WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL
EDUCATION · OPPORTUNITY · RESULTS

917 Lakeridge Way Southwest
Olympia, Washington 98504
360.753.7800
wsac.wa.gov

Title	Executive Update
Staff lead	Gene Sharratt
Position	Executive Director
Email	genes@wsac.wa.gov
Phone	360.753.7800
Synopsis	The Executive Update will provide members with a review of current agency work related to program administration and policy. The Executive Director will provide this synopsis at the beginning of each Council meeting.
Guiding questions	Do the activities of the agency align with our statutory mission?
Possible council action	☒Information/Discussion ☐Approve/Adopt ☐Other:
Documents and attachments	☒Brief/Report ☒PowerPoint ☐Third-party materials ☐Other

October ED Update

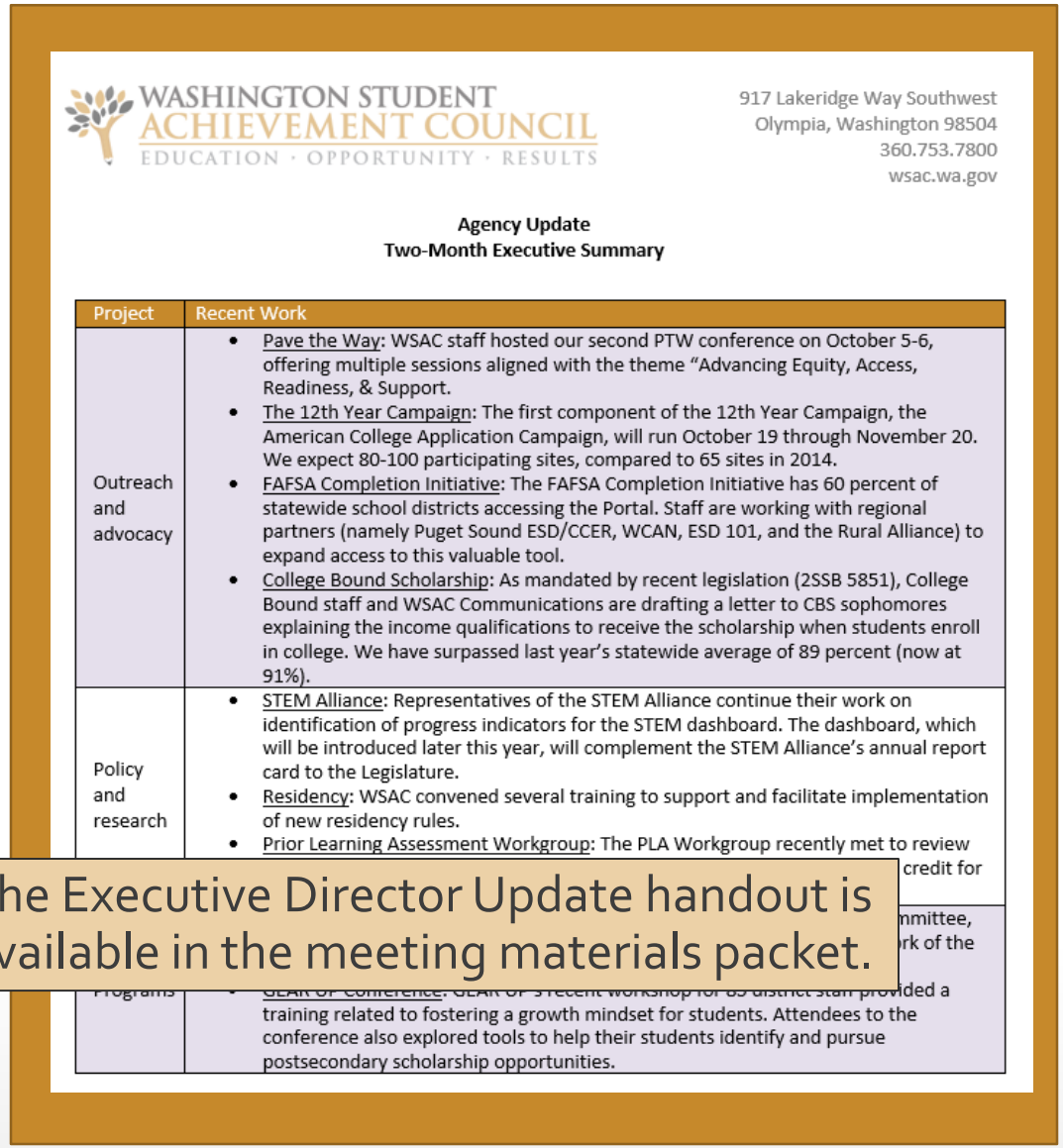
Gene Sharratt, Ph.D. | Washington Student Achievement Council

JOOLA
JOOLA

Two-Month Review

The Executive Director update will highlight the agency's efforts related to our statutory mission and program administration.

