

## **PASSPORT TO CAREERS**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE FOR COLLEGE CAMPUSES**

FOR THE PASSPORT TO COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AND  
ELIGIBLE CAMPUS-BASED APPRENTICESHIP  
OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM PATHWAYS

**2023-24**



**EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023**

# Passport to College Scholarship

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# Program Manual 2023-24

## *Administrative Guidance for the Passport to College Program Scholarship and Eligible Campus-Based Apprenticeship Opportunity Program Pathways.*

For matters not explicitly addressed in the Passport Program Manual, refer to the Washington College Grant Program Manual for guidance.

### TIPS FOR USING THIS MANUAL

#### Search

- To search the manual press “Ctrl+F” on your keyboard, then type in the word, topic, or section number (ex 1.4). You will be directed to all occurrences located within the manual.
- This is a printable PDF document and using it in its electronic format allows you interactively click hyperlinks to many web resources.
- Chapter headings in the Table of Contents are hyperlinked to the corresponding section in the body of the manual.

#### Location and Updates

- [This manual is posted online](#). To navigate through the WSAC site: click on the administration tab at the top of the home page, then click on the FAA Resources link. See the tab for Program Manuals, MFI & Award Charts. Links to the Portal and Unit Record Report are also found here.
- This manual is produced annually, with updates posted online during the academic year. Note: The entire manual will be reposted if updated. If you are using a printed version, please check the cover for the “last updated” date. You should also receive an email with a description of what has been updated. A list of all updates can be found on the following page.
- [Chapter 8, Section 3 Examples of Program Forms](#) will link to current electronic versions of the forms. Please use linked documents, not examples found in this document.

#### Information for Applicants, Participants, and Community Members

- The Passport to Careers Guide website ([www.wsac.wa.gov/passport/guide](http://www.wsac.wa.gov/passport/guide)) has program information written for participants and community members. Please refer applicants to this website.
- There are many additional web resources included on this website that both applicants and financial aid staff may find useful.

**New for 2023-2024**

*Program Manual Revisions (Information will be added each time there is an update)*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Chapter/Section</b>	<b>Topic/Reason</b>

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## CHAPTER 1 – GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

### ***1.1 History and Expansion***

***The Passport to College Promise Scholarship was created as a pilot program by the state of Washington in 2007, to help students from foster care attend and succeed in college. The program was made permanent in the 2012 Legislative Session.***

In 2018, the Legislature expanded the program ([RCW 28B.117](#)) to help more Washington students, who have been in various types of foster care or experienced unaccompanied homelessness, to prepare for careers.

The expanded program is now called the Passport to Careers program, with two programmatic pathways:

1. **College Scholarship Pathway** — provides college scholarships for degrees and certificates, as well as campus-based registered apprenticeships and recognized pre-apprenticeships that are eligible for state financial aid. Support services are also available.
2. **Apprenticeship Opportunity Program Pathway** — provides funding and support services for registered apprenticeships and recognized pre-apprenticeship programs that are not associated with a campus or are on a campus but are not eligible for state financial aid.

### ***1.2 Program Intent***

The purpose of Passport to Careers is to:

- Encourage current and former foster care youth and unaccompanied homeless youth to prepare for, enroll in, and successfully complete higher education or a registered apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship program.
- Improve the high school graduation outcomes of former foster youth and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness through coordinated P-20 and child welfare outreach, intervention, and planning.
- Improve postsecondary outcomes by providing current and former foster youth and unaccompanied youth who have experienced homelessness with the educational planning, information, institutional support, and direct financial resources necessary for them to succeed in either higher education or a registered apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship program.

The primary benefits of the program are:

- Financial assistance beyond other state, federal, private, and institutional funds for which they are eligible, to help them succeed in higher education, a registered apprenticeship program, or a recognized pre-apprenticeship program.
- Passport Student Support funding to postsecondary institutions that designate campus support staff and take other steps to recruit and retain eligible former foster youth and unaccompanied homeless youth.

Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) manages the Passport to Careers program. Additional student eligibility verification, intervention, and retention services are provided in agreements and contracts with:

- State social service agencies and tribal social services offices to determine student eligibility.
- [College Success Foundation](#) for knowledge sharing, professional development, and networking; on-boarding training for Campus Champions; facilitation of the Passport Leadership Team; providing emergency funding for students; and Management of campus-based College Coaches on select campuses.
- [ANEW](#) for the Apprenticeship Opportunities Program administration of funding and support services for registered apprenticeships and recognized pre-apprenticeship programs that are not associated with a campus, or are on a campus but are not eligible for state financial aid.
- Various social service agencies for the [Supplemental Education and Transition Program](#) (SETuP) to provide support to students in foster care from ages 13 through 21 and to unaccompanied homeless youth. SETuP providers can serve these students who are participating in the Passport to Careers program for one year after high school graduation.

### ***1.3 Passport to Careers – College Scholarship Pathway***

- Funds students in eligible campus-based degree, certificate, registered apprenticeship, and recognized pre-apprenticeship programs that are eligible for state financial aid.
- The campus (institution of higher education) must have a current participation agreement with WSAC.
- Provide eligible students enrolled in a qualifying program a scholarship that helps with the cost of earning a college certificate or degree (tuition, fees, books, housing, transportation, and some personal expenses), support services from college staff, and priority consideration Washington State Work Study program.
- This pathway is a comprehensive program providing support to students from high school through higher education completion.



### 1.3.1 Quick Look Chart - College Scholarship Pathway

<b>Quick Look Chart – Passport to College Scholarship Pathway</b> <i>Administrative guidance for certificate programs, degree programs, apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships that are campus-based and eligible for state financial aid.</i>			
Former Foster Youth		Unaccompanied Homeless Youth	
<b>Age in foster care</b>	Former foster youth must have been in care on or after age 13.	<b>Age when experiencing unaccompanied homelessness</b>	An unaccompanied youth must be verified as experiencing homelessness on or after July 1 of the prior academic year, or during the current academic year, before age 22.
<b>How the youth's eligibility is determined</b>	<p>Former Foster Youth are identified in the WSAC Portal for financial aid offices.</p> <p>State foster programs, including dependents under the <a href="#">Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children</a> (ICPC), administered by DCYF with eligibility shared via a data-sharing agreement.</p> <p><a href="#">Federal Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program</a> administered by DSHS with eligibility shared via a data-sharing agreement.</p> <p>Tribal Foster Care System is determined by campus staff or one of the <a href="#">29 federally recognized tribes</a> in Washington State who then notify WSAC staff for entry into the WSAC portal for financial aid offices.</p> <p>Verification may be provided by submitting a <a href="#">Tribal Verification Form</a>, copy of the tribal court document, a letter from the participant's school counselor, foster parent, or tribal representative.</p>	<b>How the youth's eligibility is determined</b>	<p>Unaccompanied Homeless Youth are identified on the <a href="#">FAFSA</a> or <a href="#">WASFA</a> or by self-identification.</p> <p>Financial Aid Administrator follows FAFSA procedures and overrides dependency status to "Independent." FAA then notifies WSAC of the student's Passport eligibility through the WSAC Portal.</p> <p>If FAA cannot make a dependency determination using their standard process for students indicating Unaccompanied Homeless Youth on the FAFSA or WASFA, the participant will provide information on the "<a href="#">Passport to Careers Student Housing Questionnaire</a>" to WSAC.</p>

## Quick Look Chart – Passport to College Scholarship Pathway

*Administrative guidance for certificate programs, degree programs, apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships that are campus-based and eligible for state financial aid.*

<b>Residency requirements</b>	<p>In general, the applicant must have resided in Washington State for other than educational purposes for one year prior to attending college, graduated from a Washington high school, or earned a GED in Washington. If unable to establish residency because of homelessness or placement in out-of-state foster care under the interstate compact for the placement of children, refer the applicant to WSAC for verification.</p> <p>Specific <a href="#">information regarding tuition residency requirements</a> can be found on WSAC’s website.</p> <p>For detailed definitions go to <a href="#">RCW 28B.15.012(2)</a>.</p>
<b>Enrollment status</b>	<p>The student must be enrolled at least half time in an educational program that does one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Leads to a baccalaureate, associate, or undergraduate professional degree.</li> <li>b. Leads to a postsecondary vocational certificate or degree in a program of at least 600 clock hours, 16 semesters, or 24 quarter credit hours. Program completion must prepare the student for gainful employment in a recognized occupation and be approved on the Title IV Program Participation agreement with the US Department of Education.</li> <li>c. The program must be approved for Washington state financial aid and have a current participation agreement with WSAC.</li> </ol> <p><b>Note:</b> If the apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship program on campus is not eligible for the Passport to College Scholarship program, refer the student to <a href="#">ANEW</a>, the WSAC contractor for the Apprenticeship Opportunities Pathway.</p> <p>Students must enroll before the age of 22. An eligible student may receive Passport to College Scholarship for a maximum of five years after the student first enrolls with an institution of higher education, or through age 26, whichever occurs first. If a student turns 26 during an academic year, and would otherwise be eligible for a scholarship under this section, the student shall continue to be eligible for the scholarship for the remainder of the academic year. If the student is turning 26 at any time after July 1st, even if they are not enrolled but will enroll, they are eligible to receive the scholarship for the academic year.</p>
<b>SAP</b>	<p>Student is making satisfactory academic progress toward the completion of a degree, certificate program, registered apprenticeship, or recognized pre-apprenticeship, if receiving supplemental scholarship assistance.</p>
<b>Degree criteria</b>	<p>Student has not earned a bachelor's or professional degree, and is not pursuing a degree in theology.</p>
<b>Fund disbursement to participant</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Postsecondary institution must be eligible to participate in state financial aid programs.</li> <li>• Program must be a registered apprenticeship or recognized pre-apprenticeship.</li> <li>• Eligibility determined by Financial Aid Administrator by FAFSA/WASFA application, WSAC Consent Form, or Institution Common Application or Data Exchange with DCYF or OSPI.</li> <li>• Participant may not receive concurrent funding from the Passport to College Scholarship and the Apprenticeship Opportunities pathways.</li> <li>• Funds are disbursed to participant from the financial aid office by requesting funds via WSAC portal process.</li> </ul>
<b>Support services for participant</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optional Passport Student Support Plan with <a href="#">Designated Support Staff</a>.</li> <li>• College Success Foundation for contracted support services.</li> <li>• <a href="#">SETuP Providers</a> who can assist participants for one year after high school graduation.</li> <li>• WSAC Passport staff, campus financial aid staff.</li> </ul>

## **1.4 Passport to Careers - Apprenticeship Opportunities Pathway**

This pathway has two options for providing access to registered apprenticeships and recognized pre-apprenticeships. Both will help with costs for eligible apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship programs, which may include tuition for classes, fees, work clothes, rain gear, boots, and occupation-related tools. Participants will also receive support services.

- **Option 1:** If participants are enrolled in an eligible certificate or degree apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship program at a community or technical college that participates in state financial aid, they will receive Passport to Careers funds from the campus financial aid office and support services from campus staff or Passport to Careers designated support staff on participating campuses.

An eligible program is one at a location approved by the U.S. Department of Education for participation in the Title IV financial aid programs. The student must be enrolled in an educational program that does one of the following:

- Leads to a baccalaureate, associate, or undergraduate professional degree.
- Leads to a postsecondary vocational certificate or degree in a program of at least 600 clock hours, 16 semesters, or 24 quarter credit hours. Program must be approved by and listed on the Title IV Program Participation agreement with the US Department of Education.

- **Option 2:** This pathway is administered by the WSAC contractor, [ANEW](#), which will administer funding and services for participants in an apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship that is offered by a trade or community organization, or that is campus-based but not eligible for state financial aid.

**1.4.1 Quick Look Chart – Apprenticeship Options**

Apprenticeship Options	Option 1	Option 2
<b>What is the participant's plan for enrolling in an eligible apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship program, and which pathway will provide support?</b>	Community or technical college certificate or degree program that is eligible for funding from the Passport to College Scholarship pathway and other state aid programs.	Community or technical college program that is not eligible for state financial aid, or a trade or community organization apprenticeship program that does not have a community or technical college affiliation.
<b>Which pathway will provide services and funding to the student?</b>	Passport to College Scholarship pathway.	Passport to Apprenticeship Opportunities pathway.
<b>Who will determine if the program is eligible for the Passport to Careers Funding?</b>	Campus financial aid staff.	ANEW (WSAC contractor).
<b>Who will determine the student's financial need?</b>	Campus financial aid staff, after the participant completes the FAFSA or WASFA.	ANEW (WSAC contractor).
<b>Will the participant receive wages from their apprenticeship site? (This does not include pre-apprenticeship programs.)</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>What expenses may be covered?</b>	Funding may include but is not limited to tuition, fees, room, board, books, personal expenses, transportation, and required apprenticeship supplies.	Funding may include but is not limited to occupational-specific costs, tuition for classes, fees, work clothes, rain gear, boots, and tools.
<b>Does the program offer dollars to support participants on campus (Student Support Funds)?</b>	Passport Student Support Funds (formerly referred to as Incentive grants) may be used for eligible purposes if the postsecondary institution has a viable Passport Student Support plan.	Determined on a case-by-case basis, after consultation with WSAC program staff.
<b>Who can help?</b>	WSAC Passport staff and campus financial aid office and Designated Support Staff.	ANEW (WSAC contractor), SETuP providers during first year after high school.

**1.4.2 Quick Look Chart – ANEW Apprenticeship Opportunity Pathway**

<b>Quick Look Chart – ANEW Apprenticeship Opportunity Pathway</b> <i>Administrative guidance for registered apprenticeships and recognized pre-apprenticeships that are not offered on a campus or not eligible for state financial aid.</i>			
Former Foster Youth		Unaccompanied Homeless Youth	
<b>Age in foster care</b>	<p>Former foster must have been in care on or after age 13.</p>	<b>Age when experiencing unaccompanied homelessness.</b>	<p>An unaccompanied youth must be verified as experiencing homelessness on or after July 1 of the prior academic year, or during the current academic year, before age 22.</p>
<b>How the youth's eligibility is determined</b>	<p>Former foster youth are Identified in the WSAC Portal for Financial Aid Offices.</p> <p>State foster programs, including dependents under the <a href="#">Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children</a> (ICPC), administered by DCYF with eligibility shared via a data-sharing agreement.</p> <p><a href="#">Federal Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program</a> administered by DSHS with eligibility shared via a data-sharing agreement.</p> <p>Tribal foster care system is determined by campus staff or one of the <a href="#">29 federally recognized tribes</a> in Washington State who then notify WSAC staff for entry into the WSAC portal for financial aid offices.</p> <p>Verification may be provided by Submitting a <a href="#">Tribal Verification Form</a>, providing a copy of the tribal court document, a letter from the participant's school counselor, foster parent, or tribal representative.</p>	<b>How the youth's eligibility is determined</b>	<p>Unaccompanied homeless youth are identified on the <a href="#">FAFSA</a> or <a href="#">WASFA</a> or by self-identification.</p> <p>Financial Aid Administrator follows FAFSA procedures and overrides dependency status to "Independent." FAA then notifies WSAC of the student's Passport eligibility through the WSAC Portal</p> <p>If FAA cannot make a dependency determination using their standard process for students indicating Unaccompanied Homeless Youth on the FAFSA or WASFA, the participant will provide information on the "Passport to Careers Student Housing Questionnaire" to WSAC.</p> <p>If the participant is not enrolling in a campus-based and state financial aid-eligible program, their unaccompanied homeless youth status will be determined by the WSAC contractor, ANEW. ANEW will provide a method such as the "<a href="#">Passport to Careers Student Housing Questionnaire</a>" form, to be completed by the participant.</p>

## Quick Look Chart – ANEW Apprenticeship Opportunity Pathway

*Administrative guidance for registered apprenticeships and recognized pre-apprenticeships that are not offered on a campus or not eligible for state financial aid.*

<b>Residency requirements</b>	In general, the applicant must have resided in Washington State for other than educational purposes for one year prior to attending college, graduated from a Washington high school, or earned a GED in Washington. If unable to establish residency because of homelessness or placement in out-of-state foster care under the interstate compact for the placement of children, refer the applicant to WSAC for verification. Specific <a href="#">information regarding tuition residency requirements</a> can be found on WSAC’s website. For detailed definitions go to <a href="#">RCW 28B.15.012(2)</a> .
<b>Fund disbursement to participant</b>	<p>Program must be sponsored by an off-campus trade or community organization or administered on a campus but not eligible for state financial aid.</p> <p>Program must be a <a href="#">registered apprenticeship</a> or <a href="#">recognized pre-apprenticeship</a>.</p> <p>WSAC’s designated contractor, ANEW, will determine financial need eligibility using a WSAC-approved calculation based on each participant’s provided information.</p> <p>ANEW will disburse financial aid to participants from program funds included in their WSAC contract.</p> <p>Funding may include but is not limited to occupational-specific costs, tuition for classes, fees, work clothes, rain gear, boots, and tools.</p> <p>Participants may not receive concurrent funding from the Passport to College Scholarship and the Apprenticeship Opportunities programs.</p>
<b>Support services for participant</b>	<p>Provided by WSAC designated contractor <a href="#">ANEW</a>.</p> <p><a href="#">SETuP Providers</a> who can assist participants for one year after high school graduation.</p>

### 1.5 Definitions and acronyms related to Passport to Careers

- **ANEW** - [ANEW](#) is the WSAC designee that has contracted to provide fund disbursement and services to the Apprenticeship Opportunity Pathway for a community or technical college program that is not eligible for state financial aid or a trade or community organization apprenticeship program that does not have a community or technical college affiliation.
- **Apprentice** means a person enrolled in a state-approved, federally registered, or reciprocally recognized apprenticeship program.
- **Apprenticeship** means an apprenticeship training program approved or recognized by the [state apprenticeship council](#) or similar federal entity.
- **Campus** refers to an [institution of higher education that has a participation agreement](#) with WSAC.

