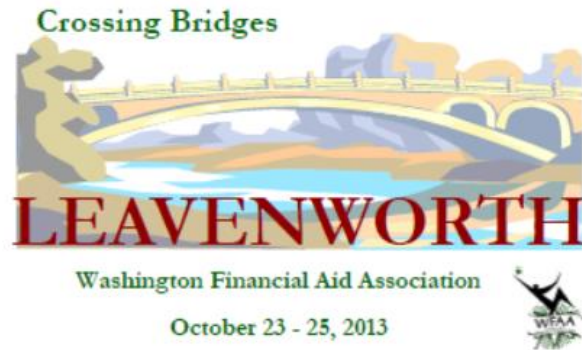




# WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL

EDUCATION › OPPORTUNITY › RESULTS



## College Bound Scholarship – A Review and What’s New

Presented by:

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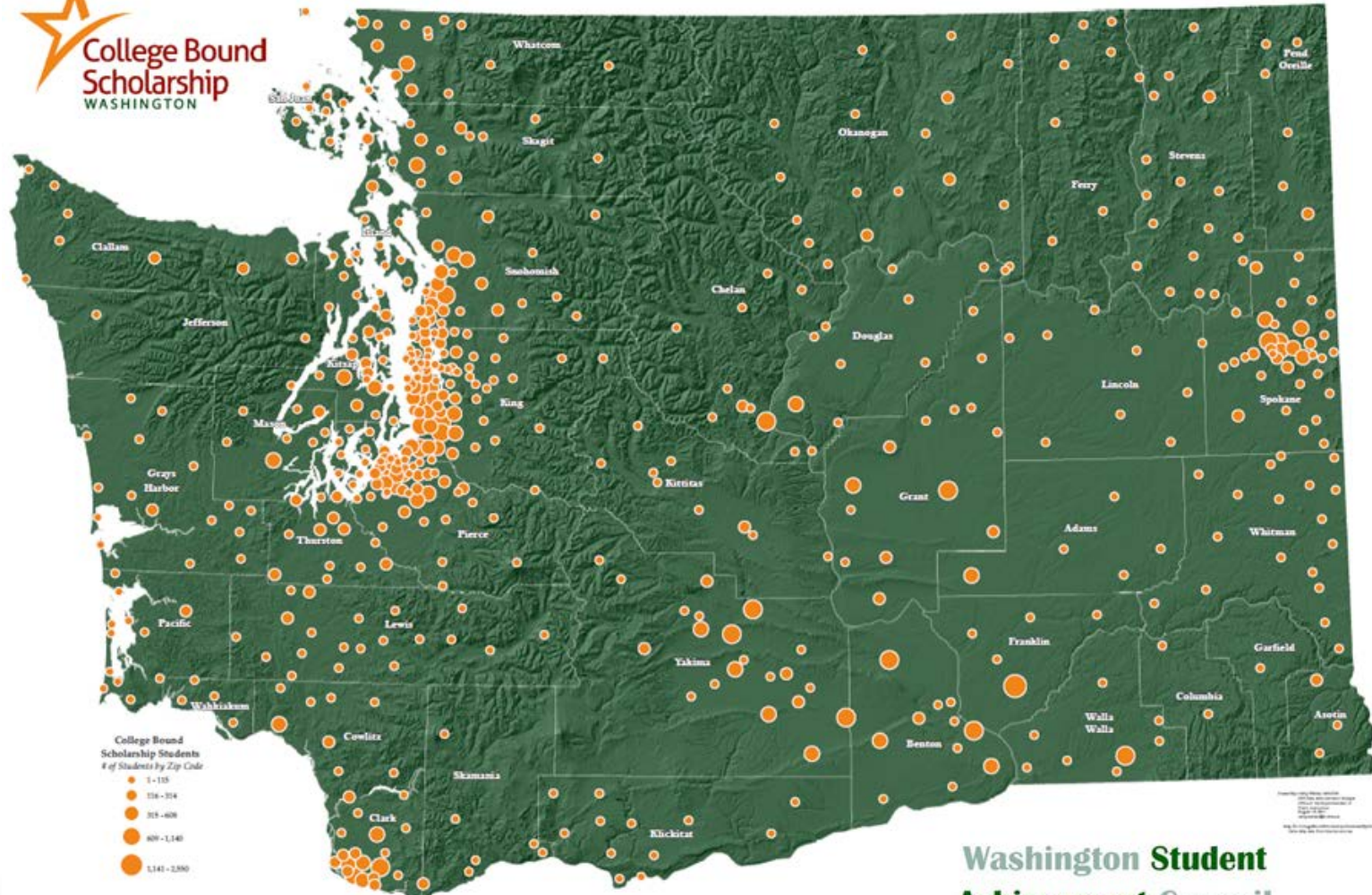
# Program Overview