The two-month summary chart provides a synopsis of agency efforts since the last Council meeting.



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Agency Update
Two-Month Executive Summary

Project	Recent Work
Outreach and advocacy	• Pave the Way: WSAC staff hosted our second PTW conference on October 5-6, offering multiple sessions aligned with the theme "Advancing Equity, Access, Readiness, & Support. • The 12th Year Campaign: The first component of the 12th Year Campaign, the American College Application Campaign, will run October 19 through November 20. We expect 80-100 participating sites, compared to 65 sites in 2014. • FAFSA Completion Initiative: The FAFSA Completion Initiative has 60 percent of statewide school districts accessing the Portal. Staff are working with regional partners (namely Puget Sound ESD/CCER, WCAN, ESD 101, and the Rural Alliance) to expand access to this valuable tool. • College Bound Scholarship: As mandated by recent legislation (2SSB 5851), College Bound staff and WSAC Communications are drafting a letter to CBS sophomores explaining the income qualifications to receive the scholarship when students enroll in college. We have surpassed last year's statewide average of 89 percent (now at 91%).
Policy and research	• STEM Alliance: Representatives of the STEM Alliance continue their work on identification of progress indicators for the STEM dashboard. The dashboard, which will be introduced later this year, will complement the STEM Alliance's annual report card to the Legislature. • Residency: WSAC convened several training to support and facilitate implementation of new residency rules. • Prior Learning Assessment Workgroup: The PLA Workgroup recently met to review credit for
Programs	nmittee, rk of the GEAR UP Conference: GEAR UP staff recent workshop for 85 district staff provided a training related to fostering a growth mindset for students. Attendees to the conference also explored tools to help their students identify and pursue postsecondary scholarship opportunities.

The Executive Director Update handout is available in the meeting materials packet.