- **Cost of Attendance** means the cost associated with attending a particular institution of higher education, including but not limited to tuition, fees, room, board, books, personal expenses, and transportation, plus the cost of reasonable additional expenses incurred by an eligible student and approved by a financial aid administrator at the student's school of attendance.
- **Designated Support Staff (DSS)** is a knowledgeable “home base” person who can direct youth in the areas of financial aid, academic guidance, personal issues, and career counseling/advising. The DSS will also be responsible for preparing campus personnel in these areas to assist referred Passport students. Note: Only campuses that elect to have a Passport Student Support Plan are required to have a DSS. A [list of participating campuses](#) is available online.
- **Eligible Campus–Based Program** is one at a location approved by the U.S. Department of Education for participation in the Title IV financial aid programs. The student must be enrolled in an educational program that does one of the following: 1. Leads to a baccalaureate, associate, or undergraduate professional degree. 2. Leads to a postsecondary vocational certificate or degree in a program of at least 600 clock hours, 16 semesters, or 24 quarter credit hours. Program must be approved and on the Title IV Program Participation agreement with the US Department of Education.
- **FAFSA** is the acronym for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It is the application for federal student aid, such as federal grants, work study, and loans. In addition, many states and colleges use the FAFSA information to determine eligibility for state and school aid, and some private financial aid providers may use it to determine eligibility for their aid.
- **Federal foster care system** means the foster care program under the [federal unaccompanied refugee minors program](#), Title 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1522 of the immigration and nationality act.
- **Financial need** means the difference between a student's cost of attendance and the student's total family contribution as determined by the FAFSA or WASFA.
- **Homeless or homelessness** means without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as set forth in the federal [McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act](#), 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11301 et seq.
- **Passport Student Support Funds** are provided to colleges that have developed a Passport Student Support Plan for individualized student support services, which may include, but are not limited to, college and career advising, counseling, tutoring, costs incurred for students while school is not in session, personal expenses, health insurance, and emergency services.
- **Independent college or university** means a private, nonprofit institution of higher education, open to residents of the state, providing programs of education beyond the high school level leading to at least a baccalaureate degree, and accredited by the Northwest association of schools and colleges, and other institutions as may be developed that are approved by the Student Achievement Council as meeting equivalent standards as those institutions accredited under this section.
- **Institution of higher education** means [any postsecondary institution that has a participation agreement](#) with WSAC.



- **Occupational-specific costs** means the costs associated with entering an apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship, including but not limited to fees, tuition for classes, work clothes, rain gear, boots, and occupation-specific tools.
- **Office** means the office of the WSAC student financial assistance division.
- **Passport Student Support Plan** is a viable plan that documents campus strategies for supporting Passport students. The plan will be submitted to WSAC for approval, and should be reviewed and updated on an annual basis. The plan may include incentive grants funds to assist in supporting program participants.
- **Pre-apprenticeship** means an apprenticeship preparation program recognized by the state apprenticeship council and as defined in [RCW 28C.18.162](#). View a list of [recognized pre-apprenticeship programs](#).
- **Program** means the [Passport to Careers program](#).
- **Supplemental Education Transition Planning Program (SETuP)** assists youth in successfully making the transition from high school to postsecondary enrollment, career, or service. SETuP may provide services to high school and first year college students. For more information view the [7.3 SETuP](#) section of this manual.
- **State foster care system** means out-of-home care pursuant to a dependency, and includes the placement of dependents from other states who are placed in Washington pursuant to orders issued under [the interstate compact on the placement of children](#) (see [RCW 26.34](#)).
- **Tribal court** has the same meaning as defined in [RCW 13.38.040](#): A court or body vested by an Indian tribe with jurisdiction over child custody proceedings, including but not limited to a federal court of Indian offenses, a court established and operated under the code or custom of an Indian tribe, or an administrative body of an Indian tribe vested with authority over child custody proceedings.
- **Tribal foster care system** means an out-of-home placement under a dependency order from a federally recognized tribal court.
- **Tribal representative** is a person who is authorized to verify a youth's tribal dependency. It can include, but is not limited to, a social worker, case manager, attorney, or court official.
- **Unaccompanied** means a youth or young adult experiencing homelessness while not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.
- **WASFA** is the Washington Application for State Financial Aid for undocumented individuals and others who are not eligible to complete the FAFSA.
- **Washington College Grant (WCG)** was created by the Workforce Education Investment Act (HB 2158) to replace the State Need Grant. WSAC began using the new name in 2019-20.



## 1.6 Contact Information for WSAC and Partner Programs

Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) Staff			
Nicole Fry, ProgramCoordinator	360-753-7793	<a href="mailto:nicolefry@wsac.wa.gov">nicolefry@wsac.wa.gov</a>	Contact for payment inquiries and general information
Dawn Cypriano-McAferly, Assistant Director	360-753-7846 Fax: 360-704-6246	<a href="mailto:dawnc@wsac.wa.gov">dawnc@wsac.wa.gov</a>	Contact for all program related policies and procedures, and participant eligibility questions
Carla Idohl-Corwin, SeniorAssociate Director	360-485-1302	<a href="mailto:carlai@wsac.wa.gov">carlai@wsac.wa.gov</a>	Contact if Dawn is not available
Becky Thompson, Director of Student Financial Assistance	360-485-1301	<a href="mailto:beckyt@wsac.wa.gov">beckyt@wsac.wa.gov</a>	For questions related to policy and general WSAC services
Designated Support Staff on Participating Campuses			
Varies by Campus: <a href="#">View Directory</a>	College staff who have a Passport Student Support Plan and can direct youth in the areas of financial aid, academic guidance, personal issues, career counseling/advising.		
<b>ANEW</b>	WSAC contractor that provides Apprenticeship Opportunities support for youth participating in a pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship program that is not on a campus or not eligible for state aid.		
Dee Jackson, Director of Programs	206-710-1004	<a href="mailto:dee@anewcareer.org">dee@anewcareer.org</a>	
Karen Dove, Executive Director		<a href="mailto:karen@anewcareer.org">karen@anewcareer.org</a>	
Kerstin Torrescano, Director of Operations	206-710-1003	<a href="mailto:kerstin@anewcareer.org">kerstin@anewcareer.org</a>	
Halley Schriber, Apprenticeship Navigator	206-710-1018	<a href="mailto:halley@anewcareer.org">halley@anewcareer.org</a>	
College Success Foundation Foster Youth Services			
Juliet Schindler, Director of Public Affairs and Strategic Partnerships	425-416-2047	<a href="mailto:jschindler@collegesuccessfoundation.org">jschindler@collegesuccessfoundation.org</a>	
Mustapha Samateh, Program Officer of Statewide Initiatives	425-595-1878	<a href="mailto:msamateh@collegesuccessfoundation.org">msamateh@collegesuccessfoundation.org</a>	
Donna Quach, Program Manager of Statewide Initiatives	425-417-3072	<a href="mailto:dquach@collegesuccessfoundation.org">dquach@collegesuccessfoundation.org</a>	

<b>Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program, Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF)</b>		
Kathy Ramsay, ETV Program Manager	360-902-7990	<a href="mailto:kathy.ramsay@dcyf.wa.gov">kathy.ramsay@dcyf.wa.gov</a>
Victoria Ackerman, ETV Program Coordinator	360-902-8281	<a href="mailto:victoria.ackerman@dcyf.wa.gov">victoria.ackerman@dcyf.wa.gov</a>
Shanna McBride, Education Program Mngr	360-902-8474	<a href="mailto:shanna.mcbride@dcyf.wa.gov">shanna.mcbride@dcyf.wa.gov</a>
Peggy Lewis, Independent Living Skills Program Mngr.	360-902-8063	<a href="mailto:peggy.lewis@dcyf.wa.gov">peggy.lewis@dcyf.wa.gov</a>
<b>Contact Information for WSAC and Partner Programs (continued)</b>		
<b>Indian Tribes That Are Federally Recognized in Washington State.</b>		
<a href="https://goia.wa.gov/tribal-directory/federally-recognized-indian-tribes">https://goia.wa.gov/tribal-directory/federally-recognized-indian-tribes</a>		
<b>Indian Child Welfare Regional and Headquarters Contact Information</b>		
<a href="https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/icw_pmcontactlist.pdf">https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/icw_pmcontactlist.pdf</a>		
<b>Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children</b>		
Maya Brown, Compact Administrator	360-902-7984	<a href="mailto:Maya.Brown@dcyf.wa.gov">Maya.Brown@dcyf.wa.gov</a>
<b>SETuP: YMCA – Seattle</b>		
<i>Case Manager - Vacant</i>		
Claire Calvert	206-749-7598	<a href="mailto:cecalvert@seattleyymca.org">cecalvert@seattleyymca.org</a>
<b>SETuP: Pierce County Alliance – Tacoma</b>		
Sojim Huckleberry		<a href="mailto:hucklesb@p-c-a.org">hucklesb@p-c-a.org</a>
Anita Snyder	253-502-5484	<a href="mailto:snydera@p-c-a.org">snydera@p-c-a.org</a>
<b>SETuP: Community Youth Services – Olympia</b>		
Veneza Tena		<a href="mailto:vtena@CommunityYouthServices.org">vtena@CommunityYouthServices.org</a>
<b>SETuP: Volunteers of America – Spokane</b>		
Sara Mack		<a href="mailto:SMack@VOASpokane.org">SMack@VOASpokane.org</a>
<b>SETuP: Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Yakima</b>		
Whitney Carlson		<a href="mailto:wcarlson@catholiccharitiescw.org">wcarlson@catholiccharitiescw.org</a>
<b>Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program – <a href="#">DSHS</a></b>		
Molly Daggett, Program Manager	206-568-5795	<a href="mailto:molly.daggett@dshs.wa.gov">molly.daggett@dshs.wa.gov</a>
<b>Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program – <a href="#">Catholic Community Services (Tacoma &amp; Vancouver)</a></b>		
Dorothy McCabe	253-502-2663	<a href="mailto:dorothym@ccsww.org">dorothym@ccsww.org</a>
<b>Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program – <a href="#">Lutheran Community Services Northwest (Seattle)</a></b>		
Karen Danz	206-694-5707	<a href="mailto:kdanz@refugeesnw.org">kdanz@refugeesnw.org</a>
<b>Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program – <a href="#">Lutheran Community Services Northwest (Spokane)</a></b>		
Shelly Hahn	509-343-5050	<a href="mailto:shahn@lcsnw.org">shahn@lcsnw.org</a>

## CHAPTER 2 – ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

### 2.1 Eligibility Changes and Expansion Timeline

The expansion occurred over a three-year period. Beginning in 2018-19, students who were under the care of the state, tribal, or federal foster care systems or the jurisdiction of the interstate compact on the placement of the children became eligible.

Beginning in July 2019, verified unaccompanied homeless youth, and youth who were in foster care at any point after their 13<sup>th</sup> birthday, also became eligible. The age for eligibility determination for foster youth status is in alignment with the age requirements used by the U.S. Department of Education on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

#### 2.1.1 Quick Look Chart – Eligibility

Eligibility Changes	Eligibility ending June 2018	Eligibility Starting July 2018	Eligibility Starting July 2019	Eligibility Starting July 2020
<b>Education/ Training</b>	Postsecondary enrollment at an eligible college	Attending an eligible college, or pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship program.		
<b>Program Name</b>	Passport to College	Passport to Careers - includes Passport to College Scholarship and Passport to Apprenticeship Opportunities.		
<b>Foster care</b>	Dependent of Washington State	In-state, tribal, or federal foster care systems in Washington State.		
<b>Time in care</b>	Spent one year in care after age 16 and in care at age 17.5	In foster care after age 15.	In foster care after age 14.	In foster care after age 13.
<b>Unaccompanied Homeless</b>	Not Eligible		Verification of unaccompanied homeless event during prior or current academic year, before age 21.	
<b>Residency</b>	In general, the student resided in Washington for other than educational purposes for one year prior to attending college, graduated from a Washington high school, or earned a GED in Washington.		Also includes homelessness or out-of-state foster care under the interstate compact as verified by WSAC.	

## 2.2 Former Foster Youth Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility for the Passport program includes:

1. **Timeline:** If youth apply after July 1, 2020, they must have been in care at any point after age 13.
2. **Definition of Foster Care:** Have been in the care of tribal, federal, or Washington State foster care, or the jurisdiction of the [interstate compact on the placement of children \(ICPC\)](#).
3. **Residency:** Be a resident of Washington State. In general, the applicant must have resided in Washington State for other than educational purposes for one year prior to attending college, graduated from a Washington high school, or earned a GED in Washington.

If unable to establish residency because of homelessness or placement in out-of-state foster care under the interstate compact for the placement of children, refer the applicant to WSAC who will provide verification. [Specific information regarding tuition residency requirements](#) is available on the WSAC website. For detailed definitions go to [RCW 28B.15.012\(2\)](#).

4. **Enrollment:** Is enrolled or will enroll at least half-time in an eligible institution of higher education or a pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship in Washington before their 22nd birthday.
5. **Eligible Degrees:** Be working toward earning their first bachelor's degree, and not be pursuing a degree in theology.

In order to be considered for the scholarship, students must either be enrolled in the Passport to Careers program through a data sharing agreement between WSAC and DCYF, or submit **one** of the following:

- Passport to Careers [Consent Form](#)
- Common Application for Foster Youth, available online at [independence.wa.gov/](http://independence.wa.gov/)

By submitting the form(s), students consent to the sharing of information between the Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF), Washington's federally recognized tribes, Washington Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), ANEW, WSAC, SETuP providers, and participating institutions of higher education for the processing of financial aid and for support services on campus. Youth in the care and custody of DCYF will have their eligibility posted to the WSAC Portal through an automatic data exchange.

All Passport to Careers students must either complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)) or Washington Application for State Financial Aid ([WASFA](#)). By completing the FAFSA or WASFA, the student agrees that the information provided may be verified by WSAC.

WSAC Passport to Careers program staff will send students an electronic letter via email notifying them of their Passport eligibility status.

### 2.3 Documentation of Foster Care Status for Financial Aid Purposes

A student's eligibility is determined by DCYF, DSHS, a federally recognized tribe, and the institution and documented on the [WSAC Portal](#).

The screenshot shows a web interface titled "Passport Eligibility". It contains the following text and elements:

- Header: **Passport Eligibility**
- Text: "Use this page to check a student's eligibility, log receipt of a Support Services Release, or confirm the student as an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth."
- Text: "This information is to be used solely for the purpose of confirming Passport eligibility for students you are working with. By utilizing this search tool, you are confirming that you are an authorized user of this system and will follow all data safeguards of this information."
- Light blue banner: "Checking multiple students? [Upload a file instead.](#)"
- Text: "Enter the following criteria to search for a student:"
- List of criteria:
  - Date of birth
  - Last 4 digits of SSN **or** last name
- Form fields:
  - "Date of birth" with a text input field containing the placeholder "mm/dd/yyyy".
  - "Last 4 digits of SSN or last name" with an empty text input field.
- Search button: A blue button labeled "Search".

*Screenshot from WSAC Portal*

For instructions on accessing the Eligibility Checker, refer to page 41. Information provided about Passport students through the Eligibility Checker on WSAC's Portal should be used as documentation of a student's foster care status or unaccompanied homelessness.

The Portal information also can be used to determine priority funding for the State WorkStudy program. Priority funding is intended for those students who were not identified during packaging because they enrolled later in the year. It is not meant as a supplemental allocation for foster youth at an institution.

### 2.4 Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness Eligibility Criteria

Beginning in the 2019-20 academic year, Passport to College expanded to serve unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness. The applicant must have been an unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness during the prior year for which they are being awarded.

1. **Timeline:** The Passport program law says that the youth must have experienced unaccompanied homelessness on or after July 1 of the year prior to their awarding of the Passport scholarship. Students who experienced homelessness during the same year of their award are also eligible for the program.

2. **Definition of an Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness:** “Unaccompanied” means a youth or young adult experiencing homelessness while not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian and lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
3. **Determining Unaccompanied Homeless Status:** For most cases, WSAC will rely on the financial aid office to determine Passport eligibility when the student has indicated their status on the FAFSA or WASFA. This does not deviate from past and current financial aid practices for determining a student’s independent status for unaccompanied homeless youth. (The National Center for Homeless Education provides [a tool for Financial Aid Administrators](#) regarding making unaccompanied homeless youth determinations.)

Institutions make a one-time Passport eligibility determination for students experiencing unaccompanied homelessness. The financial aid office does not re-determine the student’s eligibility for the Passport to Careers program annually, unless there is a break in the student’s enrollment (with the exception of summer term). Any missed term due to a state of emergency does not count as a disruption of enrollment.