# What is the College Bound Scholarship?

- Created in 2007, the Scholarship is an early commitment of state financial aid to eligible students who sign up in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade and fulfill the Pledge
- CBS encourages students who might not consider college, because of the cost, to **dream big** and continue their education beyond high school



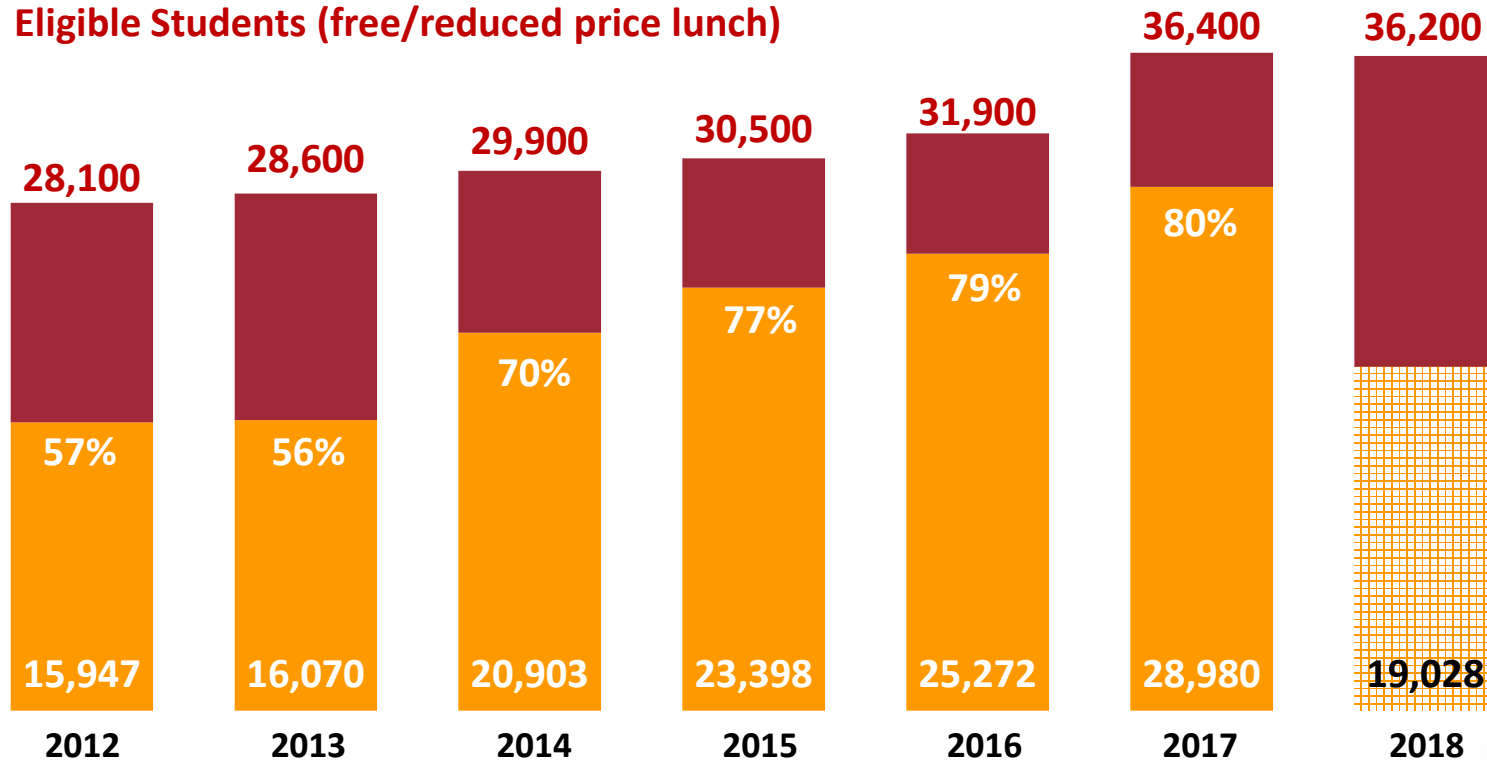
# College Bound Scholarship Students



# 152,000 youth dream big

■ CBS Applicants 2007 to 2013    ■ DID NOT APPLY

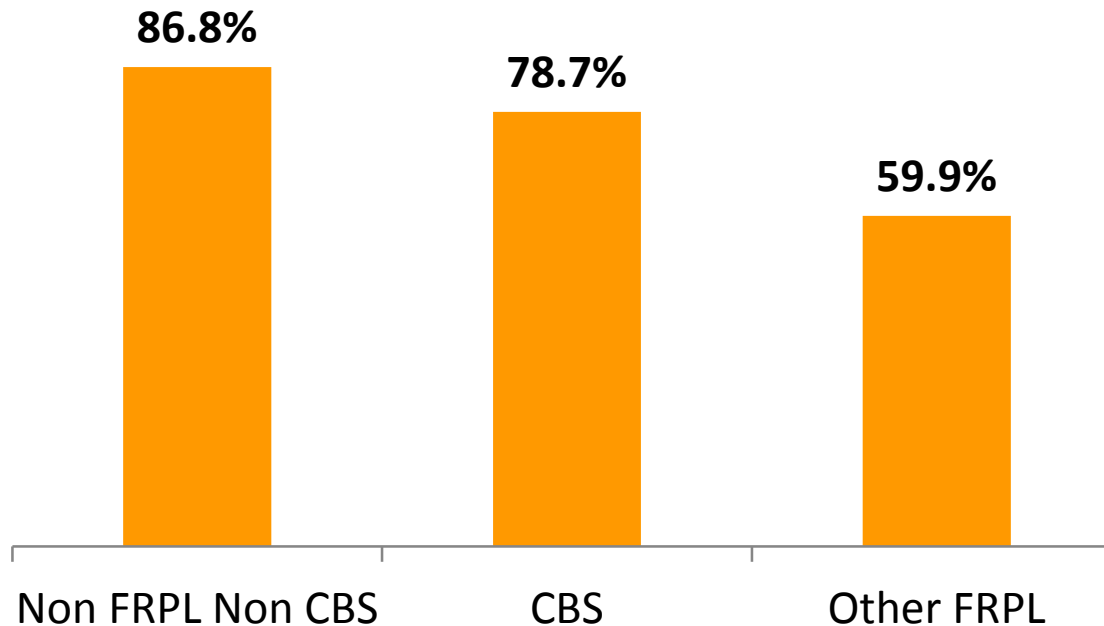
## Eligible Students (free/reduced price lunch)



- Nearly 152,000 applications received to date.
- The sign-up rate has risen 23% in five years.

# CBS high school graduation rates are strong

- Students not eligible for Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL) who did not apply for the College Bound Scholarship have the highest graduation rate (2012).
- The rate for CBS students is **19 percentage points higher** than their low-income peers who did not apply.



# College Bound Eligibility

Students must meet the following criteria:

- Valid CBS application on file with WSAC
- Graduate high school with a 2.0 GPA
- Be a good citizen with no felony convictions
- Enroll in college within one year of HS graduation
  - Example: Scholarship expires in 2018 for class of 2013





# College Bound Eligibility (cont.)

- Four-year scholarship (12 qtrs./8 semesters) for undergraduate students
- Must maintain college's Satisfactory Academic Progress
- Must file the FAFSA
  - 65% of median family income
- If students are ineligible one year (income/citizenship), eligibility will be re-evaluated in subsequent years
- May enroll part-time – enrollment does not have to be continuous