Recent Highlights

Outreach & Advocacy

Pave the Way; 12th Year Campaign; FAFSA Completion Initiative; CBS

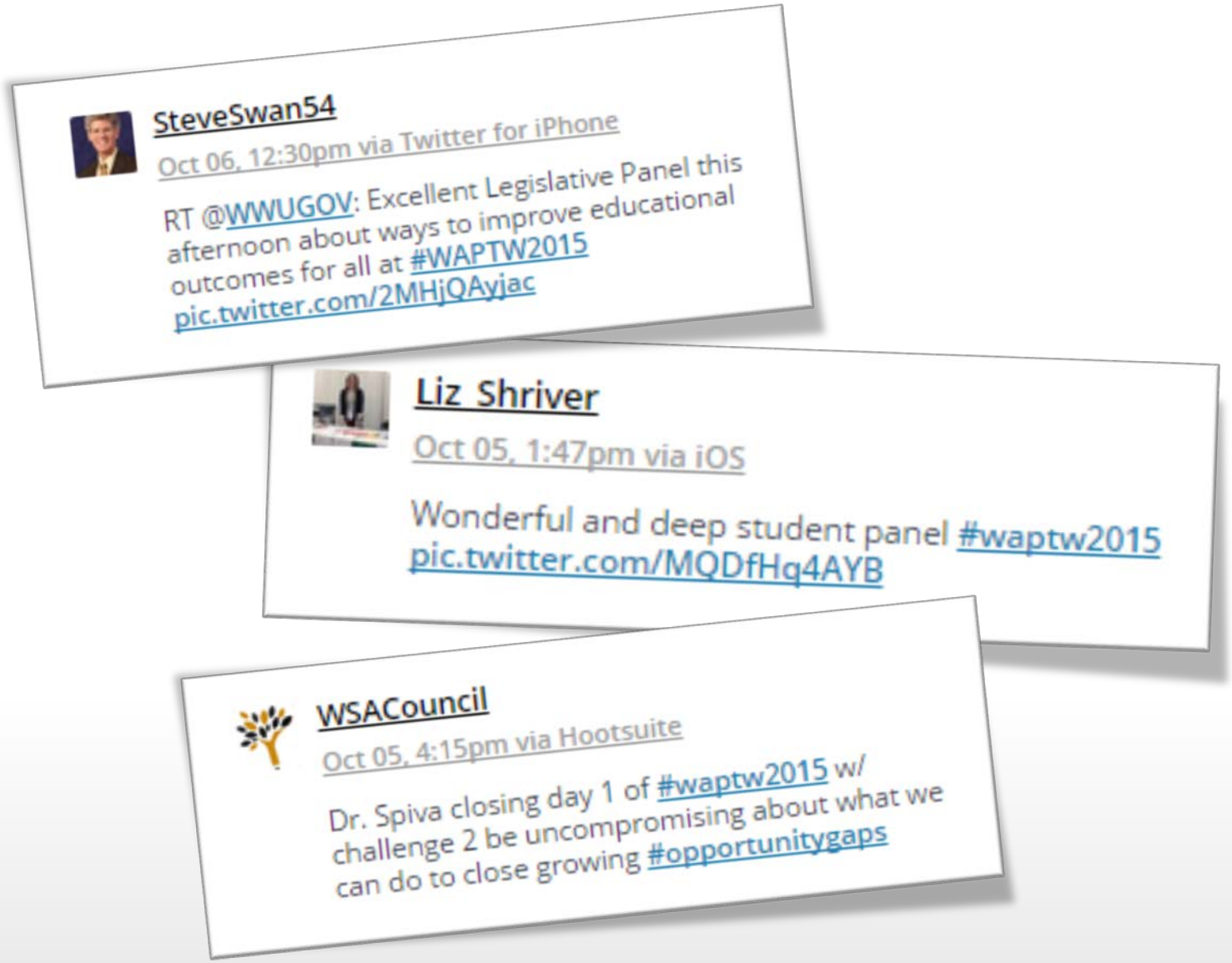
Programs

GET; GEAR UP; SFA Partner Newsletter

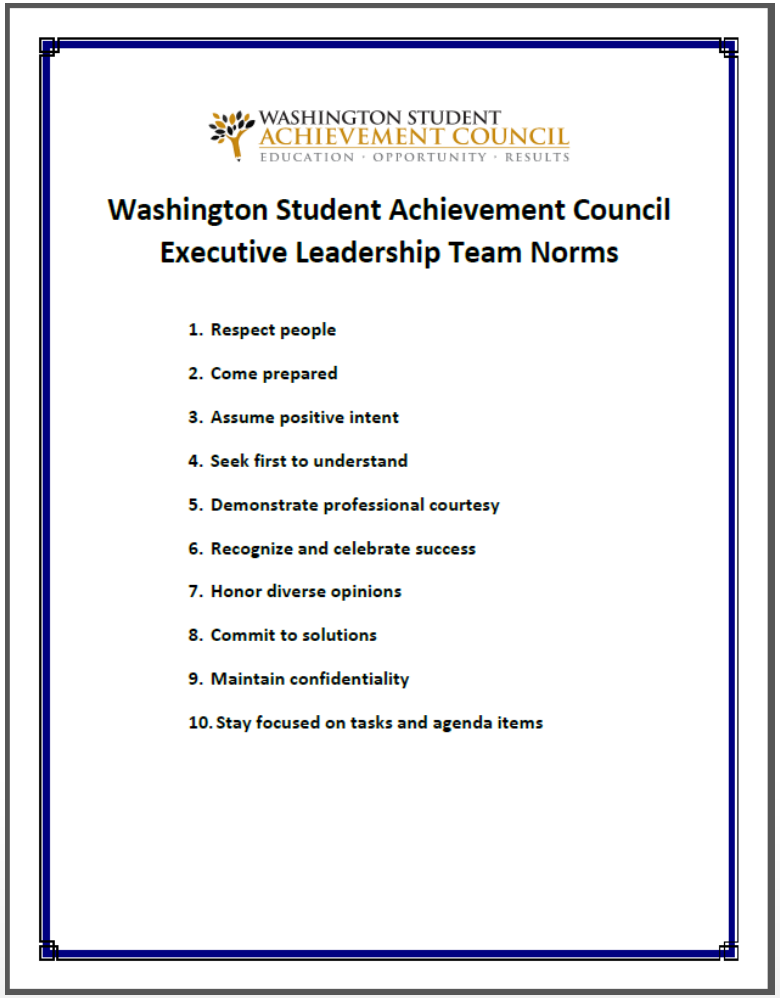
Policy & Research

STEM Alliance; Residency; Prior Learning Assessment Work Group

Pave the Way - October 5 & 6



ELT Goals and Norms



WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL
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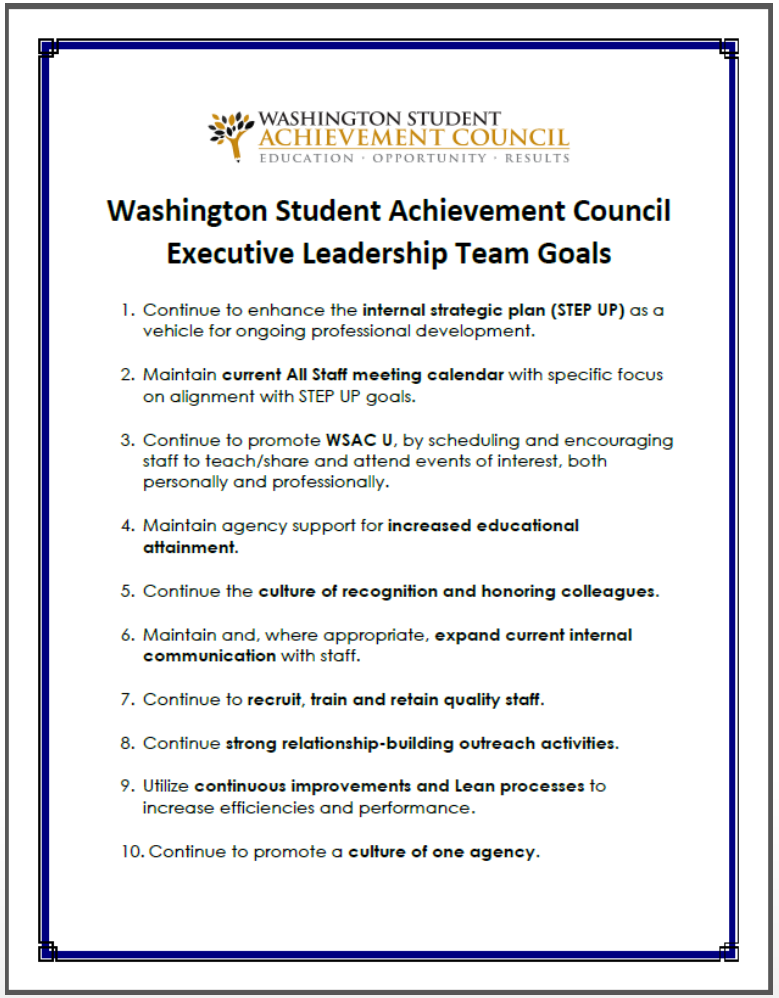
Washington Student Achievement Council
Executive Leadership Team Norms

1. **Respect people**
2. **Come prepared**
3. **Assume positive intent**
4. **Seek first to understand**
5. **Demonstrate professional courtesy**
6. **Recognize and celebrate success**
7. **Honor diverse opinions**
8. **Commit to solutions**
9. **Maintain confidentiality**
10. **Stay focused on tasks and agenda items**



WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL
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Washington Student Achievement Council
Executive Leadership Team Goals

1. Continue to enhance the **internal strategic plan (STEP UP)** as a vehicle for ongoing professional development.
2. Maintain **current All Staff meeting calendar** with specific focus on alignment with STEP UP goals.
3. Continue to promote **WSAC U**, by scheduling and encouraging staff to teach/share and attend events of interest, both personally and professionally.
4. Maintain agency support for **increased educational attainment**.
5. Continue the **culture of recognition and honoring colleagues**.
6. Maintain and, where appropriate, **expand current internal communication** with staff.
7. Continue to **recruit, train and retain quality staff**.
8. Continue **strong relationship-building outreach activities**.
9. Utilize **continuous improvements and Lean processes** to increase efficiencies and performance.
10. Continue to promote a **culture of one agency**.

Gene Sharratt, Ph.D.
Executive Director
GeneS@wsac.wa.gov