For federal guidance regarding the documentation of students who have experienced foster care or unaccompanied homelessness, refer to the [Dear Colleague Letter \(DCL ID: GEN-22-15\)](#) dated November 4, 2022.

4. **Residency:** Be a resident of Washington State. In general, the applicant must have resided in Washington State for other than educational purposes for one year prior to attending college, graduated from a Washington high school, or earned a GED in Washington. [Specific information regarding tuition residency requirements](#) is available on the WSAC website. For detailed definitions go to [RCW 28B.15.012\(2\)](#).
5. **Enrollment:** Enroll at least half-time in an eligible institution of higher education or pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship in Washington before their 22nd birthday.
6. **Eligible Degrees:** Be working toward earning their first bachelor’s degree, and not be pursuing a degree in theology.

**Note:** In the rare circumstance the financial aid office is unable to determine a student’s Passport to Careers program status, institutions should refer the student to WSAC. A [Participant Housing Questionnaire](#) form will be provided to the student, and WSAC will determine Passport program eligibility. Institutions may choose to use the WSAC Participant Housing Questionnaire to document a student’s file.

7. **Award Amounts:** Award maximums are \$5,000 for the regular nine-month academic year. Summer term is in addition to the regular academic year and may exceed the award maximum, proportional for the term, such as a college with quarter terms would be \$1666 for the additional summer term at full time.
8. **Passport Student Support Payments:** Those institutions who have signed Passport addendums and submitted a Passport Student Support Plan to WSAC are eligible for Passport Student Support Payments that include serving unaccompanied homeless youth.

## **2.5 Passport to College Scholarship Processing**

Financial aid administrators must access the [WSAC Portal](#) to confirm student eligibility, post eligibility for unaccompanied homeless youth, and enter awards.

The Portal is a web-based tool used by WSAC, institutions, and DCYF determine student eligibility and to post awards. It is also a medium for communication.

## 2.6 Passport to College Scholarship Requirements

Students meeting the initial eligibility for Passport must complete a FAFSA or WASFA annually and have documented financial need. Students do not have to resubmit a Passport housing questionnaire or consent form each year.

**Note:** Students who qualify for the program as foster youth do not complete a Passport Consent Form annually. Students qualifying for Passport as an unaccompanied homeless youth could experience a change in housing stability, but only need to be reconsidered for program eligibility by the financial aid office if there was a gap in enrollment (not including summer term). Refer to Chapter 2.4 for additional guidance.<sup>1</sup>

Once enrolled at least half-time, as defined by the institution, Passport students must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) per their school's state SAP policy to receive scholarship payments (see detailed information in Chapter 4).

Students must enroll in an eligible college before their 22nd birthday. An eligible student may receive Passport to College Scholarship for a maximum of fifteen quarters (or the equivalent) after the student first enrolls with an institution of higher education, or until the student turns age 26, whichever occurs first.

If a student turns age 26 during an academic year and would otherwise be eligible for a scholarship under this section, the student shall continue to be eligible for the scholarship for the remainder of the academic year.

**Note:** The Passport to Apprenticeship Opportunities program has a maximum of six years after first enrolling with a registered apprenticeship or recognized pre-apprenticeship, or until the applicant turns age 26, whichever occurs first.

Eligibility Area	Passport
<b>Washington Residence Status</b>	Students must be Washington Residents. Undocumented students may also be eligible
<b>Submit an Approved Application</b>	FAFSA or WASFA, or Passport Consent Form, or automatically verified through DCYF data exchange.
<b>High School Graduation Required</b>	High School graduation or equivalent such as GED <sup>®</sup>
<b>Initial Enrollment Timeframe</b>	Prior to 22 <sup>nd</sup> birthday
<b>Usage Timeframe</b>	If enrolled before age 22, thru age 26
<b>Is There a Family Income Limitation?</b>	The student must have financial need as determined by the financial aid office
<b>Maximum Terms of Usage</b>	15 quarters/10 semesters of full-time usage (not prorated for part-time)

<sup>1</sup> The WASFA exists for students who meet Washington residency requirements, want to be considered for state financial aid, and are unable to file a FAFSA due to their immigration status or other reasons. It is also permissible to file a WASFA based on the personal choice to only apply for state aid, although this is not encouraged.



## ***2.7 Programs of Study***

An eligible program is one at a location approved by the U.S. Department of Education for participation in the Title IV financial aid programs. The student must be enrolled in an educational program that does one of the following:

- Leads to a baccalaureate, associate, or undergraduate professional degree.
- Leads to a postsecondary vocational certificate or degree in a program of at least 600 clock hours, 16 semesters, or 24 quarter credit hours.

Program must be an approved program and listed on the Title IV Program Participation agreement with the US Department of Education.

**Note:** It is permissible to count needed remedial coursework toward the Passport enrollment requirement. Remedial credits are not counted in determining an eligible program as outlined in [2.7 Programs of Study](#). However, remedial credits attempted while receiving Passport funds count towards the maximum usage timeframe.

To recognize where a lack of college preparation exists, aid administrators may, for up to one academic year, consider awarding a Passport-eligible student for the scholarship based upon an institutionally documented educational pathway that leads to an eligible degree or certificate.

A documented educational pathway can include prerequisites that must be met before admission into a degree or certificate program, or a short-term course that connects to a degree or longer certificate program.

Because students participating in the **Running Start** program are non-matriculated, and are not charged full tuition, they are ineligible to receive Passport scholarship funds.

## ***2.8 Theology Degree***

Students pursuing a degree in theology are ineligible to receive state financial aid. Each institution must determine whether the student is pursuing this type of degree in light of Washington State Constitution, Article 1§11, that no “public money or property shall be appropriated for or applied to any religious worship, exercise or instruction.”

To apply this constitutional prohibition, the institution may look to Washington Supreme Court decisions that interpret the constitutional provision as prohibiting “that category of instruction that resembles worship and manifests a devotion to religion and religious principles in thought, feeling, belief, and conduct, i.e., instruction that is devotional in nature and designed to induce faith and belief in the student.”



## **CHAPTER 3 – CALCULATE PASSPORT TO COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS, INCLUDING ELIGIBLE CAMPUS-BASED APPRENTICESHIPS AND PRE-APPRENTICESHIPS**

### ***3.1 Award Amounts***

Passport to College Scholarship awards are based on legislative appropriations. In the 2023-24 academic year, the maximum Passport Scholarship is \$5,000, and is dependent on legislative funding. Award amounts may be reduced based on the availability of funds. Students who attend summerquarter may receive an award if funds are available. Institutions are encouraged to contact WSAC regarding the availability of funds for summer term.

**Note:** Passport to College Scholarship awards are considered part of the state's commitment to eligible College Bound Scholars (CBS). More information about this commitment is provided in Chapter 2 of the [Washington College Grant and College Bound Scholarship Program Manual](#).

### ***3.2 Financial Need***

Passport to College Scholarship award amounts are based on financial need and other financial aid awarded. These award amounts are not prorated for students attending half-time or three-quarter time.

Award amounts may be reduced if a student's remaining unmet financial need is less than a full award after considering other aid awarded.

If a student does not have any remaining financial need for the Passport to College Scholarship because their need is met by other sources of aid, they will be classified as a \$0 Passport award and must be reported on the Portal. Institutions may still receive Passport student support payments for the recruitment and retention of these \$0 award students.

### ***3.3 Professional Judgment for Student Budgets***

Aid administrators may, using professional judgment, adjust student budgets and resources up or down to more accurately reflect the student's actual cost of attendance and financial situation during the academic year. The aid administrator must maintain documentation of the reason for the variance in the student's file.

Institutions may choose to ask students to complete a [Justification for Budget Increase](#) form, or other institutional forms, to document their expenses.

### ***3.4 Age and Quarters of Eligibility Remaining (QER)***

Students must enroll in an eligible college before their 22nd birthday. An eligible student may receive a Passport to College Scholarship for a maximum of fifteen quarters (or the equivalent) after the student first enrolls with an institution of higher education, or through age 26, whichever occurs first.

If a student turns 26 during an academic year and would otherwise be eligible for a scholarship under this section, the student shall continue to be eligible for the scholarship for the remainder of the academic year.

**Note:** The Passport to Apprenticeship Opportunities program has a maximum of six years of eligibility after first enrolling with a registered apprenticeship or recognized pre-apprenticeship, or through age 26, whichever occurs first.

Students are eligible to receive the Passport to College Scholarship for a maximum of fifteen quarters, or ten semesters, or the equivalent number combination of both quarters and semesters. Student awards are based on a regular academic year (three quarters or two semesters).

Students may be awarded for summer term in addition to the regular academic year, as funds remain available. Remaining QER (Quarters of Eligibility Remaining) can be viewed in the Portal in each student's award screen.

Recipients may utilize the Passport to College Scholarship or Passport to Apprenticeship Opportunities at different times, but not concurrently. The total award an individual may receive in any combination of the programs shall not exceed the equivalent amount that would have been awarded for the individual to attend a public university for five years with the highest annual tuition and state-mandated fees in the state.

**Note:** Passport to College Scholarship payments are not prorated for part-time attendance. However, students are required to be enrolled at least half time.

### ***3.5 Passport Scholarship Self-Help Requirement Eliminated***

With the passing of legislation in 2018, the self-help requirement was eliminated.

### ***3.6 Order of Awards***

If a student is eligible for multiple financial aid programs, and the aid administrator is aware of the source at the time of packaging, administrators should package their aid in the following order:

- Federal Pell Grant
- Washington College Grant
- Passport to College Scholarship
- Other state aid
- College Bound Scholarship (generally CBS commitment is fulfilled by WCG/PTC)
- Education and Training Voucher (ETV) federally funded and administered by Children's Administration

### ***3.7 Passport to College Scholarship Financial Need***

If a Passport to College Scholarship recipient's remaining financial need is less than the maximum award, the scholarship may be reduced to fit the student's remaining need. At lower-cost institutions, it is common for a Passport to College Scholarship recipient to have their College Bound scholarship commitment met with the WCG and Passport to College Scholarship award.

### 3.8 Packaging

Passport to College Scholarships are based on legislative appropriations, and combine with other state, federal, private, and institutional financial aid to provide sufficient resources to cover all of the student’s educational and living expenses.

The Passport to College Scholarship is designed to ensure the student’s financial need is met, and to reduce reliance on student loans, whenever possible.

As most Passport to College Scholarship recipients also will receive funding from the Washington College Grant (WCG) program, and some from the College Bound Scholarship (CBS) program, we recommend that financial aid administrators be very familiar with the program rules of both WCG and the CBS.

Information on these programs is provided in the [Washington College Grant and College Bound Scholarship Program Manual](#).

#### Packaging Examples:

See the [Washington College Grant & College Bound Scholarship Program Manual](#) for more information.

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➤ **EXAMPLE 1:** Student’s financial need is met by grants and scholarships if Passport to College Scholarship award is reduced to fit within financial need.

COA	\$18,000	Pell Grant	\$5,775
-EFC	-\$1,000	Governors’	\$3,000
<b>NEED</b>	<b>\$17,000</b>	WCG	\$7,600
		Passport	\$1,225
		<b>TOTAL FA:</b>	<b>\$17,000</b>

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➤ **EXAMPLE 2:** Student’s financial need is met by grants and scholarships

- As the student’s financial need is fully met by other aid, the Passport award is \$0 (but reported in WSAC Payment system)
- Institution may still receive Passport Student Support Funds (formerly Incentive Grant)

COA	\$15,000	Pell Grant	\$5,775
-EFC	-\$1,000	Governors’	\$3,000
<b>NEED</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>	WCG	\$5,225
		Passport	\$0
		<b>TOTAL FA:</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>

In this circumstance, administrators should enter the student into the Portal as a “zero award” to document the student’s attendance and to ensure receipt of the Passport Student Support Fund payment (formerly Institutional Incentive Grant) for the individualized support of the student.

- 
- **EXAMPLE 3:** Student is an eligible College Bound Scholar (CBS)
- Typically, students who are Passport to College Scholarship and CBS eligible have their CBS state aid commitment met by WCG and Passport to College Scholarship awards.
  - Assuming a maximum WCG/CBS eligibility of \$7,371 in the example below, the student is able to receive the maximum WCG (\$6,871) and Passport to College scholarship (\$5,000) for a combined total of \$11,871 (provided it is within need). However, the student is not eligible to receive the CBS funding of \$500 because the full CBS commitment is met through other state dollars with WCG and PTC.

COA	\$24,000	Pell Grant	\$5,775
- EFC	-\$1,000	WCG	\$6,871
<b>NEED</b>	<b>\$23,000</b>	Passport	\$5,000
		Inst. Scholarship	\$4,854
		College Bound	\$0
		<b>TOTAL FA:</b>	<b>\$22,500</b>

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### ***3.9 Retroactive & Late Awards and/or Payments for Previous Terms for Eligible Students***

**A retroactive award occurs when:**

- a. Student completes their financial aid application late, but previously enrolled or is currently attending.
- b. Financial aid application review by the institution occurs after a term has passed.

Retroactive awards and/or payments **must** be made for all programs (for example: WCG, CBS, PTC) which a student is eligible for a prior term(s) as long as they:

1. Are for the current year, and
2. Other program rules are followed.

The value of the retroactive award and/or payment(s) must be based on the student's rate of satisfactorily completed credits (at least three credits or the equivalent) determined by the institution at the end of the term(s). Students who have graduated must be retroactively awarded as long as it is within the same fiscal year, and they meet all program requirements.

If an institution retroactively awards funds to a student who completed fewer credits for that term than they would have been awarded had the award been made at the beginning of the term, the student's CSAW enrollment status for the term must be updated to reflect the enrollment status for which the payment was actually made.

**Late Award Definition:** Late awards occur when an institution awards Washington College Grant (WCG), and does not award Passport (or other WSAC state aid programs) at the same time.

It is imperative that all awards are entered into the WSAC Portal at the same time. Institutions not awarding all programs at the same time are considered to be out of compliance. WSAC monitors institutions for late awarding practices.

To ensure students are being held harmless, students should be awarded at the same level that the initial WCG award was made, regardless of the number of credits completed, or the student's enrollment status.

Additional information about retroactive and late awards can be found in the WCG Program Manual.

## CHAPTER 4 – DETERMINE SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) REQUIREMENT

Institutions are responsible for monitoring each recipient's **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)**, according to the institution's WSAC-approved institutional SAP policy.

There are differences between state and federal SAP requirements, including:

- A required **per term** SAP review for state aid.
- A quantitative standard requiring that at least one-half of the credits enrolled for which the aid was calculated and disbursed each term are earned, as compared to the federal "pace" requirement.

At the end of each term, participating institutions shall examine the progress of each state aid recipient and determine which of the following applies to the student:

- Is meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress.
- Is to be placed in **Warning Status** and may be continued on state aid.
- Is to be placed in **Unsatisfactory or Denied Status** and therefore ineligible for state aid until the student meets the conditions of the institution's reinstatement policy.

### **4.1 Quantitative Standard for Students in Quarter and Semester Credit Programs**

To meet minimum satisfactory academic progress standards, a student must successfully complete at least one-half (50%) of the original minimum number of credits for which the aid was calculated and disbursed.

The minimum number of credits for full-time enrollment is 12 credits per term for institutions that base their enrollment on a credit system. For these institutions, 12 credits is considered the amount for which aid was calculated and disbursed, even if the student enrolled for more than 12 credits.

The minimum number of credits standard for enrolled students, whose aid was calculated and disbursed as less than full-time students, is:

- Three-quarter time enrollment – 9 credits
- Half-time enrollment – 6 credits
- Less than half-time enrollment – 3 credits (*Only applies to WCG and CBS programs*)

### **4.2 Successful Completion of Credits**

Coursework that counts toward successful completion of program or degree completion typically includes letter grades of A–D and Pass. Grades received of F, E, Fail, Withdraw, and Incomplete do not count as successfully completed credits.

### **4.3 Warning Status**

**Warning Status** for state aid recipients is triggered when a student successfully completes 50 percent or more—but less than all—of the credits for which the aid was calculated and disbursed.<sup>2</sup>

- For a full-time student at 12 credits, this means that if the student successfully completes at least 6 but less than 12 credits, the student is to be placed in a warning status for the following term.
- For a three-quarter-time student at 9 credits, the student must successfully complete at least 4.5 but less than 9 credits to be placed on warning status.
- For a half-time student at 6 credits, the student must successfully complete at least 3 but less than 6 credits to be placed on warning status.
- For a less than half-time student at 3 credits, the student must successfully complete at least 1.5 but less than 3 credits to be placed on warning status.

In addition, WSAC expects institutions to have rigorous policies for measuring academic progress that limit the number of terms a student can continue to receive state aid while in warning status. The institution may make disbursements to a student, and continue awarding Passport to Careers to a student who is in warning status.

### **4.4 Denied Status**

**Denied Status** means that the student successfully completed less than one-half of the minimum number of credits for which aid was calculated and disbursed. This status also may be given to a student who has remained in warning status for more terms than the institution's policies allow.

Each institution's policy must deny further disbursements of state grant aid beyond the conclusion of any term in which:

1. The student fails to successfully complete at least 50 percent of the minimum number of credits for which the aid was calculated and disbursed; or
2. The student has reached the maximum number of terms allowed on warning status.

