



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

State Work Study

OVERVIEW

Washington's State Work Study (SWS) program partners with nearly 700 employers and 54 nonprofit institutions to provide financial aid for low- and middle-income students. Qualifying students get an approved job, on- or off-campus, to support their education. Work study builds students' skills, increases their earnings, and reduces reliance on student loans.

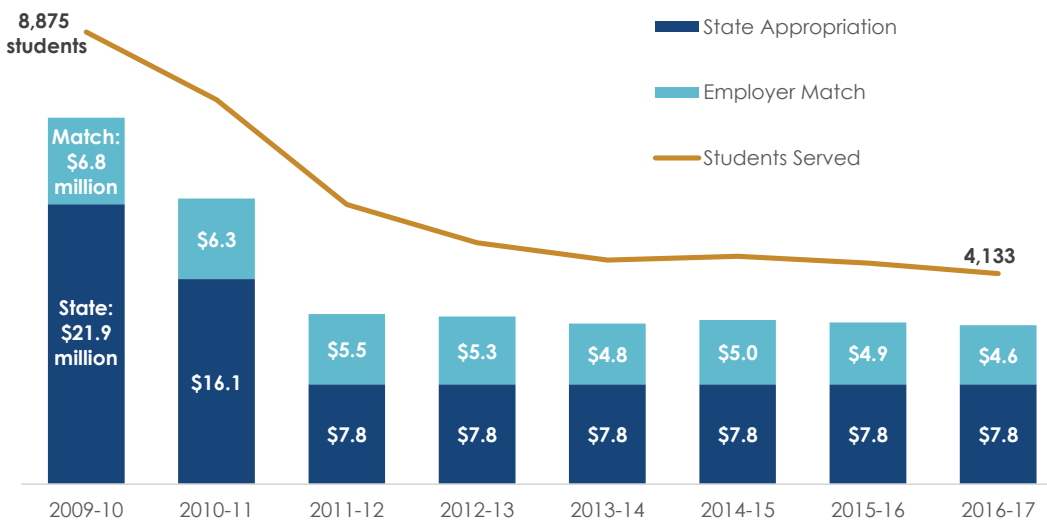
The state contributes to the wages of work study employees, so participating employers benefit from educated, motivated workers at a lower cost. Work study contributes to economic growth by creating jobs and adding experienced, high-skilled college graduates to the state's workforce. Many employers hire work study employees permanently after graduation.

In 2016-17, nearly **4,200 students earned more than \$11.9 million** in SWS wages.

SWS employers matched state appropriations by an average of 40%, leveraging more than \$4.6 million in additional student earnings and enabling some 1,600 more eligible students to earn while they learn.

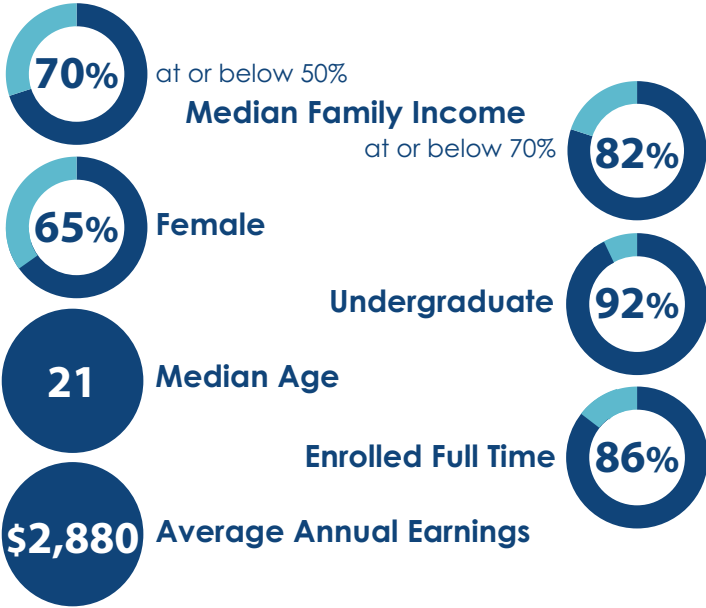
“It's really hard for new graduates to get jobs if they don't have practical experience that sets them apart from all other applicants vying for limited employment opportunities. Through my State Work Study position in the information technology area, I am developing a range of skills while in school that I believe will give me a lot more choices in my career path once I've graduated.”

HISTORICAL FUNDING & SERVICE LEVELS



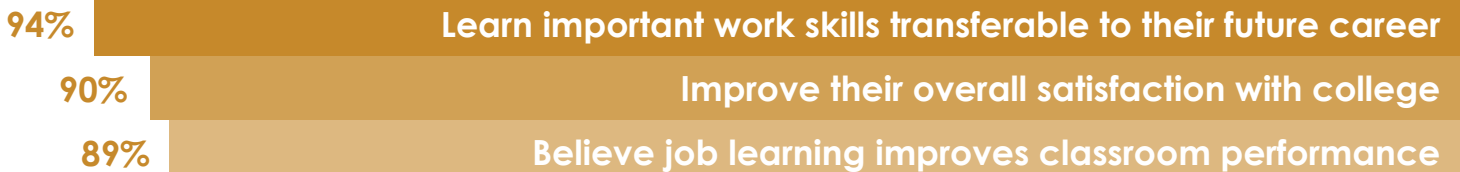
Currently funded at \$7.8 million annually, **SWS in 2017-18 is less than half its 2009 size** and serves 4,700 fewer students per year.

STATE WORK STUDY STUDENT PROFILE

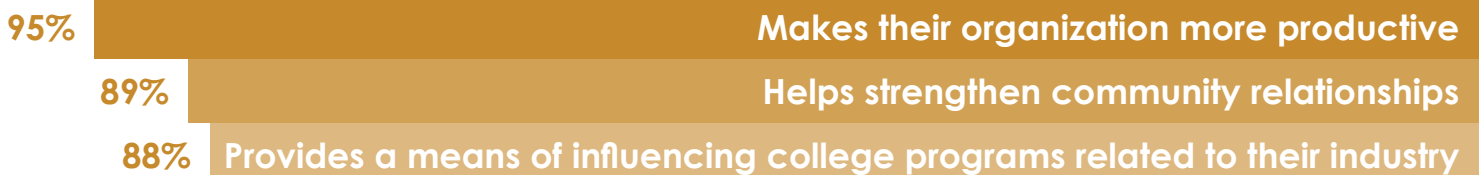


2016 SWS SURVEY RESULTS

Students benefit from work study jobs:



Participating employers praise the State Work Study program:



Employers say work study employees learn important workplace skills:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Oral communication | Time management |
| Working independently | Punctuality |
| Teamwork | Organization |
| Problem solving | Customer service |
| Written communication | Professional appearance |
| Technology & data | Project management |

“ Without State Work Study, our business would not have made nearly the progress, or been able to sustain the level of growth, especially in this difficult economic environment. Many of the students we’ve helped train over the years have been hired as full-time employees after graduation. SWS is a win-win for both employers and students. ”