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Policy and research	• STEM Alliance: Representatives of the STEM Alliance continue their work on identification of progress indicators for the STEM dashboard. The dashboard, which will be introduced later this year, will complement the STEM Alliance's annual report card to the Legislature. • Residency: WSAC convened several training to support and facilitate implementation of new residency rules. • Prior Learning Assessment Workgroup: The PLA Workgroup recently met to review progress on the implementation of SSB 5969, designed to award academic credit for military training.
Programs	• GET: Today's agenda includes an update on the recent work of the GET committee, which met on October 7. Betty Lochner will review the current work of the Committee and anticipated next steps. • GEAR UP Workshop: GEAR UP's recent workshop for 85 district staff provided a training related to fostering a growth mindset for students. Attendees also explored tools to help their students identify and pursue postsecondary scholarship opportunities. • SFA Partner: The SFA Partner is a new, quarterly communications product designed to provide accurate information and timely updates to Financial Aid Administration professionals across Washington's 68 institutions. The first SFA Partners was launched in October and is now available on our website.

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SFA PARTNER

Quarterly Update

October 2015

From the Director

Hello SFA Partners --

We at WSAC are fortunate to work with many SFA partners and friends at the 68 Washington institutions that provide federal, state, and private financial aid to more than 184,000 students in need of assistance each year. We value this partnership with you very much, and hope that you will feel free to provide suggestions and feedback to us.

We are implementing the **SFA Partner** as a quarterly communication tool from us to you. This first issue includes topics of general interest, along with some topics we feel deserve special attention on your part.