### **4.5 Quantitative Standard for Students in Clock Hour Programs**

Students enrolled in Clock Hour programs must enroll as full-time students and complete 300 hours for each term to meet the quantitative standard before being eligible for the next term disbursement.

Since all hours from the previous payment period must be earned before making additional payments, there is no routinely recognized warning status for clock-hour students; however, a school may petition WSAC to allow a warning status.

<sup>2</sup> To avoid confusion with the federal definition of "probation," the term "warning" is used for state aid administration.

#### **4.6 Qualitative Standard**

The institution's satisfactory academic progress (SAP) policy must contain a qualitative standard. For purposes of state aid programs, the qualitative standard used to comply with federal satisfactory academic progress standards is acceptable.

#### **4.7 Other Conditions of SAP Policy**

The value of any retroactive financial aid payments shall be based on the student's rate of satisfactorily completed credits, determined by institution policy, at the end of the term. See [Chapter 2](#) for more information regarding retroactive payments.

A student may be denied further state aid disbursements or awards if the student fails to fulfill any other conditions of the institution's WSAC-approved satisfactory academic progress policy.

#### **4.8 Professional Judgment/Appeals**

The Financial Aid Administrator (FAA) may, on a case-by-case basis, reinstate a student into satisfactory academic progress in response to that student's extenuating circumstances. The FAA may choose to exercise professional judgment without a specific request to do so from the student.

For example, the FAA may decide to grant a student continued access to state aid if failure in one term is countered by an extensive history of prior success. The student's file must include documentation related to the professional judgment decision.

#### **4.9 Reinstatement**

Each institution's SAP policy shall state which conditions a denied status student must meet before state aid will be reinstated. For example, the student may have to attend the institution without state financial aid for a specific period of time, or may have to show proof that credits have been made up within a designated time period.

#### **4.10 Notifying Students of SAP Policies**

Institutions must make information available to state aid recipients of the state SAP policies that impact students' ability to continue receiving state aid for future terms. This must include information about how state SAP is determined at the institution, information about how Warning Status and Denied Status are determined, and the institution's reinstatement policy of state aid should the student go into Denied status.

The available information must also include when SAP reviews will take place and how and when students will be notified in writing should their state aid status change to Warning, Denied, or Reinstatement.

This information may be included in institutional financial aid handbooks or other information made available to all students or all state aid recipients at each institution. It does not need to be sent individually to all state aid recipients.



## CHAPTER 5 – PAYMENTS, REPAYMENTS, AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

### **5.1 Retroactive Payments**

Retroactive payments may be made to an eligible student as long as the payments are made for the current fiscal year and if funds remain available. The value of the retroactive payment shall be based on the student's rate of satisfactorily completed credits, determined by institution policy, at the end of the term. The student does not have to be enrolled at the time the retroactive payment is made.

### **5.2 Student Payments**

After the institution's financial aid administrator identifies an eligible student and posts an award on the Portal, the institution should request the scholarship funds through CSAW on the WSAC Portal.

WSAC disburses scholarships as payment requests are submitted. Scholarship payments should be requested in a timely manner for the current quarter or semester. If an institution does not submit the payment request in a timely manner and program funds are exhausted, WSAC is unable to send a payment for the student.

### **5.3 Required Student Directive for Private Institutions**

Private institutions must use WSAC's *Student Directive Form* to record a student's decision on where to apply their financial aid payment, which then applies to all state aid programs such as Passport to College Scholarship, WCG, and CBS.

The student's financial aid payment can be deposited directly into a student's account or disbursed in the form of a check, based on their choice on the directive. For a copy of the student directive, see [Forms 8.3](#).

- Institutions must not coerce or influence the student's choice on where to apply their financial aid payment.
- The directive remains in effect for the duration of the student's continuous enrollment at the institution, excluding approved leaves of absence and summer terms. A new directive is required if the student is not continuously enrolled.
- Institutions must allow students to change their minds at any time, prior to disbursement, and follow their current directives at all times.
- Institutions must remind students once a year that their current directive is still in place and that they may change it.

#### **5.4 State of Washington Conditions of Award Statement**

Prior to disbursement, the institution must inform the state aid recipient of their responsibilities to the program through a *State of Washington Conditions of Award* statement. A copy of this statement is located in [Forms 8.3](#).

A student only needs to receive one statement that covers the following state aid programs: Passport to College Scholarship, Washington College Grant, Washington Bridge Grant, College Bound Scholarship, American Indian Endowed Scholarship and State Work Study.

The statement must be presented annually, and can be delivered to the student through paper or electronic means each year. The statement must be provided in its entirety and is not satisfied by providing a link to the document or by attaching a copy of the document.

The student does not need to sign the Conditions of Award, as long as the institution maintains documentation that the conditions were presented to the student each year.

#### **5.5 Concurrent Enrollment**

On occasion, students may choose to concurrently enroll in two institutions. Together, the institutions must determine which school will be considered the student's "home" school for financial aid awarding, monitoring eligibility, etc. The schools must enter into a written consortium agreement with each other.

The student's home institution is responsible for processing and disbursing Passport to College Scholarship awards funds, and the student may only receive Passport to College Scholarship funds at one institution at a time.

#### **5.6 Scholarship Repayment**

Students who fail to attend classes or who receive funding based on fraudulent information will be required to repay 100% of the funds received.

Students who have received state aid (aid disbursed prior to the start of the term) and who change enrollment status prior to the first day of the term, must have their state aid eligibility recalculated to reflect their enrollment status as of the start of the term.

The student who decreases enrollment status prior to the first day of the term will owe a repayment of the overpayment amount.

**Note:** For this section, "state grant" refers to all state grant and scholarship programs.

For the full state financial aid repayment policy guidance, see Chapter 5 of the [Washington College Grant & College Bound Program Manual](#).

## **5.7 Reporting**

WSAC will request reports from institutions necessary for the administration and evaluation of the Passport to College Scholarship program. In general, institutions will be expected to respond to report requests within thirty days.

Institutions who have elected to participate as a Passport institution with a viable student support plan and have signed the Passport addendum, making them eligible to receive Passport Student Support Fund payments are required to provide WSAC with an annual Passport Student Support Fund report. At the end of the academic year, WSAC will request reports from institutions on a pre-developed report template developed by WSAC, with the support of the Passport Leadership Team. For an example report template from the 2021-2022 year, see section 9.4 student support.

Reports will address the institution's use of the Student Support Funds received, the amount of funds spent, and—if funds were not fully spent in the academic year—the planned use for the remaining balance.

Per the *Passport to College for Foster Youth Addendum* that participating institutions sign and submit to WSAC, institutions are encouraged to use Passport Student Support Funds in the academic year they are received.

However, if not all funds are used, the institution must provide a plan for future Passport Student Support Funds) use. Passport Student Support Funds received must be expended within two years of receipt.

## CHAPTER 6 – PASSPORT STUDENT SUPPORT PLAN AND PASSPORT STUDENT SUPPORT FUNDS

### 6.1 Purpose

The Passport to College Scholarship program provides financial incentives for postsecondary institutions if they agree to have a Passport *student support plan* for the enrollment and persistence of students from foster care and eligible students experiencing unaccompanied homelessness.

The Passport Student Support plan template was developed by the Passport Leadership Team and is based on known best practices. Institutions agree to participate by signing the *Passport to College Promise for Foster Youth Addendum* to the institutional participation agreement.

Passport Student Support payments (formerly Incentive Grants) are provided to the institution for the recruitment and retention of students who have experienced foster care or unaccompanied homelessness. Funds shall be used for individualized student support services which may include, but are not limited to, college and career advising, counseling, tutoring, costs incurred for students while school is not in session, personal expenses, health insurance, and emergency services.

### 6.2 Elements of a Passport Student Support Plan

Institutions must execute a *viable Student Support Plan* containing the elements below. Additional details can be found in [8.3 Forms](#), in the Passport addendum to the institutional participation agreement.

- a) **Passport Student Support Plan** : Agree to design and implement a *viable Student Support Plan* to deliver specialized support services promoting and increasing access, persistence, and completion of postsecondary education.
- b) **Identification**: Include on the institution's application for admission or registration materials a question asking a student to self-disclose whether they were in state, tribal, or federal foster care in Washington State, or an unaccompanied homeless youth.
- c) **Collecting Student Consents**: Collect student consent forms related to program eligibility.
- d) **Verifying Eligibility**: Verify student eligibility electronically through the [WSAC Portal](#).
- e) **Leadership Commitment**: Demonstrate commitment from a person in a leadership role for designated staff and activities.
- f) **Designated Campus Support Staff**: Role description available at [Washington Passport Network](#).
- g) **Designated Financial Aid Staff**: Role description available at [Washington Passport Network](#).
- h) **Connect with Social Services and Independent Living Providers**. Work with contracted social service providers to ensure Passport eligible students receive a full range of support services and other college preparation information.

- i) **Financial Aid.** Review each Passport to College Scholarship student’s individual budget to recognize the actual living expenses and tailor the financial aid package, to utilize all available resources to meet the student’s full need and minimize reliance on loans.
- j) **Passport Student Support Funds .** The institution’s request for a Passport to College Scholarship payment signifies satisfactory academic progress has been verified and the student is eligible for the ensuing term.
- k) **Education and Training.** To the extent practical, ensure the institution’s leadership, financial aid staff, and designated support staff participate in training provided by WSAC or its partner organizations and representatives about the program and related student resources.

### **6.3 Student Support Funds Disbursements**

The amount of the Student Support Fund payment is determined annually by WSAC, based on program appropriations, and is currently set at \$500 per quarter or \$750 per semester for each Passport to College Scholarship student. Occasionally, participating institutions may receive additional payments to help advance equitable opportunity for eligible students.

Disbursements will be made after institutions verify student enrollment. No additional action is needed by the institution to request Passport Student Support Fund payments.

WSAC strongly encourages the institution to use Student Support Funds within the academic year in which they are received. However, in extenuating circumstances where Student Support Funds are not able to be fully spent within the academic year, funds maybe rolled into the next year. In this case, the institution must provide a plan for future Student Support Funds use. Student Support Funds received must be spent within two academic years of receipt.

Institutions are asked to complete an annual report demonstrating how Student Support Funds were used to support eligible students. This report is sent to the Passport to College Scholarship designated support staff person for completion and is due in August, prior to the beginning of the next academic year.

### **6.4 Passport Student Support Fund Use**

Passport to College Scholarship [designated support staff](#) on campuses report the Passport Student Support Funds have been invaluable to improving the coordination of services and involvement with community-based programs. Building a rapport with students early is essential and is especially helpful during a time of crisis.

If the student has a need that is considered education-related (defined by the institution) and is requesting additional support through Passport Student Support Funds, the institution may increase the student’s Cost of Attendance/budget to adjust the student’s financial aid to include the additional Passport Student Support Funds.

If the need is not education-related in nature (for example, a medical expense), the institution can provide the Student Support Funds to the student and notify the student that the funds will need to be reported as “other untaxed income” on their FAFSA for the base year in which it was received.

For example, a student receives non-education based Student Support Funds in 2020. When that student completes the FAFSA in 2022-23, based on the U.S. Department of Education’s use of prior-prior year income for FAFSA filing, the student will use 2020 calendar year income for that application and report it then.

In the unusual circumstance that Passport Student Support Funds are used to enhance a student’s financial aid award, the funds must be reported as financial aid received by the student in the Unit Record Report (URR). For example, if the student received a \$5,000 Passport to College Scholarship and a \$500 Support Fund payment to supplement their financial aid award, the institution should report that the student received a \$5,500 Passport to College Scholarship on the URR.

Institutions report that Passport Student Support Funds has allowed designated support staff to offer food with activities and provide resources that are unique to students from foster care.

Some common uses of Passport Student Support Funds are as follows:

<b><i>Targeted Services</i></b>	<b><i>General Uses</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Student programs, including campus visits and tours of four-year colleges</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-enrollment, academic, personal, financial, and career services</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Special orientations and welcome functions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Admission into TRiO services</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Financial planning seminars</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Designated computer lab and private study area for program participants</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly meetings and celebrations</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Opportunity for hands-on learning with a registered dietician</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Equipment or tools needed for their certificate or trade program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emergency loan fund</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Wages for work study, mentors, graduate student assigned to work with Passport students</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Textbooks and a lending library</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Computers and assistance with technology needs such as a hotspot</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Resource loan library, including laptops and calculators</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> College survival backpacks and school supplies</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gift cards to grocery stores, gasoline, transit passes and transportation costs to specific events</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Student incentives for meeting academic goals</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Meals, healthy snacks, food bank and personal hygiene articles</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Warm clothes, including socks, hats, boots, and gloves</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Entrance placement tests, graduate school exams, and admission fees</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Housing deposits and rent</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Medical bills</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Assistance with utility payments or internet</li> </ul>

### ***6.5 Institutions Participating in the Passport Student Support Plan***

If your institution is not [listed as a Passport Student Support Plan school](#) committing to creating a viable Student Support Plan for supporting Passport students, and you would like information on what is required to participate, please contact Passport to College Scholarship program staff.

# Student Support Funds

## Payment/Refund Policy

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### **Summary:**

Passport to Careers Student Support Funds are provided to the postsecondary institution (by WSAC) or apprenticeship program (by ANEW) and are used for the recruitment and retention of Passport eligible students.

### **Student Support Fund Payment Process (for postsecondary institutions only):**

1. Institution awards student scholarship in the portal.
2. Institution requests scholarship funds from WSAC, WSAC processes scholarship payment through CSAW.
3. Student Support Fund grant is automatically “posted” in the portal.
4. WSAC processes student support fund grant payment *after* the close of quarterly WCG/SNG interim reporting and sends funds to the institution in bulk.
5. Institutions are first asked to spend down any reserve of Student Support Funds received in the prior year. Reminder: You have to spend those funds within a two-year window and provide a plan for the second-year usage if you did not spend them in year 1.

### **Student Support Fund Refund Policy (WSAC only):**

1. If the student on whose behalf funds are requested does not enroll in or attend any classes, scholarship and student support funds must be returned to WSAC.
2. If the student enrolls, but does not attend and scholarship funds are requested by the institution, scholarship and student support funds will need to be returned to WSAC.
3. If the student enrolls and attends classes, but withdraws, does not make SAP, or discontinues attendance and the institution has done their due diligence to recruit and support the student, WSAC will not require student support funds to be returned. In these cases, the institution has upheld their agreement to participate through the Passport Addendum and has earned the student support funds.

NOTE: Scholarship funds should be returned based on the state’s repayment calculation policy and scholarship payments to the student are subject to repayment.

### **Student Support Fund Repayment Process (Institutions only):**

When a Passport student scholarship is returned in full, the institution should document the student support fund return to WSAC and providing the following payment information:

1. Student name
2. Year
3. Term for the refund
4. Type of funding (scholarship or student support)

Student support payment refunds need to be submitted to WSAC within the fiscal year of which they are paid for. For example, if funds were paid in Fall 2021 and through the reconciliation process, the student scholarship portion was returned for non-enrollment, the student support funds should also be returned at that same time and within the same fiscal year for that student.

## CHAPTER 7 – CONTRACTED SERVICES

### **7.1 College Success Foundation Outreach and Support Services**

Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) has contracted with the College Success Foundation (CSF) to improve higher education outcomes for students from foster care in Washington State.

**Note:** Services provided are to be determined upon completion of the 2023-24 contract, but can be expected to be similar to services provided in the 2022-23 year including knowledge sharing, professional development and networking, onboarding training for campus champions, facilitation of the Passport Leadership Team, emergency funding for Passport students, and the management of campus-based college coaches on select campuses.

### **7.2 ANEW Apprenticeship Opportunities Pathway**

WSAC has contracted with a nonprofit agency, Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Employment for Women (ANEW), to provide the following assistance to former foster youth and unaccompanied homeless youth participating in state-approved, federally registered, or reciprocally recognized pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs that are not based on a campus or eligible for state financial aid:

- 1) Outreach identifying apprenticeship programs available to them, how to apply, and how to apply for and obtain financial aid when appropriate.
- 2) Provide financial assistance to meet pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship program minimum qualifications and occupational-specific costs and support services necessary to apply for and complete recognized programs.
- 3) Measurably increase the number of foster and homeless youth accessing and completing a registered apprenticeship program and support as they successfully enter and retain employment.

**Note:** If an eligible pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship program is campus-based and eligible for state financial aid, funding and support services will be provided to eligible youth via the Passport to College Scholarship Pathway.

### **7.3 SETuP - Supplemental Education Transition Planning Program**

The purpose of the SETuP program is to assist foster youth and unaccompanied homeless youth in successfully making the transition from high school to postsecondary enrollment, career, or service.

WSAC contracts with five non-governmental organizations to provide SETuP services to students, with the goal of improving high school graduation rates and postsecondary plan initiation by two percent each year over five school-year periods.



Services may include:

- Case management to complete developmental tasks that increase high school and postsecondary success.
- Facilitation of youth access to and participation in appropriate school and local resources that may assist in educational access and success.
- Collaboration with students, caregivers, schools, and social workers to support youth progress in the educational system.

A student is eligible for SETuP services if they are:

- In foster care in Washington State.
- Between the ages of 13–21.
- Enrolled in a high school or GED program.

