

1. **Question:** What is the College Bound Scholarship (CBS)?

Answer: CBS is an early commitment of state funding created to improve high school graduation and college enrollment rates for low-income students. It encourages students who might not otherwise consider college because of the cost to dream big and continue their education beyond high school.

2. **Question:** Who is eligible to apply?

Answer: 7th and 8th grade students whose families meet the income requirements or receive basic food/TANF benefits are eligible to apply. Students in foster care are also eligible.* Students must apply by June 30 of their 8th grade year.

*Note: Foster youth in 7th to 12th grade, up to age 21, who have not graduated from high school, are automatically enrolled. Their application is completed via a data exchange between the Washington Student Achievement Council and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS).

3. **Question:** What is the College Bound pledge?

Answer: When students complete a College Bound Scholarship application, they promise to:

- Graduate from a Washington high school or approved Washington homeschool program with a 2.0 GPA or higher.
- Not be convicted of a felony.
- Apply to an eligible college and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) to determine income eligibility.

4. **Question:** What are the requirements to receive and retain the scholarship?

Answer: Recipients must:

- Graduate from a Washington State high school or approved Washington homeschool program; GEDs do not qualify.
- File the FAFSA or WASFA each year they are in college to determine income eligibility, which is 65 percent of median family income (adjusted gross income plus nontaxable income). In 2016-17, the maximum income for a family of four is \$55,500.
- Enroll in college within one year of high school graduation.
- Use the scholarship within five years of high school graduation. (College Bound is a four-year scholarship.)
- Be a United States citizen or eligible non-citizen with proper documentation. Students with DACA status who meet residency requirements may receive CBS.
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), as defined by their college or university.

5. **Question:** How much is a CBS award?

Answer: CBS will combine with other state financial aid to cover tuition (at comparable public college rates), some fees, and a small book allowance. Thus, the specific amount will vary based on the college and the types of state financial aid that the student is eligible for. However, the College Bound commitment is that the costs mentioned above will be covered.

6. **Question:** Where can students use the scholarship?

Answer: Students may earn an approved certificate or degree at any of Washington's eligible institutions, including public community and technical colleges, public four-year colleges and universities, independent colleges and universities, and private career colleges. A complete list of eligible institutions can be found on readyssetgrad.org.

7. **Question:** What is the funding for the scholarship?

Answer: The Legislature provided \$61.5 million in the 2015-17 biennium.

8. **Question:** How many students have applied for the program?

Answer: More than 247,000 students have completed an application since the program's inception.

9. **Question:** How many students are currently receiving the scholarship?

Answer: More than 14,600 students received College Bound in 2015-16.

10. **Question:** Where did College Bound recipients attend college?

Answer: Fifty-eight percent attended Washington public and private four-year institutions, and forty-one percent attended public two-year colleges in 2015-16.

11. **Question:** Do College Bound students graduate high school at higher rates?

Answer: Since the first CBS cohort graduated from high school in 2012, College Bound students have graduated at rates that are at least ten percentage points higher than their low-income peers who did not sign up for the program.

12. **Question:** Who are the partners that assist in signing up and supporting College Bound students?

Answer: The program works collaboratively with the K-12 system, state agencies, regional college access groups, and nonprofit organizations such as the Washington College Access Network to sign students up and support them as they move through middle and high school.