Please also know that our best intention was to have all program manuals for 2015-16 available by fall; however, we are still working on the final details of combining SNG and CBS into one manual. Because we are still a couple of weeks out from releasing this new manual, we are including additional guidance on making 2015-16 awards to CBS, SNG and Passport to College students. If you have any awarding questions, please do not hesitate to contact our SFA program staff.

We hope you will share this issue of the **SFA Partner** with other colleagues at your institution, and encourage them to subscribe to the **SFA Partner**, so that they can receive future editions in a timely manner.

Wishing everyone a wonderful fall season!

Becky Thompson
Director of Student Financial Assistance

Click on these links to learn more about the following topics:

- SNG, CBS, and Passport to College Awarding Information for 2015-16
- Upcoming Important Dates to Remember
- WASFA filers and the 2014-15 Unit Record
- CBS Eligible Students Receiving Additional State Funding such as Opportunity Scholarships or Passport to College Scholarships
- Elimination of State Need Grant (SNG) Transfer Fund
- Change to Current Year SNG Receivables
- New CSAW to be released in December 2015
- State Work Study (SWS) Information
- College Bound Scholarship – Middle School Sign-up Success Story
- WSAC Connections - Who You Gonna Call?
- Feedback & How to Subscribe or Unsubscribe

SNG, CBS, and Passport to College Awarding Information for 2015-16

- **Until the 2015-16 program manuals are available, please use:**
  - 2014-15 program manuals http://www.wsac.wa.gov/FAA-resources
- **July 2, 2015 "Additional 2015-16 State Aid Program Guidance" email which includes:**
  - Requirement for 100% coordination of SNG and CBS awards
  - 2015-16 Maximum State Need Grant Award Amounts
  - 2015-16 Maximum College Bound Scholarship Award Amounts
  - 2015-16 Median Family Income (MFI) Chart

  For the full version, click here.
- **Passport to College Scholarship awards are at the same level as for the 2014-15 year. Therefore please refer to the 2014-15 Passport to College Program Manual for program details.**
- **Required changes to Self-Help Requirements for State Need Grant/College Bound Scholarship/Passport to College Programs:**
  - State Need Grant self-help requirement is not to be used for College Bound Scholarship students.
  - Apply self-help rules only to SNG and/or Passport students without CBS awards. In addition:
    - "At Home" students may have a 12% of Cost of Attendance requirement (your option).
    - SBCTC Opportunity Grants and Education & Training Vouchers (ETV) are now considered forms of self-help.
    - Institutions with COA budgets of 25% less than WFAA approved budgets may be considered to have met the self-help requirement for SNG (if this applies, contact WSAC for final approval).
- **State Financial Aid for DREAMers with DACA Status**
  - As of July 31, 2015, State Need Grant and the College Bound Scholarship are available to students who have Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) status.
  - Students with DACA status must:
    - Meet the same residency requirements as U.S. citizen (typically parents living in the state for one year prior to college).
    - Provide DACA documentation (I-797 form) to either the financial aid office or the residency officer.
  - Eligibility for College Bound Scholarship still restricted to those who successfully applied in 7th or 8th grade. Beginning next week, the Cruncher will include WASFA data. Please watch for an email from Carissa that will include more details.

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Upcoming Important Dates to Remember:

- **Pave the Way Conference in Tacoma, October 5 & 6**
  For more details about the conference see: www.wsac.wa.gov/2015pavetheway
- **2014-15 Unit Record Report submission due October 9**
- **WSAC Update at fall WFAA conference in Tacoma, October 16**
- **Fall Interim Reports for SNG and CBS due November 6**

WASFA filers and the 2014-15 Unit Record Report (URR):

Students who submitted the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) forms in 2014-15 and received any need-based financial aid must be reported in the 2014-15 URR. Where required FAFSA data is not available, WASFA data must be provided in lieu of FAFSA for these students. This applies mainly to DREAMers who may be receiving State Need Grants.

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CBS Eligible Students Receiving Additional State Funding such as Opportunity Scholarships or Passport to College Scholarships:

Eligible CBS students must first be awarded all other state grants or scholarships for which they are eligible. This includes the following programs:

- State Need Grants (all CBS students must receive in 2015-16 and beyond)
- Washington State Opportunity Scholarships (administered by the College Success Foundation)
- Passport to College Promise Scholarships (for current and former foster youth)
- SBCTC Opportunity Grant (administered by WA State Board for Community and Technical Colleges)
- American Indian Endowed Scholarship (administered by WSAC)

For an eligible CBS student who receives such state aid in addition to a State Need Grant, that combination of aid will almost always exceed the maximum amount that a CBS student would receive if there was actual CBS funding in the student's award package. In situations like this, it is to the student's benefit to receive State Need Grant funding and the other state aid without College Bound Scholarship funding.