## CHAPTER 8 – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### 8.1 Important Website Resources

#### WSAC

- [Passport to Careers Guide](#): Passport information for students and providers.
- [WSAC's Passport website](#): general overview and policy information about the Passport to Careers program and student, family, and adult supporter information about WSAC financial aid programs.
- [Portal for Financial Aid Administrators](#)
- [WASFA](#): Washington Application for State Financial Aid - financial aid application for undocumented individuals and others not eligible for federal financial aid.

#### Partner Websites

- [Foster Youth Services](#): Managed by the Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) provides resources for foster youth regarding employment, education, financial aid, housing, financial literacy, and health. Students may also apply online to the ETV program through this site.
- [Washington Passport Network](#): Managed by the College Success Foundation, with guidance from the Passport Leadership Team. Provides information for professionals working to support students from foster care, or those experiencing unaccompanied homelessness. The website provides information and tools to improve practices and student outcomes. Information on training and the annual Passport conference are also included on the WPN website.
- [College Success Foundation \(CSF\)](#): Provides information on CSF services, scholarships, and support.

#### Other Websites

- [Apprenticeship Programs in Washington](#)
- [Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children](#)
- [Pre-Apprenticeship Programs in Washington](#)
- [National Center for Homeless Education](#): provides a tool for Financial Aid Administrators regarding making unaccompanied homeless youth Determinations.
- [Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program](#): administered by Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.
- [Washington Governor's Office of Indian Affairs](#)

## 8.2 Step-by-Step Guides

### 8.2.1 Eligibility Checker User Guide

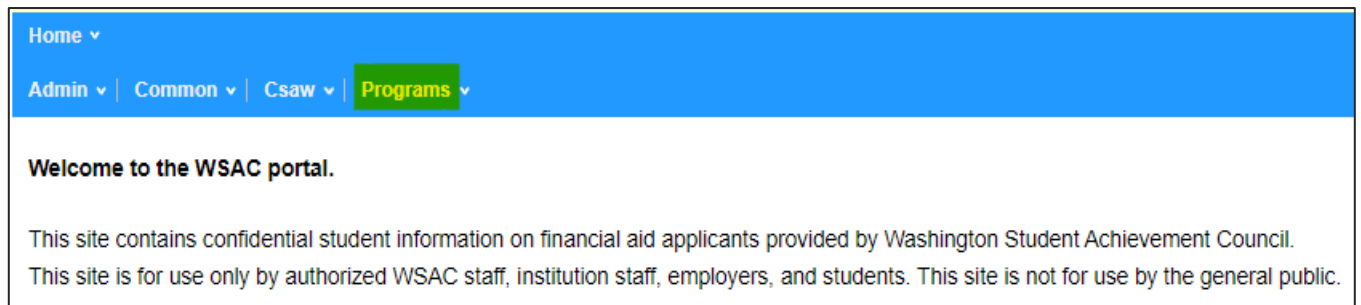
WSAC has developed a comprehensive data sharing agreement with the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) to verify Passport eligibility for foster youth who experienced a Washington state dependency. WSAC also works with the Department of Social and Health Services to verify Passport eligibility for federal foster youth / unaccompanied refugee minors. Passport eligibility for tribal foster youth are verified by an official at the student's tribe.

Since a student's eligibility is determined by DCYF, DSHS, and the tribes, information provided through Passport to College Scholarship on the Portal should be used as documentation of a student's foster care status. This information can also be used to determine priority funding for the State Work Study program.

Log into the [WSAC Portal](#). Your email address is your username. If you are not a user, contact your financial aid director to become an authorized user at your institution. You may also contact WSAC Passport staff at [passport@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:passport@wsac.wa.gov) for assistance.

### 8.2.2 Using the Portal

Under the **Programs** menu, click the **Passport** link for all Passport functions.



### 8.2.3 Searching for Students on the Portal

Click "**Eligibility Search**" to verify eligibility for Passport to College Scholarship.

1. Go to <https://portal.wsac.wa.gov/a/passport/eligibility>.

# Passport Eligibility

Use this page to check a student's eligibility, log receipt of a Support Services Release, or confirm the student as an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth.

This information is to be used solely for the purpose of confirming Passport eligibility for students you are working with. By utilizing this search tool, you are confirming that you are an authorized user of this system and will follow all data safeguards of this information.

Checking multiple students? [Upload a file instead.](#)

Enter the following criteria to search for a student:

- Date of birth
- Last 4 digits of SSN **or** last name

Date of birth

Last 4 digits of SSN or last name

Search

2. Where prompted, enter a student's date of birth AND either their full last name or the last four digits of their Social Security Number. Note: entering a partial last name will not show results.

If a student is eligible, a green check mark will appear under the "Eligible" column.

SSN	Last Name	First Name	Eligible	Classification	QER	Support Services Release
.....	██████	██████	✓	UHY	12	<a href="#">Log support services release</a> <a href="#">Cancel UHY</a>

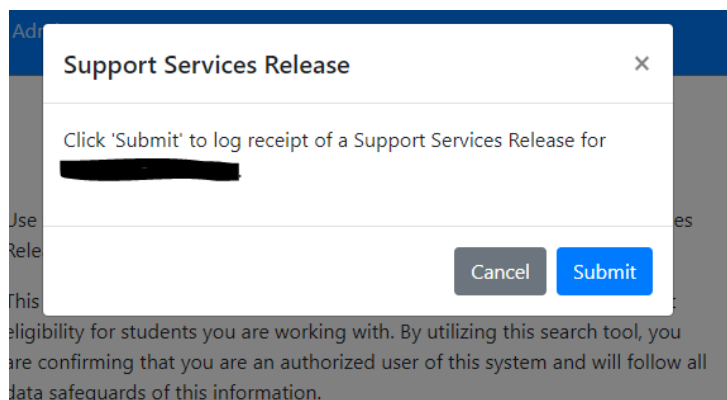
The "Classification" column identifies the student's type of foster care or unaccompanied homeless status, as a qualifier for Passport. There are four categories:

- a. SFY = State foster youth
- b. URM = Unaccompanied refugee minor
- c. TRB = Tribal foster youth
- d. UHY = Unaccompanied homeless youth

"QER" identifies the number of quarters of eligibility remaining. Financial Aid Administrators will also find this definition by hovering your mouse over the blue circle / "i" symbol.

The “Support Services Release” column provides the Financial Aid Administrator with the ability to document a student’s release of information for outreach and support services by a WSAC contractor. Institutions can choose whether they WSAC will notify institutions of the selected contractor.

The box below will appear when the Financial Aid Administrator click the “Log student support services” link.



#### ***8.2.4 Cancelling Eligibility for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth***

If a student was previously identified by the institution as an unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY), but was marked in error, or if their status has changed, making them no longer eligible for Passport as a student experiencing unaccompanied homelessness, you have the ability to cancel their eligibility in the Portal. To cancel UHY eligibility:

1. Access the Passport Eligibility Search screen.
2. Enter the student’s date of birth and either the last four digits of their SSN, or their last name.
3. Click “Search”
4. After the search results appear, confirm the student’s name and classification as an UHY, then click “Cancel UHY.”
5. After clicking “Cancel UHY”, a pop up will appear. Click “Submit. ‘

WSAC staff will be notified of the student’s status change.

## Passport Eligibility

Use this page to check a student's eligibility, log receipt of a Support Services Release, or confirm the student as an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth.

This information is to be used solely for the purpose of confirming Passport eligibility for students you are working with. By utilizing this search tool, you are confirming that you are an authorized user of this system and will follow all data safeguards of this information.

Checking multiple students? [Upload a file instead.](#)

Enter the following criteria to search for a student:

- Date of birth
- Last 4 digits of SSN **or** last name

Date of birth

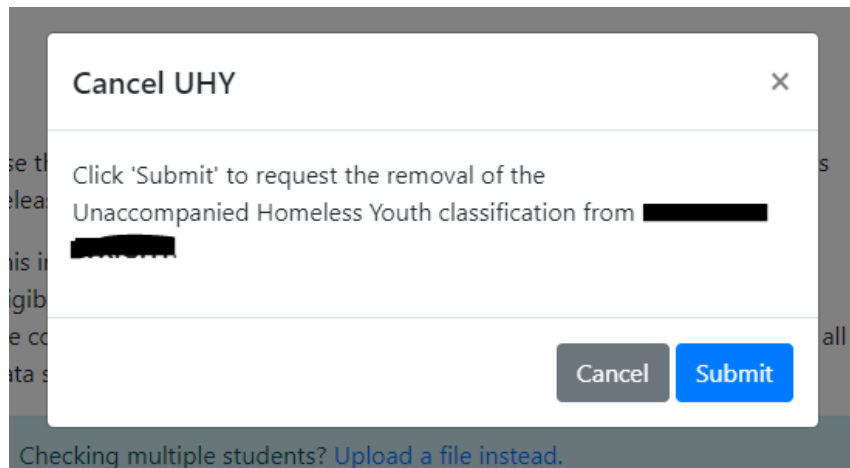
Last 4 digits of SSN or last name

Search

[Download results](#)

1–2 of 2 results

SSN	Last Name	First Name	Eligible	Classification	QER	Support Services Release
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]				<a href="#">Log support services release</a> <a href="#">Confirm UHY</a>
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	✓	UHY	13	<a href="#">Log support services release</a> <a href="#">Cancel UHY</a>



### 8.2.5 Secure Email

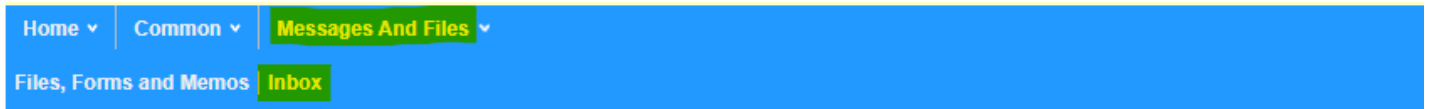
Institutions may send messages to the WSAC securely through the secure messaging function on the Portal. Administrators must use the secure email function if they are sending a message including personally identifiable information.

**Step 1** – Log into the [WSAC Portal](#). Your email address is your username. If you are not a user, contact your financial aid director to become an authorized user at your institution. You may also contact WSAC Passport staff at [Passport@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:Passport@wsac.wa.gov) for assistance.

**Step 2** – Once successfully logged into the WSAC Portal, click **Common**.

**Step 3** – Click on **Messages and Files** from the drop-down selection.

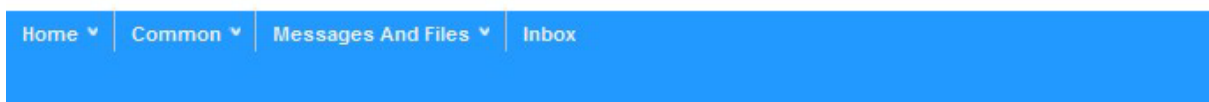
**Step 4** – Click on **Inbox** to create the email message.



**Welcome to the WSAC portal.**

This site contains confidential student information on financial aid applicants provided by Washington Student Achievement Council. This site is for use only by authorized WSAC staff, institution staff, employers, and students. This site is not for use by the general public.

**Step 5** – Once you are in your inbox, you will be able to retrieve messages sent to you by WSAC, or create new messages by clicking **Create a new secure message to WSAC**.



**Secure Message Inbox**





Subject:	<input type="text"/>	Sent Date - From:	<input type="text"/>	To:	<input type="text"/>
From Mailbox:	<input type="text" value="Any Mailbox"/>	Program:	<input type="text" value="Select a Program"/>		
<input type="button" value="Search"/>					

**Step 6** – Send a Secure Message to WSAC.

- Select the program you would like to send the message to.
- Enter your subject.
- Attach your document by browsing for the appropriate file on your computer.
- Type your message.
- Click **Send Message**. Your message will be sent to program staff.

Home ▾ Common ▾ Messages And Files ▾ Inbox Secure Message

Send a Secure Message to WSAC  
5. Click "Send Message" once your file has been attached and your message is ready for WSAC.

 Send Message  Cancel

---

To:  1. Select "Passport to College"

From: Roberta Roche <rroche@clark.edu>

Subject:  2. Enter your subject

Attachments:  No file selected.  3. Click "Browse" to select a file from your computer. Click "attach once your file has been selected.

4. You may type a message here, if desired.

**8.2.6 Requesting Passport Funds in CSAW**

**Basic Steps**

- 1. Log into the WSAC Portal.
- 2. Upload your file or add students manually.
- 3. Fix file format errors, if any.
- 4. Address edits.
- 5. Review students and submit for reimbursement.

**Step 1** – Log into the [WSAC Portal](#).

Your username is your email address. If you do not know your password, click the **forgot it?** link for help.

**Step 2** – Upload File or Add Students Manually

From the home page, select **CSAW** then click **Upload** under the **To get started** heading (if you are uploading Passport awards with WCG (formerly SNG)/CBS).



Home ▾ | Csaaw ▾

Upload | Edits | Request Funds | Interim Report | Students | Account Status

## Welcome to the College Bound/SNG and Passport, too! Award Warehouse!

To get started:

1. Upload
2. Address Edits
3. Request Funds/Submit Interim Report

Other useful tools:

- Summary of account status: [SNG CBS PTC](#)
- Search for students
- Submit a receivable transmittal

Home ▾ | Csaaw ▾ | Upload

### CSAW - Upload

2022-2023 ▾ [REDACTED] ▾

<b>Upload</b>	Edits	Request Funds	Interim Report
---------------	-------	---------------	----------------

**PLEASE NOTE:** Each upload attempt represents a **FRESH** start. This means that each upload must contain **ALL** enrollment data for the current academic year.

No file chosen

[download csv template](#)

### Step 3 – Fix any File Format Errors

Note that each upload attempt represents a fresh start. This means that each upload must contain ALL enrollment data for the current academic year. **Washington College Grant, College Bound, and Passport will always be in one file.**

There are two templates in CSAW:

- Full upload
- Incremental Upload CSV Template

A school should upload their entire file of students for the year using the full upload template. After the initial upload, they should use the “**incremental upload CSV template**” to upload only Passport awards or changes to their initial file.

Click **download csv template** link to view A CSV template of the file format.

Click **Browse** to upload your saved CSAW file. Remember to include all records for your Washington College Grant, College Bound, and Passport students.

If you only want to pay Passport students, and not include College Bound or Washington College Grant, see SECTION TWO below.

After uploading is complete, you will see the summary below:

CSAW - Upload 2015-2016 City send a secure message to WSAC

✓ Loading file / ✓ Validating data / ✓ Building summary / Save upload

Summary of file contents [+ show changes](#)

		Total	Summer 1	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer 2
SNG	Amount	\$15,074,131.00	\$0.00	\$5,157,994.00	\$5,022,311.00	\$4,893,826.00	\$0.00
	Total Awards	9989	0	3375	3356	3258	0
	Served Awards	6319	0	2174	2104	2041	0
	Unserved Awards	3670	0	1201	1252	1217	0
CBS	Amount	\$882,837.00	\$0.00	\$294,040.00	\$298,551.00	\$290,246.00	\$0.00
	Total Awards	2196	0	735	738	723	0
	Amount	\$12,800.00	\$0.00	\$12,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
PTC	Total Awards	10	0	10	0	0	0

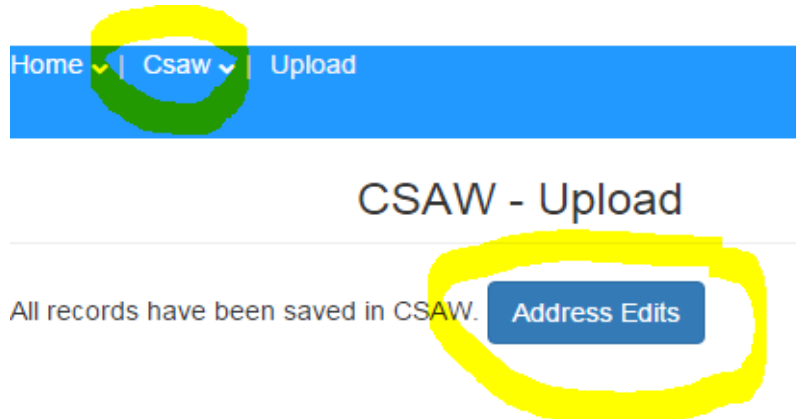
[Save upload](#) [Discard upload](#)

If the information looks correct, click on **Save upload**.

If it does not look correct, click **Discard upload** and upload a new file.

#### Step 4 – Address Edits

Once your records have been uploaded, you will have an opportunity to address your edits. If you do not want to address the edits immediately, you may skip to **Request**



**Funds** under the CSAW drop-down box.

#### Step 5 – Review Students and Submit for Reimbursement

Select the TERM to be paid under the PTC heading.

All Terms/Programs	Remaining Allocation: \$4,538,060.00			CBS			PTC		
	Selected	Total	Edits	Selected	Total	Edits	Selected	Total	Edits
Fall	\$0.00	-\$47,560.00	9 Edits	\$0.00	\$1,521.00	4 Edits	\$0.00	-\$4,500.00	7 Edits
Winter	\$0.00	-\$50,750.00	8 Edits	\$0.00	\$3,501.00	8 Edits	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
Spring	\$0.00	\$4,789,482.00	42 Edits	\$0.00	\$283,232.00	24 Edits	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>			<b>\$3,000.00</b>		

Name	SSN	Enrollment	SHG	CBS	PTC
		Full time	\$0.00		\$1,500.00

Name	SSN	Enrollment	SHG	CBS	PTC
		Full time	\$2,508.00		\$1,500.00

Verify student award amounts to be paid. Once verified, click on **I Agree, Request Funds**.

