

WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL

2017 LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

2017-19 BIENNIUM OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (SSB 5883)

Legislators maintained a commitment to higher education affordability.

All dollar amounts are biennial.

Resident undergraduate tuition

2017-19 tuition follows the tuition policy put in statute in 2015 with the passage of the College Affordability Act (SB 5954) that directs increases in tuition in line with the increase in the median hourly wage. This will result in increases of 2.2 percent at public baccalaureates and 2 percent at the community and technical colleges.

Financial Aid

- **\$50 million** in additional funds provided for the State Need Grant (with \$105 million assumed over 4 years). This maintains current service levels, increases the award amounts for students attending four-year private non-profit schools to the award level of public research schools, and decreases the waiting list of eligible, unserved students by 875 students annually.
- **\$14.73 million** in state funding to match private donations for the Opportunity Scholarship program.
- **\$45 million** for expected caseload in the College Bound Scholarship.

Student Success

- **\$3 million** for the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) to expand the Guided Pathways initiative that directs students into *meta majors* to increase student success and program completion.
- **\$1.5 million** for SBCTC to expand the I-BEST program that integrates basic education with workforce programs and has been shown to improve student outcomes in terms of earnings and employment.
- **\$1 million** for Western Washington University to expand programs designed to increase graduation rates, such as advising and tutoring.

STEM

Expand medical education.

- **\$10 million** for Washington State University's (WSU) new medical school.
- **\$4.5 million** for the University of Washington's (UW) Regenerative Medicine Institute.
- **\$5 million** to continue the WWAMI Medical Education Program in Spokane.

Expand STEM programs.

- **\$2 million** to increase undergraduate enrollment in STEM programs by 60 student FTEs at UW.
- **\$1.5 million** for SBCTC to expand MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement) to serve 750 additional students.

Other Higher Education Funding

- **\$300,000** for SBCTC to provide higher education courses in Covington, per the recommendations of the study Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) and WICHE completed last year.
- **\$10 million** in state funding added to the College Affordability Program to adjust tuition backfill amounts for inflation.
- **\$4.2 million reduction** in state funding to the University of Washington and Washington State University. The institutions were directed to reduce the total amount of tuition waivers.
- **\$4.2 million reduction** to maintenance and operations of facilities across the higher education system. The costs will be shifted to institutions' local building accounts, increasing the cost shift from a long-standing policy that began in the early 2000s.

K-12

Major increases in funding to comply with the McCleary decision included:

- **\$222 million** for the Learning Assistance Program to support high-poverty schools.
- **\$1.1 billion** and **\$4.2 billion** increases over two biennia for K-12 salary allocations.
- **\$84 million** for vocational education enhancements.

BILLS PASSED IN 2017

Higher Education

SSB 5022 Providing information to students about education loans (Bailey)

SSB 5069 Providing associate degree education to enhance education opportunities and public safety (Walsh)

SSB 5100 Requiring live financial literacy seminars for students at institutions of higher education (Bailey)

2SSB 5285 Conducting a workforce study of employment opportunities in the agriculture, environment, and natural resources economic sectors intended to provide educators with the information needed for informing students about employment opportunities in the studied fields (Wilson)

SB 5631 Concerning the University of Washington's alternative process for awarding contracts (Becker)

SSB 5713 Creating the skilled worker outreach, recruitment, and key training program (Palumbo)

SB 5778 Modifying the definition of resident student to comply with the federal requirements established by the veterans access, choice, and accountability act of 2014 (Wilson)

SB 5826 Concerning eligibility for veteran or national guard tuition waivers (Hobbs)

HB 1107 Eliminating the term "branch" as an identifying factor for extensions of the public institutions of higher education (Haler)

SHB 1130 Making the customized training program permanent (Haler)

E2SHB 1375 Providing students at community and technical colleges with the costs of required course materials (VanWerven)

SHB 2037 Reauthorizing the work group concerned with removing obstacles for higher education students with disabilities (Frame)

SCR 8401 Approving the 2016 state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education

K-12 Education and High School Completion

ESB 5023 Delaying implementation of revisions to the school levy lid (Wellman)

2SSB 5107 Creating a local pathway for local governments, school districts, and nonprofit organizations to provide more high quality early learning opportunities by reducing barriers and increasing efficiency (Billig)

SSB 5142 Concerning educational interpreters (Kuderer)

ESB 5234 Requiring establishment of a system-wide credit policy regarding AP exams (Mullet)

SSB 5241 Concerning the educational success of youth in foster care (Carlyle)

2SSB 5258 Creating the Washington academic, innovation, and mentoring (AIM) program (Zeiger)

SB 5640 Concerning technical college diploma programs (Conway)

ESSB 5890 Concerning child welfare, foster care, and adoption support (O'Ban)

ESHB 1115 Concerning Paraeducators (Bergquist)

SHB 1444 Facilitating on-time grade level progression and graduation for certain students (Caldier)

HB 2224 Providing flexibility in high school graduation requirements and supporting student success during the transition to a federal every student succeeds act-compliant accountability system (MacEwan)

Early Learning

2E2SHB 1661 Creating the department of children, youth, and families (Kagi)