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Elimination of State Need Grant (SNG) Transfer Fund:

Transfer funds will no longer be held aside for separate consideration. Transfer funds will be distributed using the SNG "fair-share" distribution model beginning in 2015-16.

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Change to Current Year SNG Receivables:

All repayment funds that are collected by WSAC during the 2015-16 year will go back to the SNG general allocation and will not be returned to the institution's allocation. Funds collected by the institution for current year receivables still must be redistributed to students.

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New CSAW to be released in December 2015

WSAC staff continue work on an improved version of CSAW in the WSAC Portal, with an anticipated release in December 2015. Improvements include the ability to include Passport to College Scholarship awards in the upload file, a more intuitive payment request screen, and a revamped summary of account status. Until that time all Passport awards must be handled in the same way described in the 2014-15 Passport to College Scholarship Program Manual.

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State Work Study (SWS) Information

- **Program Manuals:**

  The 2015-16 SWS program manual now is electronic only, allowing for real-time updates during the year, significant savings in print and mail costs, and waste reduction. You will find the manual in PDF format by clicking this link.

  To quickly and easily search for a topic, press the "**Ctrl**" and "**F**" keys simultaneously on your keyboard ("**Ctrl+F**"). A search box will open in the upper left corner of your screen. Type in the word or term you are looking for, and you'll be directed to all occurrences located within the manual.

- **Allocations:**

  A final 2015-17 biennial budget, which maintains current SWS funding levels and policies, has been passed and is now law. The 2015-16 SWS appropriation remains at $7.8 million. Allocations are based on the institution's calculated percentage of available program resources as adjusted by historical utilization performance.

  Initial allocation notices for 2015-16 were emailed to institutions earlier this summer. Initial allocations represented approximately 75% of an estimated final allocation amount for 2015-16. Allocations were finalized once 2014-15 SWS activity was fully complete, and final allocations were emailed to institutions in mid-August.

  Please note that significant opportunities to redistribute SWS funds throughout 2015-16 are not anticipated.

- **Employer Match Rates:**

  Employer types, associated maximum reimbursement, and minimum match rates for 2015-16 will remain at 2014-15 levels. Institutions must apply appropriate minimum matching rates/maximum employer reimbursement rates per employer type as described below:

  - **For-Profit Employers** equal 40% maximum SWS program reimbursement/60% minimum employer match contribution.
  - **Public/Private Institutions/Governmental Agencies: City, County, State, Federal** equal 60% maximum SWS program reimbursement/40% minimum employer match contribution.
  - **Non-Profit Community Service Providers/School Districts/STEM (businesses whose primary business activity is in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics** equal 70% maximum SWS program reimbursement/30% minimum employer match contribution.

  Beginning in May 2015, SWS contract renewal instructions were mailed to all employers with active 2014-15 contracts in the portal. All employers must have approved and active 2015-16 SWS contracts and job descriptions prior to students earning SWS dollars between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016.

- **Seattle Minimum Wage:**

  SWS comparability rules require that SWS student employees are paid comparably to what a non-student would earn in the same position. When local laws require a higher minimum wage, the minimum wage for SWS students must be aligned with the local minimum in order to maintain comparability.

  Effective April 1, 2015, a City of Seattle ordinance set the minimum wage for Seattle-based employees at $11 per hour. As a result, all Seattle-based, on- and off-campus SWS-funded positions must be paid at a minimum of $11 per hour for hours worked on or after April 1, 2015.

  The ordinance also requires annual increases to the Seattle minimum wage through the year 2021, raising the city minimum to $15 an hour by that point in time. Effective January 1, 2016, the minimum wage for Seattle-based employers will again increase:

  - For employers with less than 500 employees, the minimum will increase to $12 per hour.
  - For employers with 500 employees or more, the minimum will increase to $13 per hour.

  WSAC expects all Seattle-based employers to ensure comparability of SWS wages and to align minimum SWS pay rates with any new minimums as required by the ordinance for non-student employees.

  WSAC encourages all participating institutions to work directly with their Seattle-based employers to revise affected job descriptions to ensure compliance with SWS wage comparability rules. To assist institutions with this requirement, WSAC communicated this guidance to Seattle-based employers with contracts as of March 2015.

  Please note:
  - For private institutions participating in SWS, WSAC will not process Seattle-based employer reimbursements if the hourly wage is less than the proscribed minimum for the employer in question.
  - For public institutions participating in SWS, SWS pay rates are subject to audit.