# College Bound Eligibility (cont.)

- Four year scholarship
  - Cannot exceed 12 quarters or 8 semesters
- Must maintain college's Satisfactory Academic Progress
- Must file the FAFSA
  - 65% of Median Family Income
- Students can come in and out of eligibility
  - Income fluctuations from year-to-year
  - SAP issues
- May enroll part-time
  - No minimum enrollment to meet the requirement to enroll within one year of high school graduation
  - Awards prorated for part-time students

# Points to Remember

- Follows most State Need Grant regulations
  - Second AA, undergraduate, repayment
    - See SNG Program Manual for details
- SNG regulation exceptions
  - CBS counts as form of self-help
  - MFI is capped at 65%, not 70%
  - QER is limited to 12 quarters/8 semesters

# Points to Remember

- The Promise - State Financial Aid will cover tuition
  - The College Bound Scholarship will combine with other state financial aid you receive to cover the average tuition (at comparable public college rates) some fees, and a small book allowance.
- CBS portion of the award must be awarded if the student is eligible
- FAFSA Filing
  - February 1 is the publicized FAFSA priority filing date, however, students can file at any time and still received their award
  - FAFSA filing campaign continues by College Goal Washington, CSF, and others

# Points to Remember

- Citizenship
  - U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen follows FAFSA guidelines
  - Will need a SSN to file the FAFSA
- Other Aid Needed to Cover Non-tuition Items
  - Students and families are encouraged to apply for other scholarships, e.g. create a student profile on [thewashboard.org](http://thewashboard.org)
  - Families may be unaware that they may need to take out loans



