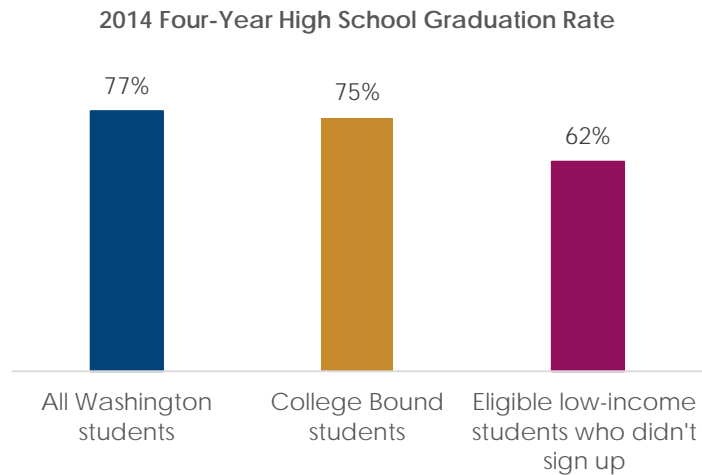


 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 February 26, 2015
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College Bound high school grad rate over 10 points higher than low-income student rate

Olympia — Three quarters of the students who signed up for the College Bound Scholarship by the end of their 8th grade year in 2010 graduated from high school in 2014. In comparison, the 2014 four-year graduation rate for low-income students who were eligible for the program but didn't sign up was 62 percent. Since the first CBS cohort graduated from high school in 2012, College Bound students have graduated at rates that are at least ten points higher than their low-income peers who didn't sign up for the program.



Efforts to get eligible students signed up for the program begin in September and continue throughout the school year. Recently, [one hundred school districts](#) received Gold Star Awards from Governor Inslee for signing up 90 percent or more of students who are eligible for free and reduced price lunch.

The CBS program gives financial assistance to low-income students who want to realize the dream of a college education. Students sign up in middle school, no later than June 30 of their 8th grade year, to receive an early commitment of state funding. The scholarship, in combination with other state aid, covers tuition (at public college rates), some fees, and a small book allowance.

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About the Washington Student Achievement Council: Established as a new cabinet-level state agency on July 1, 2012, the council provides strategic planning, oversight and advocacy to support increased student success and higher levels of educational attainment in Washington. The council proposes improvements and innovations to meet the evolving needs of students, employers and the educational community. In recognition of the economic, social and civic benefits of public education, the council advocates for increased financial support and civic commitment to ensure a thriving Washington.

The nine-member council includes five citizens (including a current student) and one representative from each of Washington's four major educational sectors. Find us [online](#), on Twitter [@WSACouncil](#), and on [Facebook](#).