



CONTACT:

Maddy Thompson
Director of Policy and Government Relations
maddyt@wsac.wa.gov
360-753-7635

BACKGROUND

The College Bound Scholarship is an early commitment of state funding intended to improve high school graduation, college enrollment and completion rates for low-income students.

The program is intended to alleviate the financial barriers that may prevent low-income students from considering the possibility of a higher education.

Eligible students, typically those who are eligible for free and reduced price lunch, apply in 7th or 8th grade. They pledge to graduate from high school with a 2.0 GPA or higher, to not be convicted of a felony, and to file the FAFSA or WASFA senior year to determine their income eligibility.

The scholarship combines with State Need Grant and other state aid to cover the cost of average tuition (at comparable public college rates), some fees, and a small book allowance.



FUNDING

The Legislature provided \$45 million in funding for the 2017-19 biennium.

PARTNERSHIPS

The program works collaboratively with the K-12 system, state agencies, non-profit organizations and regional college access groups to assist students and families with the sign-up process and filing the FAFSA or WASFA.

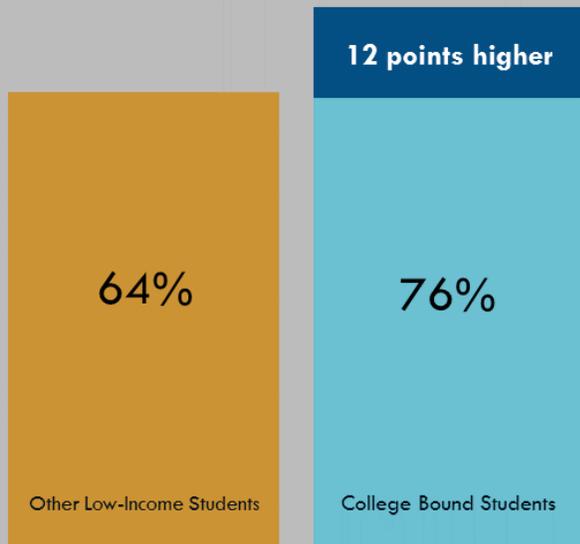
The Washington College Access Network, under the College Success Foundation's umbrella, supports College Bound Regional Officers who work with districts and schools on designing and implementing College Bound outreach and support strategies.

"Since applying for the scholarship, my future is brighter. After looking at all the schools I could attend, I am really excited about college. The College Bound Scholarship has and will open doors for me."



2016 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

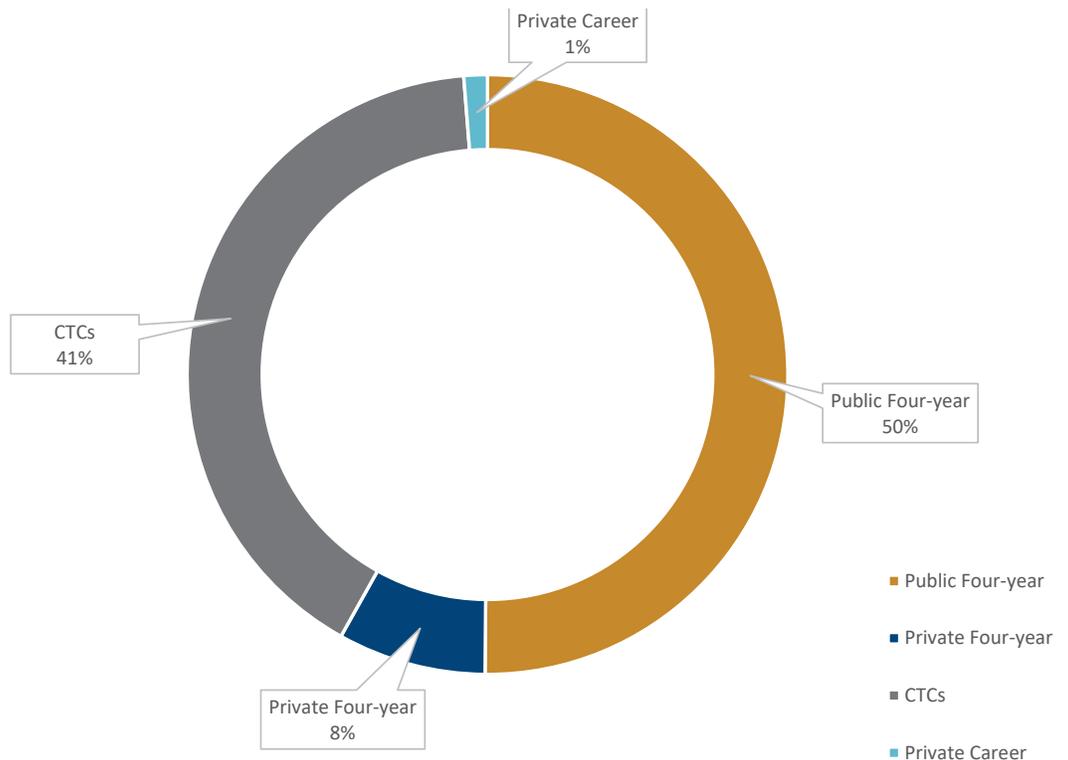
79% = Statewide HS Graduation Rate



Since 2012, CBS students have consistently graduated at rates at least 10 points higher than low-income students who didn't sign up for the scholarship.

Source: OSPI staff analysis of WSAC CBS Applicant Data.

The total number of College Bound Scholarship recipients enrolled in postsecondary education is **15,995**, with more recipients attending four-year institutions than anticipated.



Source: WSAC Interim Report, 2016-17

NOTE: This overall number is representative of the number of students in eligible Washington institutions receiving College Bound Scholarship funds. It does not count eligible students who were funded by other means, or attending college out of state or at an ineligible Washington institution. This is an unduplicated total count, meaning not all enrollments are counted; rather, an individual enrolled in multiple institutions is counted once.