# Awarding the Scholarship



# Prioritization Requirement



New budget language in the 2013 Legislative session directs CBS students that apply in a timely manner to be prioritized for SNG

- Helps enforce original intent of the scholarship to fill the 'gap' between SNG and tuition and fees
- Colleges must award CBS (and SNG if available) to students at the time the student is packaged for all other aid
  - New eligibility guidance and changes to CBS Cruncher



# Prioritization Requirement



- Colleges must offer a full SNG award to CBS students
  - In cases where student applied timely and SNG funds are available
  - Full SNG awards up to 65% MFI
  - No prioritization to lower income categories
    - Colleges that prioritize lower income categories for SNG need to treat CBS students outside of those policies
  - Cannot reduce SNG by use of gift equity





# Populating the Cruncher

- Council staff match CBS applications to FAFSA daily
  - Matches for the upcoming fiscal year begin in January
  - Students receive a match confirmation email from WSAC
  - All CBS applicants with a FAFSA are added to the cruncher
- OSPI data from junior year of high school determines initial eligibility status
- Students not included in the OSPI match will need to be otherwise verified by the campus before awarding
  - Student didn't sign information release
  - Homeschool students



# Cruncher Adjustments

Due to the new SNG prioritization requirement, changes will be made to the CBS Cruncher:

- Gives campuses permission to award before final graduation data is confirmed
  - Few students that are on track to graduate end up being not OK to Pay
- OK to Award and OK to Pay will become one column labeled “PAY”
- Colleges will award and initially pay all students who are on track for meeting the high school graduation requirements based on preliminary OSPI data
  - 2.0 or better

# Cruncher Adjustments (cont.)

- Cruncher records will continually update as final graduation data is received
  - OSPI data via WSAC data matches – through November
  - Transcript provided by student to WSAC
  - Campus updates Cruncher record for student
    - Transcript received by aid administrator
    - Coordination with admissions to confirm HS graduation requirements met



# Cruncher Adjustments (cont.)

WSAC IT and program staff are still working on Cruncher enhancements:

- Combining eligibility indicator columns
- Determine new wording for Pay column statuses
- Providing a method for campuses to identify which students have status changes
- Better documenting history of status changes
- Modifying CSAW interim report edits to incorporate potential eligibility shifts



# Crunch, Crunch, Crunch!

- Campuses can begin crunching and awarding in January for the new academic year
- Inclusion of CBS on award letters is recommended
  - **Caveat that awards contingent on meeting eligibility requirements**
- Cruncher results convey ineligibility for students that match but are ineligible
  - Did not meet graduation requirements
  - Maxed out on QER
  - Did not meet 1 year college enrollment window
    - WSAC will begin matching with Clearinghouse data
  - Five-year eligibility window has passed
- After initial 'crunch' campuses should continue to crunch frequently

# Confirming Payment Eligibility

- Always check the Pay column in CBS Cruncher before disbursing funds to students
  - Similar to SNG archive check
- Reasons why the Pay column does not say YES
  - Did not meet graduation requirements
  - Graduation confirmation not yet received
  - Student did not sign information release
  - Student was homeschooled and therefore not included in OSPI data



# Overriding Cruncher Records

- Aid Administrators can update fields tied to high school requirements and one-year enrollment deadline
- Confirming 2.0 graduation requirement
  - Collect transcript from student
  - Coordinate with admissions office on campus
  - Students can fax transcripts to WSAC at (360) 704-6218
- Documenting home school completion/graduation
- Confirming enrollment in college within one year
  - Student may have been enrolled out of state
  - Student income may have exceeded 65% previous year



# Eligibility Beyond the Cruncher

Remember – the Cruncher does not determine income and other eligibility criteria!

- A student might have a YES in the Pay column, but ultimately be ineligible for CBS:
  - Family income above 65%
  - Student's total financial aid is greater than need
  - Student does not meet other SNG requirements such as residency or SAP
  - State promise of tuition and fees fulfilled via other state aid



# Payments and Reporting

Payments, cash requests, awards, and reporting functions run through CSAW

- Payment/Cash request process similar to SNG for all sectors
  - Located in CSAW
  - Request SNG and CBS simultaneously
- Individual student records managed from same screen in CSAW for SNG and CBS
- CBS is incorporated into SNG interim reporting
  - One file for SNG and CBS
  - All sectors began using CSAW in November 2012



# Sharing Best Practices

# Suggested Discussion

- Proposed solutions on notifying campuses of Cruncher changes
- What are the campus' most common questions from families?
- How did campus staff prepare to administer CBS and help families?
- What went well?
- What could be improved?

# CBS Contact Information

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**WSAC fax number for high school transcripts – 360-704-6218**