- **Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA):**

  Students completing the WASFA may be eligible for SWS. If the student can work legally in the United States as a result of participation in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, can demonstrate residency and need via the WASFA, and meets all other SWS eligibility criteria, the student would be eligible for SWS.

- **Other Policy Reminders:**
  - Non-resident students remain ineligible for SWS in 2015-16.
  - SWS earnings do not meet the federal definition of the type of income that can be excluded from income benefit calculations for federally-funded assistance programs, due to the loss of Federal Title IV funding formerly incorporated into the SWS program.

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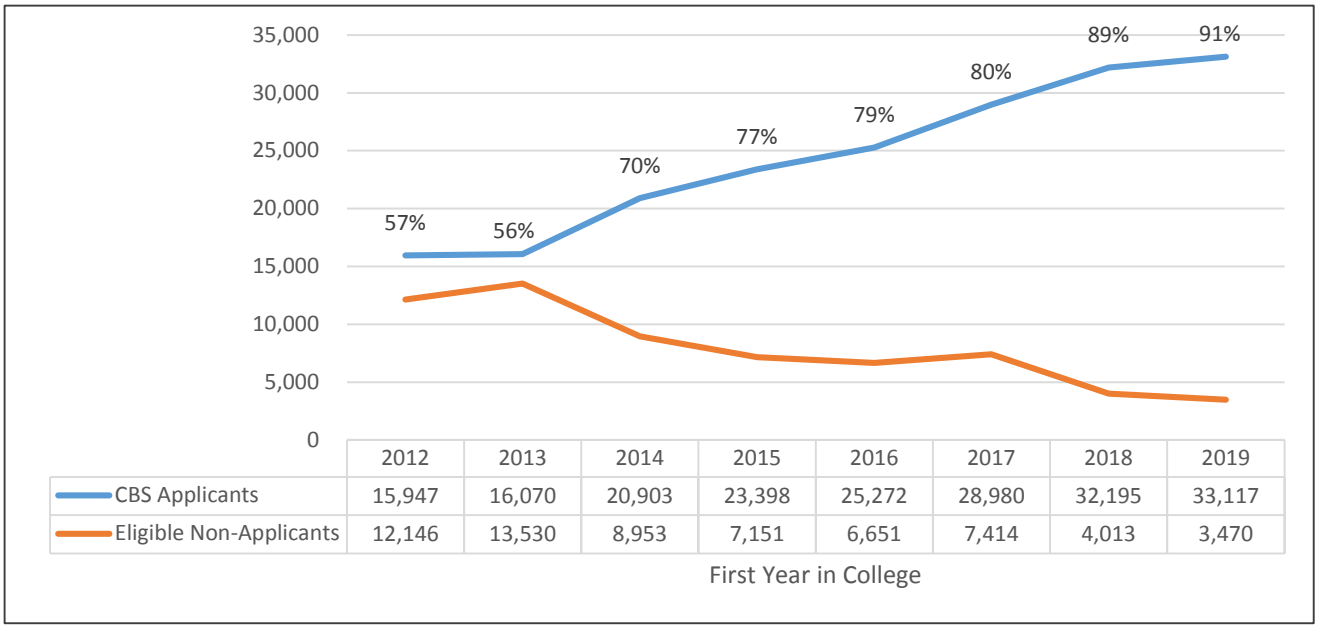
College Bound Scholarship – Middle School Sign-Up Success Story:

It is often said by those who work in the middle schools that the process of signing up eligible students is a simple one, but not an easy one. To be considered complete, the College Bound application must have two signatures (parent and student) and the income qualification box must be checked. Simple, right? Yes, but not easy. It takes creativity and determination on the counselor's part to track down the students and their parents, which makes the number of students who have signed up impressive.

In the academic year 2014-15, 91 percent (about 33,000 students) of the eligible 8th graders, submitted complete applications. In recognition of the hard work that it took to accomplish this, Governor Inslee recognized the district superintendents that surpassed the state average with a Gold Star Award and a letter from him congratulating them on their achievement. More than 100 districts (there are 295 school districts in Washington) earned this award, and, of those, nearly half signed up 100 percent of their eligible students.

In addition to recognizing the districts and superintendents, Washington Student Achievement Council Executive Director Gene Sharratt, and Superintendent of Public Instruction, Randy Dorn, sent College Bound Champion certificates to those who were nominated by their peers for working to sign up students. To date, over 214,000 students have applied since the program began in 2007—a feat that was not easy!

College Bound Scholarship Pipeline



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WSAC Connections – Who You Gonna Call?

