerr; by request of Student Achievement Council)

READ FIRST TIME 01/26/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to permitting beneficiaries of public assistance
2 programs to automatically qualify as income-eligible for the purpose
3 of receiving the Washington college grant; and amending RCW
4 28B.92.200, 28B.92.225, and 28B.92.230.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.92.200 and 2022 c 214 s 5 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) The Washington college grant program is created to provide a
9 statewide free college program for eligible participants and greater
10 access to postsecondary education for Washington residents. The
11 Washington college grant program is intended to increase the number
12 of high school graduates and adults that can attain a postsecondary
13 credential and provide them with the qualifications needed to compete
14 for job opportunities in Washington.

15 (2) The office shall implement and administer the Washington
16 college grant program and is authorized to establish rules necessary
17 for implementation of the program.

18 (3) The legislature shall appropriate funding for the Washington
19 college grant program. Allocations must be made on the basis of
20 estimated eligible participants enrolled in eligible institutions of
21 higher education or apprenticeship programs. All eligible students

1 are entitled to a Washington college grant beginning in academic year
2 2020-21.

3 (4) The office shall award Washington college grants to all
4 eligible students beginning in academic year 2020-21.

5 (5) To be eligible for the Washington college grant, students
6 must meet the following requirements:

7 (a)(i) Demonstrate financial need under RCW 28B.92.205;

8 (ii) Receive one or more of the following types of public
9 assistance:

10 (A) Aged, blind, or disabled assistance benefits under chapter
11 74.62 RCW;

12 (B) Essential needs and housing support program benefits under
13 RCW 43.185C.220; (~~or~~)

14 (C) Pregnant women assistance program financial grants under RCW
15 74.62.030; (~~or~~)

16 (D) Beginning in the 2027-28 academic year, Washington basic food
17 program benefits under chapter 74.04 RCW; or

18 (E) Beginning in the 2027-28 academic year, Washington food
19 assistance program benefits under RCW 74.08A.120;

20 (iii) Be a Washington high school student in the 10th, 11th, or
21 12th grade whose parent or legal guardian is receiving one or more of
22 the types of public assistance listed in (a)(ii) of this subsection
23 and have received a certificate confirming eligibility from the
24 office in accordance with RCW 28B.92.225; or

25 (iv) Beginning in the 2025-26 academic year, be a Washington high
26 school student in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade who is a member of an
27 assistance unit receiving benefits under the Washington basic food
28 program in chapter 74.04 RCW or the Washington food assistance
29 program established under RCW 74.08A.120;

30 (b)(i) Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment for at least three
31 quarter credits or the equivalent semester credits at an institution
32 of higher education in Washington as defined in RCW 28B.92.030; or

33 (ii) Be enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program approved
34 under chapter 49.04 RCW;

35 (c) Be a resident student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a)
36 through (e);

37 (d) File an annual application for financial aid as approved by
38 the office; and

39 (e) Must not have earned a baccalaureate degree or higher from a
40 postsecondary institution.

1 (6) Washington college grant eligibility may not extend beyond
2 five years or one hundred twenty-five percent of the published length
3 of the program in which the student is enrolled or the credit or
4 clock-hour equivalent.

5 (7) Institutional aid administrators shall determine whether a
6 student eligible for the Washington college grant in a given academic
7 year may remain eligible for the ensuing year if the student's family
8 income increases by no more than three percent.

9 (8) Qualifications for receipt and renewal include maintaining
10 satisfactory academic progress toward completion of an eligible
11 program as determined by the office and established in rule.

12 (9) Should a recipient terminate his or her enrollment for any
13 reason during the academic year, the unused portion of the grant
14 shall be returned to the state educational grant fund by the
15 institution of higher education according to the institution of
16 higher education's policy for issuing refunds, except as provided in
17 RCW 28B.92.070.

18 (10) An eligible student enrolled on a part-time basis shall
19 receive a prorated portion of the Washington college grant for any
20 academic period in which he or she is enrolled on a part-time basis.

21 (11) The Washington college grant is intended to be used to meet
22 the costs of postsecondary education for students with financial
23 need. The student shall be awarded all need-based financial aid for
24 which the student qualifies as determined by the institution.

25 (12) Students and participating institutions of higher education
26 shall comply with all the rules adopted by the council for the
27 administration of this chapter.

28 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.92.225 and 2022 c 214 s 6 are each amended to
29 read as follows:

30 (1) The office shall enter into a data-sharing agreement with the
31 department of social and health services to facilitate the sharing of
32 individual-level data. ~~((The))~~ To the extent allowable under state
33 and federal law, the department of social and health services shall
34 send the office a list of all individuals receiving benefits under
35 the public assistance programs listed under RCW 28B.92.200(5) on at
36 least an annual basis. The office shall use the list to confirm
37 students' eligibility for the Washington college grant program,
38 without requiring the student to fill out a separate financial aid

1 form. The office may also use the information to conduct outreach
2 promoting the Washington college grant.

3 (2) For high school students (~~in 10th, 11th, and 12th grades~~
4 ~~whose families are receiving benefits under one of the public~~
5 ~~assistance programs listed under RCW 28B.92.200(5))~~ identified in
6 RCW 28B.92.200(5)(a)(iii) or (iv), the office shall issue a
7 certificate to the student that validates the student's financial
8 need eligibility for the Washington college grant program. The
9 certificate is good for one year after high school graduation and may
10 be used upon enrollment in an eligible institution of higher
11 education, provided the student meets the other Washington college
12 grant eligibility requirements. The office shall track and maintain
13 records of students who were issued certificates under this section
14 in order to confirm a student's financial need eligibility with an
15 institution of higher education. A student does not need to produce
16 the certificate to receive the Washington college grant.

17 (3) The office shall notify students whose eligibility for the
18 Washington college grant is established under RCW 28B.92.200(5)(a)
19 (ii) (D) or (E) or (iv) about the importance of submitting a free
20 application for federal student aid or a Washington application for
21 state financial aid after their first quarter or semester, and each
22 year thereafter.

23 (4) By December 1, 2026, and each year thereafter, the office
24 shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of the
25 legislature pursuant to RCW 43.01.036 detailing Washington college
26 grant participation by students whose eligibility for the grant is
27 established under RCW 28B.92.200(5)(a)(ii) (D) or (E) or (iv).

28 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.92.230 and 2022 c 214 s 7 are each amended to
29 read as follows:

30 The office shall collaborate with the department of social and
31 health services to ~~((facilitate))~~:

32 (1) Facilitate individual-level outreach to individuals receiving
33 benefits under the public assistance programs listed under RCW
34 28B.92.200(5), temporary assistance for needy families under chapter
35 74.08 RCW, the state family assistance program provided for in rule,
36 and the basic food program to inform these individuals of their
37 eligibility for the Washington college grant program; and

38 (2) Notify individuals whose financial need for purposes of
39 Washington college grant eligibility has been demonstrated under RCW

1 28B.92.200(5)(a) (ii) (D) or (E) or (iv) that they may establish
2 eligibility for additional state and federal aid by submitting a free
3 application for federal student aid or a Washington application for
4 state financial aid.

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