**I Agree, Request Funds**

You will receive a notice from CSAW verifying successful processing of your payment request. The Portal will automatically take you to a Request Funds summary page, displaying all of the funds that you have requested.

### 8.2.7 Search and Pay ONLY Passport to College Scholarship Students

**Step 1** – If you prefer to pay ONLY Passport students, click on the **CSAW** drop-down box in the blue toolbar and select **Students**. Fill out the appropriate fields, remembering to select PTC under the program field. Make sure you check a student's Passport eligibility prior to entering their award in CSAW.

Click **Search**

Home | Csw | Request Funds

### CSAW - Request Funds

- \* Choose all students by term/program
- Upload a list of students from your existing CSAW population
- Choose students individually
- View previous requests

### Student Search

Upload
Edits
Request Funds
Interim Report
Students
Account Status

Search
SSN/SID Search

**Year**  
2023-2024 change year

**School**  
any school

**SID**

**SSN**

**Last**

**First**

**Program**  
PTC

**Term**  
any term

Q search
Reset
add a student

Showing 1-10 of 7582 results

First
Previous
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
Next
Last

Year	Institution	Student <small>last first ssn / sid</small>	Awards					
			S1	F	W	S	S2	
2022-2023			Bridge	\$125.00	\$125.00			
			WCG	\$3,902.00	\$3,902.00			
			PTC	\$1,667.00	\$1,667.00			

Upload
Edits
Request Funds
Interim Report
Students
Account Status

**Student detail** [redacted] [award view](#)

3.500 WCG QER *i*

Not eligible for CBS *i*  
8.250 CBS QER *i*

Eligible for PTC *i*  
7.000 PTC QER *i*

[Add new year](#)

2022-2023					
		WCG	Bridge	CBS	PTC
Spring	Full time	\$3,901.00	\$198.00		\$1,067.00
Winter	Full time	\$3,902.00	\$167.00		\$1,067.00
Fall	Full time	\$3,902.00	\$167.00		\$1,667.00

2021-2022					
		WCG	Bridge	CBS	PTC
Spring	Full time	\$2,287.00			\$1,666.00
Winter	Full time	\$2,288.00			\$1,667.00
Fall	Full time	\$2,288.00			\$1,667.00

2020-2021					
		WCG	Bridge	CBS	PTC
Spring	3/4 time	\$738.00			\$867.00

2022-2023 [✎](#)

**Student ID #:** not specified      **MFI:**      **ISIR/WASFA Trans #:**

**Family income:**      **Family size:**      **# in college:**

2022-2023  Fall term

**Enrollment:** Full time      **Calendar:** Quarter      **Apprenticeship:** no

	Award	Paid	Max Award	Receivable
WCG	\$3,902.00	\$3,902.00 <a href="#">+</a> <a href="#">-</a>	\$3,902.00 <i>i</i>	<a href="#">+</a> add receivable
Bridge	\$167.00	\$167.00 <a href="#">+</a> <a href="#">-</a>	\$500.00 <i>i</i>	<a href="#">+</a> add receivable
CBS			n/a	
PTC	\$1,667.00	\$1,667.00 <a href="#">+</a> <a href="#">-</a>	\$1,667.00	<a href="#">+</a> add receivable

**Step 2** – After the screen populates with the student’s information, click on the student’s name. This will direct you to the student award detail page. Click on the pencil icon to edit/add the student’s award.

**Step 3** – Once you click on the pencil icon, the pop-up window below will be displayed. Enter the student’s award and click **Update Student**.

Update Student for

2022-2023

SSN \* SID Birthdate \* ISIR/WASFA Transaction # \*

Last \* First MI

Income Info

Family Size \* # in College \* Family Income \*

Awards

	Enrollment	Term Type	App Bacc?	WCG	Bridge #	CBS	PTC
Summer 1							
Fall	Full time	Quarter	<input type="checkbox"/>	3902	167		1667
Winter	Full time	Quarter	<input type="checkbox"/>	3902	167		1067
Spring	Full time	Quarter	<input type="checkbox"/>	3901	166		1067
Summer 2							

**Step 4** – After entering the student award, go back into **CSAW** and select **Request Funds** from the drop-down box. For the payment process, refer back to **Step 7 in Section One**.

**Edits** - There are three types of edits:

- (1) **Informational** – Lists of students, by category. Nothing specific must be done to these records, but review the lists to identify potential eligibility issues, for example, if a student is nearing their QER.
- (2) **Overridable** – Correct the **data** for each overridable edit. If you cannot address the edit by correcting data, but the student is eligible, enter an override reason.
- (3) **Non-Overridable** – You must correct the data, or delete the award or the student from the system. For example, the student is not eligible for Passport.

The type of edit is listed after the edit name.

If you have questions regarding Passport payments, please contact WSAC Passport staff at [passport@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:passport@wsac.wa.gov)

### 8.3 Examples of Program Forms

These are examples only. [View current forms online.](#)

#### 8.3.1 Passport to Careers Consent Form



WASHINGTON STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL

Passport to Careers

## Passport Consent Form

### Eligibility Information

Please review Passport eligibility requirements on page 2.

#### I have experienced:

**Unaccompanied Homelessness**

You do not need to complete this form if you are applying as an unaccompanied homeless youth. Contact the financial aid office of the [college you wish to attend](#), or if you wish to pursue an apprenticeship, contact ANEW at 425-786-6512.

**Foster Care – Indicate Placement Type:**

**State Dependent**

State:

Date of last placement:

**Federal Refugee**

Service provider:

Date of last placement:

**Tribal Dependent**

Tribe name:

Date of last placement:

### Student Information

**Name**

**Date of Birth**

**Mailing Address**

Street

City, State, Zip

**Home Phone Number**

Include area code

**Cell Phone Number**

Include area code

**Email Address**

Required

**Last 4 Digits of SSN**

Optional

I am interested in:  College  Apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship

### Authorization to Release Information

I authorize the recognized staff of the Department of Children, Youth & Families; tribal foster care; federal foster care; SETuP; Labor and Industries; and any nonprofit organizations contracted with the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) to provide verification of eligibility or services for the Passport to Careers program to release and receive information regarding my foster care status; college, pre-apprenticeship, or apprenticeship enrollment; financial aid; and academic standing to and from WSAC and Passport-eligible colleges, pre-apprenticeship programs, and apprenticeship programs. I understand I may be asked for additional information from WSAC, the program administrator.

**Student Signature**

**Date**

## Eligibility Requirements

The [Passport to Careers](#) program can provide you with a scholarship toward a college education or apprenticeship, as well as support services to help you meet your education and career goals.

You are eligible for Passport financial assistance and other support services if you experienced:

- Foster care at any point between the ages of 13 and 18.
- Unaccompanied homelessness during the prior academic year.

You must meet the following requirements to participate in Passport:

- Be a resident of Washington State.\*  
*\* If you are in ICPC and not a Washington resident, contact WSAC.*
- Enroll at least half-time in an eligible institution of higher education, or a recognized pre-apprenticeship or registered apprenticeship program in Washington State, before turning age 22.
- Not yet have earned a bachelor's degree.
- Not pursue a degree in theology.

Learn more online in the [Passport to Careers Guide](#).

## Program Contact Information

For more information, contact:

**Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC)**

PO Box 43430

Olympia, WA 98504-3430

[passport@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:passport@wsac.wa.gov)

Phone: 888-535-0747, option 3, then select 1

Fax: 360-704-6246

**Passport to Careers Program  
Dependent/Ward of the Court Verification**

**Student Information**

First name	Middle name	Last name	Date of birth
Date and age dependency was established	Date and age dependency was dismissed	Amount of time spent in care Years    Months	Date of last placement
Name of federally recognized tribe		Tribal foster care contact phone number	

This statement is to confirm the following:

- The above-named person was in the care of the tribal foster care system of the above-named tribe in Washington State, and placed in out-of-home care at any time since turning 13 and before turning 21.

I certify that the information provided in this document is true and accurate.

**Tribal Representative Information**

Name of authorized tribal representative		Title	
Mailing address	City	State	Zip code
Authorized tribal representative signature		Date	

**For more information, contact:**

Washington Student Achievement Council  
PO Box 43430, Olympia, WA 98504-3430  
Email: [passporttocollege@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:passporttocollege@wsac.wa.gov)  
Phone: 1-888-535-0747, option 3, then select 1  
Fax: 1-360-704-6246



### 8.3.2 Passport to College Scholarship Conditions

#### Passport to Careers – Conditions of Award

Under the Passport to Careers program, there are two pathways:

1. *Passport to College* – supports students pursuing a college degree.
2. *Passport to Apprenticeship Opportunities* – supports students in an apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship program.

This form covers those students in the *Passport to College* pathway. Program funding and eligibility requirements may be altered by legislative action.

#### Award

- The current maximum amount of a Passport to College award is \$5,000 per academic year and will be reduced if your need is less than your award because of other grants, scholarships, or outside funding.
- You must enroll at an eligible institution at least half-time before turning 22 years old.
- Your award is limited to five years or the equivalent, and expires at age 26.
- If you withdraw from college during the term, you may owe a repayment of Passport funds you received during the term of your withdrawal.

#### Eligibility

- Awards are contingent until your financial aid office confirms your eligibility.
- The Passport to College Scholarship does not require you to complete a renewal application each year. Your financial aid office will verify your continued eligibility, work with the Council to renew your scholarship, and notify you of your renewed award.
- To remain eligible you must:
  - ✓ Enroll at least half-time each term.
  - ✓ Make satisfactory academic progress as defined by the institution you are attending.
  - ✓ Not withdraw from all courses in any term.
  - ✓ Have a demonstrated financial need.
  - ✓ Not have already earned a bachelor's degree.
  - ✓ Not pursue a degree in theology or be required by your college to be involved in any program or class that includes any religious worship, exercise, or instruction.
  - ✓ Apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs administered by a college may be eligible for the Passport to College Promise award.

#### Support Services

- Your college or university has services available to support your academic success.

I have read and understand the Passport Conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT Full Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

**This form must be signed and returned to:**  
Passport to College Scholarship Program  
PO Box 43430  
Olympia, WA 98504-3430  
FAX: 360-704-6246



Revised: 6-5-23 

**8.3.3 Institutional Agreement to Participate – Passport to College Scholarship for Foster Youth Addendum**

Revised April 2022



**Institutional Agreement to Participate  
Washington State-Funded Financial Aid Programs**

**Passport to Careers Addendum**

This agreement is made and entered into by and between the State of Washington, Washington Student Achievement Council, PO Box 43430, Olympia, WA 98504-3430, hereafter referred to as “WSAC” or “AGENCY”, and the below named firm, hereinafter referred to as “CONTRACTOR” or “INSTITUTION”.

<b>Institution Name</b>	
<b>Street Address</b>	
<b>City, State, Zip</b>	
<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Fax</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Federal TIN</b>	
<b>WA State UBI Number</b>	

**I. Purpose**

The Passport to Careers program helps youth who have experienced either foster care or unaccompanied homelessness prepare for and succeed in college, apprenticeships, or pre-apprenticeship programs. Under the Passport to Careers Program, there are two subprograms:

- Passport to College
- Passport to Apprenticeship Opportunities

The purpose of this Agreement is to outline the responsibilities of the WSAC and the INSTITUTION in implementing the **Passport to College** program’s Student Support Fund payments (formerly called Institutional Incentive Grant) for supporting Passport to College eligible students. This work will be conducted through the INSTITUTION’s viable Passport

Student Support Plan (formerly referred to as the Passport Viable Plan) pursuant to RCW 28B.117 and WAC 250-100

## II. Statement of Work

### 1. Responsibilities of the Institution

The Passport to College program establishes that qualified institutions must agree to the following conditions [in order to receive Passport Student Support payments from WSAC for the successful recruitment and retention of Passport eligible students.](#)

- a) **Student Support Plan:** The INSTITUTION agrees to design and implement a viable plan to deliver specialized support services to promote and increase access, [persistence](#) and completion of a postsecondary education. The plan is created by the INSTITUTION but should follow the outline included in Appendix A and will be submitted to WSAC for review and approval. The INSTITUTION is highly encouraged to review the Student Support Plan annually to make modifications to their plan as needed to [most effectively serve Passport eligible students.](#)
- b) **Identification:** The INSTITUTION must include on their application for admission or registration materials a question asking a student to self-disclose whether they were in state, tribal, or federal foster care in Washington state, or experienced unaccompanied homelessness. The question may be used for the purpose of delivering support services and awarding financial aid and will be shared with the INSTITUTION's Passport Designated Support Staff (DSS). Additionally, campuses are encouraged to develop other identification strategies so that all eligible students on campus are engaged. It may not be used in consideration for admission to the INSTITUTION.
- c) **Student Eligibility:** If the INSTITUTION has identified a former foster youth who is not in the WSAC Portal, it should provide a [Consent Form](#) to the student and forward it to the AGENCY for the purpose of determining program eligibility. If the student was in tribal foster care, the INSTITUTION should also provide the student with a [Tribal Verification Form](#).

The INSTITUTION will determine eligibility for students experiencing unaccompanied homelessness. In difficult to determine cases, the INSTITUTION may refer the student to WSAC for eligibility determination. The INSTITUTION may elect to have students who have experienced unaccompanied homelessness complete the [Passport Housing Questionnaire](#) to help determine eligibility.

- d) **Verifying Eligibility:** Verify Passport student eligibility electronically through the WSAC Portal. This verification shall suffice for documentation of the student’s program eligibility as well as their independent status for the purpose of financial aid packaging and support services. When processing unaccompanied homeless youth, financial aid administrators will post the student’s eligibility to the WSAC Portal.
- e) **Leadership Commitment:** Create a lasting institutional commitment to serve current and former foster youth and students who have experienced unaccompanied homelessness by designating a president, chancellor, vice-president, or other position of leadership to advocate and take responsibility for the program’s success.

INSTITUTIONS should identify an additional person in a leadership role who oversees the operations of the program and assists the Passport Designated Support Staff to remove barriers for successful program implementation. A role description for the Passport Campus Leader is in Appendix B.

The person listed as the Passport Campus Leader is:

Leader Name	
Title	
Email	
Phone	

**In the event that the Passport designated campus leader changes, the INSTITUTION will notify the AGENCY in writing via email of the change within 30 days. Email may be sent to [passport@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:passport@wsac.wa.gov).**

- f) **Designated Campus Support Staff.** Designate a knowledgeable “home base” staff person who can direct students in the areas of financial aid, academic guidance, personal issues, and career counseling/advising. The designated staff person will also be responsible for preparing campus personnel in these areas to assist referred Passport students. A role description for the Designated Campus Support Staff is included in Appendix C.

The person listed as the designated support staff is:

Person Name	
Title	
Email	
Phone	

**In the event that the Passport designated support staff changes, the INSTITUTION will notify the AGENCY in writing via email of the change within 30 days. Email may be sent to [passport@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:passport@wsac.wa.gov).**

**Designated Financial Aid Staff.** Designate a financial aid staff member who can guide and support Passport students through the financial aid process. A role description for the Passport Financial Aid Staff is included in Appendix D.

The person listed as the financial aid support staff is:

Person Name	
Title	
Email	
Phone	

**In the event that the Passport designated financial aid staff changes, the INSTITUTION will notify the AGENCY in writing of the change within 30 days. Email may be sent to [passport@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:passport@wsac.wa.gov).**

- g) **Connect with Social Services Providers.** Work with Department of Children Youth and Families social service providers and its contracted Independent Living providers, AGENCY contracted SETuP case managers, and other non-profit agencies serving youth who have experienced foster care or unaccompanied homelessness to ensure youth receive a full-range of support services and other college preparation information. Ensure appropriate releases of information are in place in order to most efficiently serve students.

- h) **Financial Aid.** Review each Passport student's individual budget to recognize the actual living expenses, and tailor the financial aid package to utilize all available resources to meet the student's full need and minimize reliance on loans.
  - i) **Passport Student Support Funds (formerly known as Institutional Incentive Grants).** The INSTITUTION's request for scholarship payment signifies satisfactory academic progress has been verified and the student is eligible for the ensuing term. By August 30 of each academic year, the INSTITUTION will submit a report to the AGENCY on the use of the Passport Student Support Funds. Funds should be used to help remove barriers for Passport eligible students. WSAC encourages INSTITUTIONS to use Student Support funds in the academic year it is received. Student Support funds received must be expended within two years of receipt. If unspent funds remain, the INSTITUTION will provide a plan for future Student Support Fund use.
  - j) **Education and Training.** To the extent practical, ensure the INSTITUTION's leadership, financial aid staff and designated support staff participate in training provided by the WSAC or its partner organizations about the Passport program and related foster care and unaccompanied homeless youth resources.
- 2. Responsibilities of the Washington Student Achievement Council**
- a) **Program Eligibility.** WSAC and the Department of Children, Youth and Families will enter into a data sharing agreement to identify state foster youth meeting Passport program eligibility. In serving federal foster youth and tribal foster youth, WSAC will work with the Department of Social and Health Services and Washington's Federally Recognized tribes to determine student eligibility for the Passport to College Scholarship program.
  - b) **Collecting Consent.** WSAC will collect student consent through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), WASFA, Common Application, Passport Consent Form, and Student Housing Questionnaire.
  - c) **Secure Portal.** Student-level data will be maintained in the WSAC's secure Portal for eligibility processing by state agency partners and INSTITUTIONS. The INSTITUTION must use the portal to provide secure electronic communication that contains a student's personally identifiable information.
  - d) **Reports.** WSAC will collect student level data from INSTITUTIONS and compose program reports.