SFA Office of the Director			
Becky Thompson, *Director of Student Financial Assistance*		360-753-7840	beckyt@wsac.wa.gov
Colleen Scovill, *Admin. Coordinator*	360-753-7850	colleens@wsac.wa.gov	
Toll Free Number - Student referral line	1-888-535-0747	finaid@wsac.wa.gov	(refer to program mailboxes)
Need-Based Programs			
State Need Grant/College Bound Programs (SNG/CBS)			
Carissa Glassburn, *Assistant Director*	360-753-7841	carissag@wsac.wa.gov	sng@wsac.wa.gov
Victor Fernandez, *Program Specialist*	360-753-7623	victorf@wsac.wa.gov	sng@wsac.wa.gov
Gray Sterling, *Program Coordinator*	360-753-7784	grays@wsac.wa.gov	sng@wsac.wa.gov
State Work Study Program (SWS)			
Jeffrey Powell, *Program Administrator*	360-753-7621	jeffreyp@wsac.wa.gov	sws@wsac.wa.gov
Marlena Rae Robbins, *Program Associate*	360-753-7861	marlenar@wsac.wa.gov	sws@wsac.wa.gov
Jaclyn Molloy, *Program Coordinator*	360-753-7848	jaclynm@wsac.wa.gov	sws@wsac.wa.gov
Passport to College (PTC)			
Dawn Cypriano-McAferty, *Program Manager*	360-753-7846	dawnc@wsac.wa.gov	passporttocollege@wsac.wa.gov
Receivables – SNG, CBS, PTC			
Kerri Chaput, *Receivables Coordinator*	360-753-7632	kerric@wsac.wa.gov	sng@wsac.wa.gov
Merit-Based Programs			
American Indian Endowed Scholarship (AIES)			
Ann Voyles, *Program Associate*	360-753-7843	annv@wsac.wa.gov	aies@wsac.wa.gov
Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) or Washington Scholars (wascholars@wsac.wa.gov)			
Ann Voyles, *Program Associate*	360-753-7843	annv@wsac.wa.gov	wave@wsac.wa.gov
Mary Knutson, *Program Manager*	360-753-7845	maryk@wsac.wa.gov	wave@wsac.wa.gov
Conditional Workforce Programs			
Conditional Workforce Programs			
Carla Idohl-Corwin, *Associate Director*	360-753-7847	carlai@wsac.wa.gov	
Aerospace Loan Program (ALP)			
Chris Wilkins, *Program Manager*	360-753-7794	chrisw@wsac.wa.gov	alp@wsac.wa.gov
Alternative Routes to Teaching (ALT)			
Mary Knutson, *Program Manager*	360-753-7845	maryk@wsac.wa.gov	alt@wsac.wa.gov
Health Professional Loan Repayment & Scholarship Program			
Chris Wilkins, *Program Manager*	360-753-7794	chrisw@wsac.wa.gov	health@wsac.wa.gov
John R. Justice State Loan Repayment Program			
Chris Wilkins, *Program Manager*	360-753-7794	chrisw@wsac.wa.gov	jrjustice@wsac.wa.gov
Workforce Program Support			
Lino Leiataua, *Interim Program Assistant*	360-753-7793	linol@wsac.wa.gov	
Receivables – Targeted Workforce Programs			
Kerri Chaput, *Receivables Coordinator*	360-753-7632	kerric@wsac.wa.gov	repayment@wsac.wa.gov
Institutional Grants			
Child Care Matching Grant Program for 4-Year Public Institutions			
Mary Knutson, *Program Manager*	360-753-7845	maryk@wsac.wa.gov	fut@wsac.wa.gov
WA Supplemental College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)			
Mary Knutson, *Program Manager*	360-753-7845	maryk@wsac.wa.gov	fut@wsac.wa.gov
Other Administrative			
Institutional Agreement to Participate			
Jeffrey Powell, *Program Administrator*	360-753-7521	jeffreyp@wsac.wa.gov	
Institutional Training & Compliance, Data & Research			
Steve Thorndill, *Associate Director for Training & Compliance*		360-753-7851	stevet@wsac.wa.gov
theWashBoard.org			
Victor Fernandez, *Program Specialist*	360-753-7623	victorf@wsac.wa.gov	info@thewashboard.org
Unit Record Report			
Steve Thorndill, *Training & Compliance*	360-753-7851	stevet@wsac.wa.gov	unitrecord@wsac.wa.gov
Ann Voyles, *Program Associate*	360-753-7843	annv@wsac.wa.gov	unitrecord@wsac.wa.gov

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Feedback:

We are interested in receiving your feedback, comments, and suggestions so that we constantly improve future issues of the SFA Partner to better meet your needs and the needs of the students we both serve. Please email us at finaid@wsac.wa.gov and let us know what you think!

To Subscribe or Unsubscribe – that is the Question:

Follow this link to Subscribe or Unsubscribe to the WSAC SFA Partner.

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