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OUR VISION:

We inspire and foster excellence in educational attainment.



WASHINGTON STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL
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2015 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

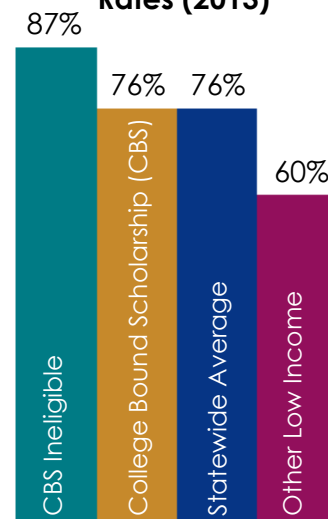
The 2013 Roadmap established ambitious ten-year educational attainment goals for Washington—that all adults, ages 25-44, will hold a high school diploma or equivalent, and 70 percent would complete a postsecondary certificate or degree. The 2014 Strategic Action Plan outlines the critical next steps to meet Washington's educational attainment goals. These legislative priorities are based on the recommendations of the Strategic Action Plan.

Maintain the commitment to College Bound Scholarship students.

There are early indicators of success for College Bound Scholarship students. The program could be a key component of Washington's efforts to increase high school graduation rates and increase college participation and completion, but only if the commitment to the cohorts who signed up in middle school is maintained.

Request: \$10 million in 2016 and \$15 million in 2017 for a total of \$25 million for the biennium.

High School Graduation Rates (2013)



Invest in public higher education and improve affordability.

WSAC's affordability framework is intended to provide policymakers with a tool that can show which policies and investments could reduce volatility in tuition increases, reduce student debt, and increase investments in postsecondary education.

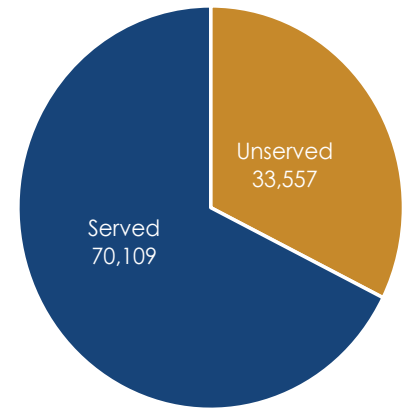
Protecting maintenance funding for community and technical colleges and public baccalaureate institutions will preserve opportunities for graduating high school students and adults who need to upgrade their skills to obtain family-wage jobs. However, new state funding investments are needed in order to reach the state's postsecondary attainment goals, contain tuition growth, and create a well-educated workforce necessary for a vibrant economy.

Enhance the State Need Grant program and fully fund it by 2023.

Washington's State Need Grant (SNG) program is key to increasing access to higher education for students who could not otherwise attend. Strategic investments of an additional \$16 million each year through 2023 can close the SNG funding gap and fulfill its commitment to our lowest-income students. Each annual increase would serve an additional 4,000 students who depend on financial assistance to enroll and succeed in public education.

Request: \$16 million in 2016 and \$32 million in 2017 for a total of \$48 million for the biennium.

SNG-Eligible Students (2013-14)



Dual credit is a great savings to families and the state—but not all students are taking advantage due to cost barriers. For example, in 2013 Hispanic/Latino students made up about 19% of the high school class but only 10% of the Running Start enrollments and 12% of College in the High School enrollments.

Expand the reach of dual-credit opportunities.

Students who earn college credit in high school are more likely to complete high school, enroll in college, and earn a college degree. Expanding dual-enrollment options for all Washington high school students by reducing costs and other barriers will improve student participation and increase educational attainment.

Request: \$12 million in 2016 and \$17 million in 2017 for a total of \$29 million for the biennium.

Support underrepresented students by leveraging the state's investment through student support services.

Students from low-income families, who are the first generation in their family to attend college, or who are from backgrounds underrepresented in degree attainment are more likely to succeed with focused support services. The coordination of targeted support services for College Bound K-12 students, expansion of support services on campuses, and the creation of collective impact coalitions will improve educational attainment.

Request: \$5 million in 2016 and \$5 million in 2017 for a total of \$10 million for the biennium.

Reinvest in State Work Study to provide greater access to work-based learning opportunities.

Expand work-based learning and earning opportunities to 3,000 additional low- and middle-income students through strategic reinvestments in the State Work Study program. Begin restoring funding and service levels to reach the 2009 investment level by 2023.

Request: \$5 million in 2016 and \$5 million in 2017 for a total of \$10 million for the biennium.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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