- e) **Student Lists.** At least annually, WSAC will provide INSTITUTIONS with a list of students determined eligible for the Passport to Careers program and has shared an interest in attending a college on their federal financial aid application. This list is shared with both the Passport Financial Aid Administrator for aid packaging, and the Passport Designated Support Staff for outreach and support. Institutions may request the list from WSAC on a quarterly basis, or more frequently, as needed.
- f) **Verification of Eligibility.** Student eligibility will be verified with the Department of Children Youth and Families, Washington’s federally recognized tribes, the Department of Social and Health Services and INSTITUTIONS. The AGENCY will notify students of their eligibility status through electronic means. Students determined ineligible for Passport are provided with information on alternative sources of aid and support services. Student eligibility will be provided to the institution securely through the WSAC’s portal.
- g) **Scholarship Payment Disbursement.** The AGENCY will disburse Passport Scholarships through the WSAC Portal. Student quarters of eligibility remaining (QER) for Passport will be tracked. The AGENCY will review systems annually to ensure that ineligible “aged out” Passport students are reported accurately in the portal for institutions to review.
- h) **Training.** The AGENCY will provide trainings and technical assistance.
  - 1. Provide timely customer service to students, institutional financial aid, and designated support staff.
  - 2. Provide one-on-one Portal training to institutional staff as requested.
  - 3. Provide annual training to institutional financial aid administrators on programs administered by the AGENCY and contribute to trainings provided by organizations contracted to provide Passport services.
  - 4. Provide students with financial aid and other resources. Direct students to appropriate campus staff for support services. Provide referrals to contractor for intervention in emergency situations.

### III. Consideration

#### Passport Support Fund Payments to Institution

Passport student support funds are payments to institutions based on recruitment, retention, and support of Passport eligible students. The payment is available only to institutions agreeing to provide specified student support services outlined in this agreement. Institutional participation in the Passport student support fund is voluntary. An otherwise



eligible student can receive a Passport scholarship to attend an eligible college even if the institution does not participate in the Passport student support fund option. Each party herein constitutes the consideration for this agreement. To the extent that funds are allocated for this purpose, the amount of Passport student support fund payments to the INSTITUTION will be reviewed and determined annually by the AGENCY based on projected enrollments, appropriations and other relevant factors.

Passport Student Support Fund disbursements will be made each term after scholarship payments have been disbursed and reconciled by the INSTITUTION. A scholarship payment request by the INSTITUTION verifies the student’s enrollment. The AGENCY will disburse Student Support Funds for each student who successfully enrolled in and completed the term.

**IV. Term**

This addendum becomes effective on the date executed by the WSAC and will expire on June 30, 2024, or sooner if terminated by one or both parties in writing.

**V. Reporting**

The INSTITUTION shall produce Passport Student Support Fund reports or other deliverables on a template provided by WSAC by the dates indicated below:

- August 30, 2023 (for effective date of contract through June 30, 2023)

**VI. Termination**

This agreement may be terminated immediately by mutual consent of all parties, or by either party upon 30-day written notice and delivered to the other party by certified mail or in person.

**VII. Certification and Execution of Passport Addendum**

I hereby certify that I am an officer of the INSTITUTION legally authorized to execute this Passport to Careers Addendum to the Institutional Agreement for and on behalf of the INSTITUTION and certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, all information in this document are true and correct.

**Institution**

**Washington Student Achievement Council**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Student Financial Assistance

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (typed or printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (typed or printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



### ***8.3.4 State of Washington Conditions of Award***

#### **Forms Used to Provide Required Notification to Students**

Prior to the first annual disbursement of state financial aid, institutions must inform students of the conditions associated with their state financial aid award(s) by providing them with the Washington State Aid – Conditions of Award below.

Conditions of Award statements must be provided to students on paper or electronically. Emailed Conditions of Award statements must display the Conditions language, in its entirety, in the body of the email, unless the institution requires students to certify their acceptance by filing a signed form or otherwise verifying receipt of the Conditions language. Institutions must maintain documentation that the state Conditions of Award were provided to awarded students.

WSAC values institutional flexibility in best meeting our shared student disclosure obligations. Institutions may propose alternative Conditions of Award language varying from the statement below during the annual participation renewal process.

Alternative conditions language must still convey the points included in the statement below and will be evaluated for approval accordingly. Institutions may incorporate state Conditions of Award language into more comprehensive conditions statements that cover other forms of financial aid, subject to WSAC approval during renewal.

### ***8.3.5 Conditions of Award Statement***

#### **Applies to Students at All Institutions Each Year**

##### Washington State Aid – Conditions of Award

By accepting state financial aid, you agree to the conditions listed below. If you have questions or find that you cannot comply with these conditions, please contact your institution's financial aid office.

1. You must meet the requirements for Washington State residency.
2. You do not owe a repayment to any state grant or scholarship nor are you in default on a state or federal student loan.
3. You must be enrolled in an eligible program and not be pursuing a degree in theology.
4. If you hold a bachelor's degree or the foreign equivalent, or in some circumstances if you are pursuing a second associate degree within five years of earning an associate degree, you are not eligible to receive state grant funds.
5. If you do not attend or if you withdraw from your classes, you may owe a repayment of all or part of any state funds you have received.
6. You must maintain the academic progress standards established by your institution in order to receive additional state aid.
7. There could be other circumstances that would require a repayment or reduction in your current award amounts.

8. You must meet all eligibility requirements for the state aid program(s) awarded.
9. The offer of this financial assistance is subject to, and conditioned upon, the availability of funds. Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) and the institution through which the grant, scholarship, or work study is awarded, reserve the right to withdraw, reduce, or modify the awards due to funding limitations or due to changes in circumstances which affect your eligibility for the program(s).
10. If I fail to cash my check containing state funds or pickup any remaining funds by the close of the academic year, the funds shall be returned to the program at WSAC and treated as funds declined by me.

The state of Washington is offering you financial assistance to help support your educational expenses. Please visit [www.opportunitypathways.wa.gov](http://www.opportunitypathways.wa.gov) to receive more information about financial aid, scholarships, work study, and student loans.

You may choose to voluntarily make financial contributions to WSAC in recognition of the assistance that you received. All voluntary contributions will be used to provide financial assistance to other students. Please contact [finaid@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:finaid@wsac.wa.gov) for more information.

### ***8.3.6 Student Directive for Students at Private Institutions***

#### **Required Directive Form for Students at Private Institutions**

Private institutions must use WSAC's Student Directive Form which follows to record a student's decision on where to apply their state financial aid payment(s) each term.

The student's financial aid payment can be deposited directly into a student's account or disbursed in the form of a check based on their choice on the directive. In addition, institutions:

- Must not coerce or influence the student's choice on where to apply their financial aid payment.
- Will keep the directive in effect for the duration of the student's continuous enrollment at the institution, excluding approved leaves of absence and summer terms. A new directive is required if the student is not continuously enrolled.
- Must allow students to change their minds at any time, prior to disbursement, and follow their current directives at all times.
- Must remind students once a year that their current directive is still in place and that they may change it.

The student must sign and date the directive. The signature can be either a wet or electronic signature. For electronic signatures, the institution must have assurances that only the student can access his/her signature page, likely through a portal that is name and password protected.

# State of Washington

## Student Achievement Council

### STUDENT DIRECTIVE FOR DISBURSEMENT OF STATE AID

Return this form to the **NAME of Institution** Financial Aid Office as soon as possible.

Student Name (please

print): \_\_\_\_\_ ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

You have been awarded financial aid from the State of Washington. Your designation and signature on this form will document your choice for funds to be applied directly into your student account or to be given to you in the form of a check. A state grant or scholarship recipient has the following two choices:

- Choosing to have the funds deposited to your student account permits the aid to be automatically credited toward expenses you may owe to the institution. This option allows faster processing of any refunds of financial aid proceeds that may be due you.
- Choosing to have state financial aid funds given directly to you means that state student aid will not be automatically available to pay for tuition and fees. You are responsible for using the funds to pay for educational expenses including any expense you owe to the institution.

Please choose one of these options:

I choose to have state aid funds applied directly to my student account and automatically credited toward expenses I owe **NAME of Institution**. OR

I wish to have state aid funds given directly to me (not credited to my student account). I understand that I am responsible for all outstanding balances on my student account at **NAME of Institution**.

Your choice will stay in effect as long as you are enrolled at this institution. However, you may change your directive for a future term by informing your Financial Aid Office in writing.

---

Student Signature

Date

Make sure you check one of the options above and return this form to:

NAME of Institution

Address

Address

Address

### 8.3.7 Participant Housing Questionnaire

#### Passport to Careers Student Housing Questionnaire



#### Applicant Information

**Name**

---

**SSN**

---

**Date of Birth**  
MM/DD/YYYY

---

**Mailing Address**  
Street

---

City, State, Zip

---

**Phone Number**  
Include area code

---

**Email Address**  
Required

---

**College(s) Attending**

---

**Class Standing**  Freshman  Sophomore  Junior  Senior

---

#### Housing Declaration

An unaccompanied homeless youth is an individual under age 21 who is not in the physical custody of their parent or guardian, and lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

In order to qualify for Passport to Careers assistance as an unaccompanied homeless youth after July 1, 2019, a student's status as an unaccompanied homeless youth within the prior one-year period must be verified through review of the information provided below.

**I live with a parent or guardian:**  Yes  No

**Living Situation** (check all that apply):

- Hotel or motel
- Shelter or other temporary housing program
- Couch surfing
- Car, park, campsite or sleeping on the street
- Transitional housing
- Doubled up with another family due to hardship
- In a residence with inadequate facilities (no heat, water or electricity)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_



### Supplemental Documentation – select one

**Attaching documentation verifying unaccompanied homelessness**

By checking this box, you declare that you are able to provide verification of your status as an unaccompanied homeless youth from an authorized official such as a McKinney-Vento liaison, social worker, shelter manager, case manager, or church official. Please attach your documentation to this application.

**Unable to obtain documentation verifying unaccompanied homelessness**

By checking this box, you declare you are unable to provide independent verification of your status as an unaccompanied homeless youth. In place of the verification, please attach a letter explaining your situation qualifying you as an unaccompanied homeless youth and explaining why you are unable to get documentation from an authorized official. Attach any information you may have in support of your statements. If you have chosen to leave your parents' home, you will need to demonstrate that you were at risk of harm if you continued living with your parents.

### Notice of Verification

WSAC reserves the right to verify information provided by you on this application through the collection of additional documentation and personal interviews.

### Student Consent

I grant permission to discuss my eligibility for the Passport to Careers program with the financial aid office and support staff at the college I attend. I also authorize the sharing and verification of the information provided in this application with appropriate officials, such as my McKinney-Vento liaison, social worker, shelter manager, case manager, church official, or any other person(s) in an official capacity.

By signing below, I certify that all the information provided on this worksheet and the attached documentation is complete and correct. I understand if I intentionally provide false or misleading information, I may be legally responsible and could be required to repay any state financial aid I receive.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Passport to Careers Program  
PO Box 43430  
Olympia, WA 98504-3430  
[Passport@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:Passport@wsac.wa.gov)  
1-888-535-0747

## **8.4 Program Regulations and Reports Links**

### **8.4.1 PASSPORT TO CAREERS PROGRAM [Chapter 28B.117 RCW](#)**

<a href="#">28B.117.005</a>	Findings—Intent.
<a href="#">28B.117.010</a>	Program created—Purpose.
<a href="#">28B.117.020</a>	Definitions.
<a href="#">28B.117.030</a>	Program design and implementation—Passport to College Promise Scholarship and Passport to Apprenticeship Opportunities—Student eligibility.
<a href="#">28B.117.040</a>	Identification of eligible students and applicants—Duties of institutions of higher education, the department of social and health services, and the department of children, youth, and families.
<a href="#">28B.117.050</a>	Internet web site and outreach program.
<a href="#">28B.117.055</a>	Training for disadvantaged populations.
<a href="#">28B.117.900</a>	Construction—2007 c 314.

### **8.4.2 Passport to Careers Program [Title 250-100 WAC](#)**

The Passport to Careers Program WAC was updated and became effective on July 1, 2022.

#### **Chapter 250-100 WAC PASSPORT TO CAREERS PROGRAM**

<a href="#">250-100-010</a>	Purpose.
<a href="#">250-100-015</a>	Definitions.
<a href="#">250-100-020</a>	Institutional eligibility.
<a href="#">250-100-030</a>	Identification of eligible foster youth.
<a href="#">250-100-040</a>	Student eligibility for passport scholarship.
<a href="#">250-100-050</a>	Determining the amount of the passport to college promise scholarship.
<a href="#">250-100-060</a>	Passport student support fund to provide student support services.
<a href="#">250-100-070</a>	Payment of passport to college promise student scholarship and student support funds.
<a href="#">250-100-075</a>	Passport to apprenticeship program.
<a href="#">250-100-080</a>	Institutional fund management requirements.
<a href="#">250-100-090</a>	Program administration and audits.
<a href="#">250-100-100</a>	Request for review and student complaints.
<a href="#">250-100-110</a>	Suspension or termination of institutional or nongovernmental entity
<a href="#">250-100-120</a>	Appeal process.
<a href="#">250-100-130</a>	The agency's responsibilities.

### **8.4.3 Legislative Reports**

A comprehensive report on the Passport to College program can be found on the [Washington Student Achievement Council](#) website:

- Click on the Financial Aid & Affordability tab.
- Select the *Passport to College Promise: Program Update*.

## CHAPTER 9 – DESIGNATED SUPPORT STAFF INFORMATION

### **9.1 Passport Roles**

#### **Passport Designated Support Staff (DSS)**

The Designated Support Staff (DSS) is a knowledgeable “home base” person who can direct youth in the areas of financial aid, academic guidance, personal issues, and career counseling/advising. The DSS is responsible for preparing campus personnel in these areas to assist referred Passport students.

The Passport DSS role is established at all institutions with a [Student Support Plan](#). A detailed [role description](#) for this position is available at [Washington Passport Network](#) website, along with several other documents that are important resources for DSS.

#### **Passport Campus Leader**

Passport institutions identify a person in a leadership role who oversees the operations of the program and assists the Passport Designated Support Staff to remove barriers for successful program implementation. A role description for the Passport Campus Leader was developed in Summer 2022 and can be found on the [Washington Passport Network](#) website.

#### **Passport Financial Aid Administrator**

The Passport Financial Aid Administrator is a financial aid staff member who can guide and support Passport students through the financial aid process. A Passport Financial Aid Administrator role description is also available on the [Washington Passport Network](#) website.

#### **Passport Peer Mentor/Peer Advisor**

WSAC has developed a role description for a Peer Mentor/Peer Advisor. The role description will be posted to the Washington Passport Network [website](#).

### **9.2 Groups and Organizations for Passport Professionals**

#### **Washington Passport Network (WPN)**

The Washington Passport Network is a statewide collective impact initiative committed to supporting students from foster care and the adult professionals they rely on. This includes professionals such as the Passport Designated Support Staff, campus leaders and financial aid staff supporting Passport students.

Professionals working to support students from foster care or those experiencing unaccompanied homelessness in accessing, persisting, or completing post-secondary education or apprenticeships in Washington state, can be considered as a member of the Washington Passport Network.

Members of the Washington Passport Network have access to free webinars, [recorded trainings](#), the annual Passport conference, support resources on the [Washington Passport Network website](#) and other information that is pertinent to serving the Passport student population. To join or confirm membership in the Washington Passport Network, email [passport@collegesuccessfoundation.org](mailto:passport@collegesuccessfoundation.org).

### **Passport Regional Service Coordination Groups (RSCG)**

Led by members of local postsecondary institutions, the College Success Foundation, and non-profit organizations regional service coordination groups promote a cross-sector, student-centered approach to regional wraparound service delivery for students who have experienced foster care and unaccompanied homelessness through collaboration, service coordination, and intervention. To learn more about the RSCG or to join a group, email [passport@collegesuccessfoundation.org](mailto:passport@collegesuccessfoundation.org).

### **Passport Leadership Team (PLT)**

The Passport Leadership Team (PLT) is a 30-member advisory body representing postsecondary institutions, students, non-profit and state organizations from all areas of Washington state that advises WSAC on Passport to Careers policy and practice issues. The PLT convenes quarterly meetings, facilitated in partnership with, the College Success Foundation.

