



"I am able to have a college experience and make something out of myself. I'm so appreciative."

"This program taught me to grow up, taught me responsibilities, and most of all that you believe in your students."

 Passport Recipients



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In 2007, Washington created the Passport to College Promise Scholarship program to provide higher education opportunities to youth and alumni of foster care.

Passport provides foster youth with assistance in preparing for college and specialized support services from college staff. Students receive a scholarship that helps cover the cost of attending college (tuition, fees, books, housing, transportation, and some personal expenses), and recipients get priority consideration for State Need Grant.

Institutions can also receive incentive grants to enhance and target support services to foster youth.

| Passport Students by Sector | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Sector | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |
| Research | 22 | 36 | 43 | 46 | 46 |
| Public 4-Year | 42 | 47 | 54 | 54 | 54 |
| Private 4-Year | 22 | 28 | 32 | 25 | 27 |
| Comm. & Tech. | 297 | 261 | 271 | 259 | 243 |
| Private Career | 6 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 4 |
| Total | 388 | 373 | 404 | 396 | 374 |

Source: Washington Student Achievement Council

DATA EXCHANGE

A groundbreaking data exchange was developed between the Washington Student Achievement Council, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), and colleges. In 2013-14, nearly 1,900 records were reviewed by DSHS and, of those, 222 students were determined eligible.

VIABLE PLAN

Intensive support services on college campuses assist student retention rates and postsecondary success. Currently, 50 institutions are participating in the "viable plan" to offer these support services. Colleges provide direct services, such as emergency funding, tutoring, meals, incentives for meeting academic goals, housing, school supplies, counseling, and transportation assistance.



BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

The Passport to College Promise Scholarship program helps students from foster care prepare for and succeed in college. In the

2014-15 academic year, the program served 374 students.

Without significant intervention, fewer than two percent of foster youth are likely to attain a bachelor's degree.



BENEFITS TO THE STATE

A college education can improve lifelong outcomes for this disadvantaged population, helping them become productive and contributing adults in their communities.

Passport also provides the first opportunity to obtain verifiable baseline data on foster youth aspirations and performance in postsecondary education in Washington.

PROGRAM FUNDING

The maximum Passport award is evaluated each year based on available funds and projected enrollments. The award was \$6,700 in 2008-09, but was reduced to \$3,000 for the next three years. In 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15 the award was \$4,500.

Students received \$1,318,000 in scholarship funds in 2014-15. In addition, institutions received \$423,000 to provide enhanced support services to Passport eligible students.

The College Success Foundation also received \$500,000 to provide student intervention, campus support, and community integration services.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Student and parent information about Passport can be found at www.readysetgrad.org/college/passport-foster-youth-promise-program.

"My whole family has been under the strain of debt all their lives and I'm trying to change that by avoiding things like student loans."

"Everyone is being hit hard financially so every penny helps us to better our lives. We appreciate all of the time, energy, and money that goes toward our futures."

Passport Recipients



Washington's student financial aid programs are known collectively as Opportunity Pathways.

The Washington Student Achievement Council administers these programs, helping tens of thousands of students earn college certificates and degrees annually.