

March 17, 2022

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

FROM: Becky Thompson, Director of Student Financial Assistance

SUBJECT: 2022 Legislative Session Overview

The 2022 Legislative Session concluded on March 10, and the budget is waiting for the Governor’s signature. Once signed, we will be providing 2022-23 award charts and guidance for the Washington College Grant (WCG) and College Bound Scholarship (CBS) programs.

This memo provides a high-level overview of legislation and budget items related to state student financial aid programs. WSAC will be following up with updated 2022-23 program manuals, with operational details, and will be providing virtual training workshops this spring.

Public Tuition and Appropriations

Public tuition will increase for 2022-23, based on current state policies. Washington College Grant and College Bound Scholarship award amounts for public colleges will be adjusted to reflect this increase. There also will be slight adjustments to private colleges’ CBS award amounts based on statute.

The budget includes adjustments to 2022-23 appropriations for Washington College Grant and College Bound Scholarship based on current enrollment projections that estimate fewer eligible students than originally forecasted.

State aid appropriations, pending the Governor’s signature, are as follows:

Program	2021-22 (in millions)	2022-23 (in millions)
Washington College Grant	\$450	\$453
College Bound Scholarship	\$17.3	\$17.3
State Work Study	\$7.8	\$7.8
Passport to College	\$6	\$6
National Guard Grant	\$ 0.625	\$0.625

Passed Legislation - 2022-23 AY

Financial Aid Programs:

Washington College Grant

- Maximum award MFI range expanded from 0-55% MFI to 0-60% MFI. All other MFI categories remain the same. (Budget Language, [ESSB 5693](#), Section 949(2), p. 810)
- “Bridge Grant” of \$500 for students half-time or more, added to 0-60% MFI WCG recipients who are not receiving CBS. (Budget Language, [ESSB 5693](#), Section 610(15), p. 748)
- Automatic WCG income eligibility for students receiving the following public benefit programs ([2SHB 1835](#)):
 - o Aged, blind, or disabled assistance benefits under Chapter 74.62 RCW
 - o Essential needs and housing support program benefits under RCW 43.185C.220
 - o Pregnant women assistance program financial grants under RCW 74.62.030

National Guard Grant ([SHB 1642](#))

- Allows graduate students to participate in the program
- The maximum award value calculation changes for 2022-23. Maximum award value cannot exceed Washington College Grant maximum award, plus \$500 for books and supplies. Note, this program is capped by appropriation. The maximum award value still needs to be determined based on estimated usage of program.

Gift Equity Policies ([HB 1907](#))

Requires colleges participating in state aid, except community and technical colleges, to allow students to receive private scholarship funding up to full financial need without reducing federal, state, or institutional financial aid.

Washington College Grant for Apprenticeship ([E2SSB 5764](#))

- Section 1 – aligns the maximum Washington College Grant for Apprenticeship (WCG-A) award to the maximum award amount for WCG at community and technical colleges (CTC).
- Section 2 – Indicates intent for apprentices who receive related supplemental instruction through a CTC to be awarded WCG-A by the CTC. Requires SBCTC to implement fully by 2025-26 AY. SBCTC to collaborate with WSAC to create a student IT interface.
- Section 3 – requires WSAC to contract with the William D. Ruckelshaus Center to conduct research. Some of the research includes (but this is not a complete list), evaluate paths to credential for apprentices, examine national best practices to award education credentials to apprentices, research apprentices’ demand for degrees, review the current funding model within the CTC system, identify and remove barriers for apprentices to receive WCG-A.
- Section 4 – Four-year public colleges must establish a policy for granting as many credits as possible for related supplemental instruction by the 2028-29 AY.

Residency ([ESSB 5874](#))

The primary change to residency is for public tuition purposes only. However, there is a change related to state aid in that the year prior to admission must be “primarily for purposes other than postsecondary education” to be considered a resident. Additional guidance is forthcoming from WSAC to residency officers and financial aid administrators.

Outreach

Promotion of Washington College Grant and FAFSA/WASFA ([2SHB 1835](#)) – items are subject to appropriation.

- Section 2 – WSAC to conduct a statewide marketing campaign to increase WCG awareness.
- Section 3 – SBCTC to conduct a FAFSA/WASFA outreach and completion pilot program.
- Section 4 – State library to administer a grant pilot to increase FAFSA/WASFA completion rates.
- Section 5 – recipients of specified public benefit programs meet income requirements of WCG (see more information above in the financial aid section).

Washington Career and College Pathways Innovation Challenge Grant program ([2SSB 5789](#) and budget appropriation)

- WSAC receiving \$6M in appropriation for a competitive grant process that focused on increasing educational attainment and decreasing opportunity gaps. Awardees to be local and regional partnerships that represent cross-sector collaboration across schools, colleges, education agencies, local government, employers, and other organizations.

Beyond 2022-23

State Student Loan (E2S HB 1736)

This bill creates a state student loan program with a \$150M appropriation to be available to students in 2024-25 AY. WSAC to provide a report by December 1, 2022, to the Governor and Legislature on the design, sustainability, and implementation plan. The design must consider an option to offer a 1% interest rate loan.