### **Project Education Impact (PEI)**

A coalition of state agencies and nonprofit organizations began meeting about strategies to improve outcomes in October 2017. A 2018 budget proviso (Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6032)2 codified their charge, directing the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), in collaboration with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the Office of Homeless Youth (OHY), and the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC), to convene a workgroup with aligned nonprofit organizations to:

*Create a plan for children and youth experiencing foster care and homelessness to facilitate educational equity with their general student population peers and to close the disparities between racial and ethnic groups by 2027.*

In January 2019, PEI released bold strategies to support children experiencing foster care and homelessness. The report can be found at: <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED595805.pdf>

## **9.3 Support Organizations Throughout Washington**

There are organizations throughout the state that can help students with basic needs, such as food or housing support. Passport Designated Support Staff have provided WSAC with a list of community partners that have successfully provided assistance to Passport students. Some of these community resources are listed below:

### **Statewide**

- Washington 2-1-1: <https://wa211.org/>
- Washington Connection: <https://www.washingtonconnection.org/home/>
- Janus Youth: <http://www.janusyouth.org/programs/washington-state>
- Childcare Aware Washington : <https://childcareawarewa.secure.force.com/providerupdate/CCAWAOnlineLookUp>
- Food Pantry Search Tool: <https://www.foodpantries.org/>



## West Side

### Whatcom County/NW

- BTC Community Resource Book: <https://www.btc.edu/General/Publications/CommunityResourceBook.pdf>
- Whatcom Unified Command: <https://whatcomcovid.com/individuals-and-families/>

### King County

- Emerald City Resource Guide: <http://www.emeraldcityresourceguide.org/>
- Highline College Resource List: <http://bit.ly/HCStudentResources>
- Highline College Benefits Hub: <https://supportcenter.highline.edu/benefits-hub/>
- Neighborhood House (locations throughout King Co.): <https://nhwa.org/>
- YMCA Social Impact Center: <https://www.seattlemca.org/social-impact-center>
- Social Impact Center Counselling Services: <https://www.seattlemca.org/social-impact-center/services/counseling-services>

### Pierce County

- UW Tacoma Resource List: <https://depts.washington.edu/uwtslwebdev/ResourceTracker/>

### Cowlitz County/SW

- Housing Opportunities of Southwest Washington: <https://hoswwa.org/>
- Kelso Housing Authority: <https://kelsohousing.org/>
- Lower Columbia Community Action Program: <https://lowercolumbiacap.org/>
- Love Overwhelming: <http://loveoverwhelming.org/>
- Community food banks
  - FISH (360-636-1100) for FOOD (must call) M-F 9AM-12PM & 1-4PM for other emergency need, such as filling prescriptions, dental needs, glasses, help pay overdue water &/or PUD bills, and buy boots or clothing required for starting a new job. (fishofcowlitzcounty.org)
  - SALVATION ARMY (360-423-3990) M,W,TH 2-4PM & Grab & Go Meals M-F 11:45-12:45PM 1639 10th Ave Longview WA
  - CAP HELP WAREHOUSE (360-425-3430) FOOD 3rd Tuesday of the Month 9AM-3PM & Emergency Food M-F 8AM-4:30PM. CAP also helps with \*Rental &/or Energy Assistance (LIHEAP low-income home energy assistance programs) 1526 Commerce Ave Longview WA (lowercolumbiacap.org)
  - ST VINCENT DE PAUL (360-577-0662) M,W,F 8:30-11:30AM & 1st and 3rd Tuesday 4:30-6PM 1222 Baltimore St Longview WA
  - WIC (DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH) (360-423-7740) Monday-Friday 8AM-7PM 1717 Olympia Way Suite 206 Longview WA
  - FAITH CENTER FOOD BANK (360-577-0620) Thursdays 10AM-1PM 1209 Minor Rd Kelso WA
  - HIGHLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH (360-425-1960) Last Tuesday of Month 1-3PM 317 20th Ave Kelso WA

- KELSO RESOURCE CENTER (360-747-7240) Outdoors Tuesdays & Fridays 12-3PM 315 Three Rivers Mall Drive #212 Kelso WA \*Follow on Facebook for Updates
- LEXINGTON NEW SONG CENTER (360-430-3575) 2nd Tuesday of Month 2-4PM 161 Aaron Drive Kelso WA
- CASTLE ROCK LIONS FOOD BANK (360-751-2826) Eagles Hall Thursdays 1-2PM 224 Huntington Ave S. Castle Rock WA
- KALAMA HELPING HANDS (360-673-2814) Kalama Residents Only Tuesdays 11AM-2PM 191 Cloverdale Rd Kalama WA
- WOODLAND ACTION CENTER FOOD BANK (360-225-9998) Saturdays 9AM-5PM 736 Davidson Ave Woodland WA
- ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHLAMET (360-957-5676) 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 9AM-12PM 401 Columbia Cathlamet WA

### **Kitsap County**

- Kitsap Community Resources: <https://www.kcr.org/housing/>
- Olympic College Students in Need Group (SING): <https://www.olympic.edu/services/students-need-group-sing>

### **East Side**

#### **Whitman County**

- Whitman Community Action Center Crisis Housing: <https://www.cacwhitman.org/crisis-housing/>
- Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse: <http://www.atvp.org/index.shtml>
- Whitman CAC Food Pantry: <https://www.cacwhitman.org/foodbank/>
- Whitman CAC SNAP Application Assistance: <https://www.cacwhitman.org/basic-food/>
- Feeding our Friends Pullman: <https://oakpullman.com/feeding-our-friends-2/>
- Pullman Child Welfare: <https://www.pullmanchildwelfare.org/>

## **9.4 Student Support**

### **Passport Student Support Funds**

Passport Student Support Fund payments are provided to the institution for the recruitment and retention of students from foster care and unaccompanied homeless youth.

Grants shall be used for individualized student support services which may include, but are not limited to, college and career advising, counseling, tutoring, costs incurred for students while school is not in session, personal expenses, health insurance, and emergency service. Accessing and distributing the Passport Student Support funds is a responsibility of the DSS. The Student Support Grant guidance can be helpful in understanding the uses of Passport Student Support funds and can be found at:

<https://www.washingtonpassportnetwork.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/05/2018.Passport.IncentiveFundGuide.docx>

The DSS may be asked to coordinate financial support paid to the student with the institution's financial aid office. It is recommended that the DSS collaborate with the Passport financial aid administrator before disbursing Passport Student Support Funds to the student.

### **Student Support Fund Disbursements**

Refer to Chapter 6 of this manual for additional information. WSAC strongly encourages the institution to use Student Support Funds within the academic year in which they are received. However, in extenuating circumstances where Student Support Funds are not able to be fully spent within the academic year, funds may be rolled into the next year. In this case, the institution must provide a plan for future Student Support Funds use. Student Support Funds received must be spent within two academic years of receipt.

Institutions are asked to complete an annual report demonstrating how Student Support Funds were used to support eligible students. This report is sent to the Passport to College Scholarship Designated Support Staff person for completion and is due in August, prior to the beginning of the next academic year.

### **Passport Student Support Fund Use**

Passport to College Scholarship designated support staff on campuses report the Passport Student Support Funds have been invaluable to improving the coordination of services and involvement with community-based programs. Building a rapport with students early is essential and is especially helpful during a time of crisis.

If the student has a need that is considered education-related (defined by the institution) and is requesting additional support through Passport Student Support Funds, the institution may increase the student's Cost of Attendance/budget to reflect additional costs and to adjust the student's financial aid to include the additional Passport Student Support Funds.

If the need is not education-related in nature (for example, a medical expense), the institution can provide the Student Support Funds to the student and notify the student that the funds will need to be reported as "other untaxed income" on their FAFSA for the base year in which it was received.

For example, a student receives non-education related Student Support Funds in 2021. When that student completes the FAFSA in 2023-24, based on the U.S. Department of Education's use of prior-prior year income for FAFSA filing, the student will use 2021 calendar year income for that application and report it then.

In the unusual circumstance that Passport Student Support Funds are used to enhance a student's financial aid award, the funds must be reported as financial aid received by the student in the Unit Record Report (URR).

For example, if the student received a \$5,000 Passport to College Scholarship and a \$500 Support Fund payment to supplement their financial aid award, the institution should report that the student received a \$5,500 Passport to College Scholarship on the URR.

Institutions report that Passport Student Support Funds has allowed designated support staff to offer food with activities and provide resources that are unique to students from foster care.

Some common uses of Passport Student Support Funds are as follows:

Targeted Services	General Uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Student programs, including campus visits and tours of four-year colleges</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-enrollment, academic, personal, financial, and career services</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Special orientations and welcome functions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Admission into TRiO services</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Financial planning seminars</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Designated computer lab and private study area for program participants</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly meetings and celebrations</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Opportunity for hands-on learning with a registered dietician</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emergency loan fund</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Wages for work study, mentors, graduate student assigned to work with Passport students</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Textbooks and a lending library</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Computers and assistance with technology needs</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Resource loan library, including laptops and calculators</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> College survival backpacks and school supplies</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gift cards to grocery stores, gasoline, transit passes and transportation costs to specific events</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Student incentives for meeting academic goals</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Meals, healthy snacks, food bank and personal hygiene articles</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Warm clothes, including socks, hats, boots, and gloves</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Entrance placement tests, graduate school exams, and admission fees</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Housing deposits</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Medical bills</li> </ul>

**Passport Student Support Fund Report:**

Participating institutions will need to submit a Passport Student Support Fund report each August, after the close of the academic year. Report questions were developed by the Passport data workgroup and were approved by the Passport Leadership Team.

This report may require collaboration between the financial aid office and the Passport Designated Support Staff (DSS), and is typically submitted to WSAC via a web-based survey site by the Passport DSS. The pages below provide you with questions asked in the 2021-22 Passport Student Support.

# 2021-2022 Passport Student Support Report

## 2021-22 Passport Student Support (Incentive Grant) Report

Passport Leaders,

Your institution provides services improving access and persistence of Passport students through submitting a Passport addendum to the state financial aid participation agreement. Over the past several years, your institution has also developed and submitted a "viable plan" for supporting Passport students. As we evaluate the program, we would like to highlight and share the work being done to support Passport students with other institutions and members of the legislature.

Student Support Funds (Incentive grants) may be used for individualized student support services that may include, but are not limited to, college and career advising, counseling, tutoring, costs incurred for students while school is not in session, personal expenses, health insurance, and emergency services.

This report template will help you provide WSAC information about how your campus is supporting Passport students and how Student Support (incentive grant) funding is used to support them. The deadline to complete the survey is **August 26, 2022**.

1. College name \*

2. Name of person completing this report

3. Email address

4. Phone number

5.

Looking back, what was the total number of Passport-eligible students enrolled at any point during the **2020-21** academic year?

6. What number of Passport-eligible students were enrolled at any point during the **2021-22** academic year?

7.

Within the following groups of students, how many students do you estimate you have worked with over the past year?

Prospective students who are or may be Passport-eligible. This includes work with students who aren't yet enrolled in Passport but may benefit from learning about the Passport Program, your institution's admissions process, etc.

Passport-eligible students who have stopped out of college

Students who have lost their Passport eligibility for any reason

8.

In the past academic year, what percentage of Passport-eligible students are participating in programming offered by the Designated Support Staff? By participation we mean things such as receiving information/referrals to outside resources, participating in activities led by the DSS, individual or group check-ins, group meals, etc.

9. What are some of the barriers to student participation in programming offered by the Designated Support Staff?

10.

What percentage of Passport-eligible students completed their FAFSA or WASFA by your institution's priority financial aid deadline?

11.

Which of the following SETUP providers have you worked with in the past year? Select all that apply

- Catholic Charities (Yakima / Tri-Cities area)
- Community Youth Services (Olympia area)
- Pierce County Alliance (Tacoma)
- Volunteers of America (Spokane)
- YMCA (Seattle)

12.

Please list the organizations that you have worked with in the past year on Passport-related services (e.g. making student connections, student support services, activities, emergency services, etc.)

13.

How do you identify **unaccompanied homeless** students who are Passport eligible?

- Financial aid applications
- Admissions information
- Referral
- Student self-identification
- Other - Write In (Required)

\*

14.

How do you identify students who experienced **foster care** who are Passport eligible?

- Financial aid applications
- Admissions information
- Referral
- Student self-identification
- List from WSAC
- Other - Write In (Required)

\*

15.

Describe how your institution provides outreach and recruitment to prospective students (students who are not enrolled at your institution) about support services offered by the Passport program.

- Host on-campus events
- Attend summer bridge events
- Direct outreach through email/phone/text
- Meet one-on-one
- Social media
- Physical flyers / brochures
- Meeting with supportive adults
- Other - Write In (Required)  \*

16.

Describe how your institution provides outreach and information to current students (these are students who are currently enrolled at your institution and receive the Passport Scholarship OR students who are currently enrolled at your institution and are not receiving the Passport Scholarship but may be eligible for it) about support services offered by the Passport program.

- Direct outreach through email/phone/text
- Meet one-on-one (including virtual meetings)
- Social media
- Physical flyers / brochures
- On-campus partner collaboration (e.g.: advisers, financial aid staff, etc.)
- Off-campus partner collaboration (e.g.: Independent Living Providers, SETuP, non-profit staff, etc.)
- Peer mentorship programming

17. When was your campus viable plan last updated? (Give month and year).

18. Does your campus experience barriers serving Passport eligible students in any of the areas below?

- Identifying students
- Accessing incentive grant funds
- Administrative support
- Recruiting students to campus
- Engaging students on campus
- Under staffing
- Staff turnover
- Lack of faculty/staff awareness
- Lack of student awareness
- Lack of community partner awareness
- Other - Write In (Required)  \*

19. How were incentive grant funds used in 2021-2022? Check any that apply.

- School supply purchases (books, technology, etc)
- Technology/book lending library
- Salaries for professional staff
- Salaries for student staff
- Emergency funding
- Meals / snacks
- Community building events or programming
- Outreach events to eligible students
- Gas / grocery cards
- Student transportation
- Professional development funds
- Tutoring
- Other - Write In (Required)  \*

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20. What was the dollar amount of incentive funds that were spent in 2021-22?

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21. Does your institution have an incentive fund balance from the funds received in the 2021-22 academic year?

- Yes
- No



## **Program Forms**

Students who do not have their eligibility posted in the WSAC portal must complete a Passport to Careers Consent Form. You may assist the student by emailing the completed Consent Form to WSAC via email. The Consent Form and other forms may be viewed [here](#).

## **Tribal Dependents**

If a student is a tribal dependent, they will also be required to submit a [Tribal Verification Form](#) in addition to the Passport Consent Form. Youth are considered tribal dependents if they were placed in foster care through a tribal court; not all tribal youth are tribal dependents.

## **Unaccompanied Homeless Youth**

If a student is an unaccompanied homeless youth, do not use the Passport consent form to confirm their eligibility for the program. Instead, coordinate with the [financial aid office at your institution](#) to verify their eligibility.

If the financial aid administrator is unable to make a dependency determination using their standard process, the student may provide information on the [unaccompanied homeless youth housing questionnaire](#) directly to WSAC.

## **Using the WSAC Portal**

Though more commonly used by Financial Aid staff, the Passport DSS may be required to use the WSAC Portal to check student eligibility or to send a secure message to WSAC. If you are the DSS at your institution and do not have access to the Portal, please contact the financial aid director at your institution to have an account created for you.

Refer to Chapter [8.2.2](#) for a guide to using the WSAC Portal.

**NEW:** Justification for Increase in Student Budget



**Justification for Increase in Student Budget**

Students are encouraged to complete this form with a supportive adult and should include documentation or receipts demonstrating their added expenses. Some examples of appropriate reasons to request a student budget review are:

- Unexpected medical expenses
- New or unexpected financial burden
- Additional transportation expenses
- Additional cost for program supplies, tools, or professional license
- Familial or other dependent responsibilities
- Change in income
- Increase in rent or housing expenses, or another change in housing
- Inability to meet basic needs such as groceries

**Contact Information**

Student Name	
Student ID	
Email	
Phone	
Mailing Address	
City, State, Zip	

**Categories**

Select all categories for financial need that apply to this request for an increase in your student budget.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Food/Groceries</b><br>Monthly <u>cost:</u> _____             | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Utilities</b><br>Monthly cost: _____                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Equipment/Tools/Technology</b><br>Monthly <u>cost:</u> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Child care</b><br>Monthly <u>cost:</u> _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Books/School Supplies</b><br>Monthly <u>cost:</u> _____      | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Tuition</b><br>Monthly <u>cost:</u> _____           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Housing</b><br>Monthly <u>cost:</u> _____                    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Personal expenses</b><br>Monthly <u>cost:</u> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Transportation</b><br>Monthly <u>cost:</u> _____             | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Healthcare</b><br>Monthly <u>cost:</u> _____        |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other:</b> _____                                    |

### Situation and Justification

Please provide any relevant information about your request that will help the financial aid office understand your situation. Why do you need to have your budget increased? Focus on your top three with the most effective supporting arguments.

Reason 1:
Reason 2:
Reason 3:

### Cost Increase

Provide the actual or estimated cost for each of the reasons listed above. If you have documentation for the added cost, please attach a copy.

Reason 1:	
Reason 2:	
Reason 3:	

### Notes to Consider

Students should consult with their financial aid office and Passport Designated Support staff if they are experiencing financial difficulty. Financial aid administrators may require students to complete a separate form from the college/university for an evaluation of the student's budget. The Justification for Increase in Student Budget form is intended to act as a resource in communicating student needs. Financial aid administrators will have final discretion in increasing student budgets. *Completing this form does not guarantee that a student's aid will increase.*

The Passport Addendum says financial aid administrators should review each Passport student's individual budget to recognize their actual living expenses, and tailor the financial aid package to utilize all available resources to meet the student's full need and minimize reliance on loans.

If you have any questions regarding this document or its intended use please reach out to the WSAC Passport team at [passport@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:passport@wsac.wa.gov) or by calling 360-790-9145.