

<b>Title</b>	<b>Legislative Summary</b>
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<b>Phone</b>	Maddy: 360.528.0921 Marc: 360.753.7862
<b>Synopsis</b>	Staff will provide a summary of the 2015 regular and special sessions of the Legislature.
<b>Guiding questions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Were WSAC priorities supported by the 2015 Governor and Legislature?</li> <li>2. What was the basis of the support, or lack of support, for various priorities?</li> <li>3. What work was assigned to WSAC for completion during the interim?</li> <li>4. What will be needed to further pursue WSAC priorities and meet education attainment goals?</li> </ol>
<b>Possible council action</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Adopt <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>Documents and attachments</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brief/Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint <input type="checkbox"/> Third-party materials <input type="checkbox"/> Other

## 2015 Legislative Update & Budget Review

### Council Action

None required. For discussion purposes only.

### Brief Description

Council members will review the higher education highlights of the 2015 regular and special legislative sessions. WSAC staff will provide a summary of major bills and budget items that are relevant to Washington's educational attainment goals and WSAC's administrative duties, and provide Council members with an assessment of the success of WSAC's 2015 legislative priorities.

### Overview

WSAC proposed, and the 2014 Legislature approved, educational attainment goals for Washington:

- By 2023, all adults, ages 25–44, will hold a high school diploma or equivalent; and
- By 2023, 70 percent of adults, ages 25–44, will complete a postsecondary certificate or degree.

WSAC's 2014 Strategic Action Plan outlined the critical next steps to meet Washington's educational attainment goals. This provided the priorities for WSAC's legislative agenda:

- **Maintain the commitment to College Bound Scholarship students.**  
*Request:* \$10 million in 2016, and \$15 million in 2017, for a total of \$25 million for the biennium.
- **Invest in public higher education.**  
Protect maintenance funding for community and technical colleges and public baccalaureate institutions and provide new state funding investments in order to reach the state's postsecondary attainment goals, contain tuition growth, and create a well-educated workforce necessary for a vibrant economy.
- **Enhance the State Need Grant program and fully fund it by 2023.**  
*Request:* \$16 million in 2016, and \$32 million in 2017, for a total of \$48 million for the biennium. Each annual increase would serve an additional 4,000 students.
- **Expand the reach of dual-credit opportunities.**  
Expanding dual-enrollment options for all Washington high school students by reducing costs and other barriers will improve student participation and increase educational attainment.  
*Request:* \$12 million in 2016 and \$17 million in 2017 for a total of \$29 million for the biennium
- **Support underrepresented students by leveraging the state's investment through student support services.**  
Coordinate support services for College Bound K-12 students, expand support services on campuses, and create collective impact coalitions.  
*Request:* \$5 million in 2016 and \$5 million in 2017 for a total of \$10 million for the biennium.

- **Reinvest in State Work Study to provide greater access to work-based learning opportunities.**  
*Request:* \$5 million in 2016, and \$5 million in 2017, for a total of \$10 million for the biennium. Begin restoring funding and service levels to reach the 2009 investment level by 2023. These investments would serve an additional 3,000 low- and middle-income students.
- **Pursue policy-driven investments to improve the affordability of higher education.**

#### Resident Status for Veterans for the Purposes of In-State Tuition

Another WSAC priority for the 2015 Legislative session was to ensure our state statutes related to resident status for the purposes of tuition were altered to align with federal requirements established following the passage of the federal Choice Act. The Act requires that veteran students be recognized as state residents at public institutions of higher education for the purpose of using veterans' education benefits for tuition.

#### Policy and Budget Summary

Please see the attached documents for a summary of the major policy bills and budget items that relate to higher education and Washington's educational attainment goals.

#### Potential Questions for Council Members

1. Were WSAC priorities supported by the 2015 Legislature?
2. What was the basis of the support, or lack of support, for various priorities?
3. What work was assigned to WSAC for completion during the interim?
4. What will be needed to further pursue WSAC priorities and meet education attainment goals?

The Honorable Mark Schoesler  
Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Sharon Nelson  
Senate Minority Leader

The Honorable Frank Chopp  
Speaker of the House

The Honorable Dan Kristiansen  
House Minority Leader

The Honorable Andy Hill  
Chair, Senate Ways & Means

The Honorable James Hargrove Ranking  
Member, Senate Ways & Means

The Honorable Ross Hunter  
Chair, House Appropriations

The Honorable Bruce Chandler Ranking  
Member, House Appropriations

April 10, 2015

Dear Representatives and Senators:

As members of the Washington Student Achievement Council we greatly appreciate your strong support for higher education and the entire education continuum from early learning and K-12 to postsecondary education during the 2015 Legislative session. Support for all three areas and the health and well-being of students impacts our ability to meet our state's education attainment goals.

We greatly appreciate your support for:

- The State Need Grant, which is key to reducing barriers to enter and persist in college, and to reducing student loan debt.
- The College Bound Scholarship program, which has improved students' high school graduation and college-going rates and college readiness.
- The expansion of STEM programs to help support our state's economic growth and provide strong job opportunities in high-demand fields.
- Dual credit opportunities and vital support services that improve student access and success.

In relation to the State Need Grant, please consider:

- Reinvesting savings from potential tuition reductions to serve additional eligible students.
- Mitigating the effect of proposed tuition policy changes for public colleges and universities on low-income students attending private four-year institutions.

From an administrative standpoint, if the final budget includes tuition reductions, please consider that the GET program will need time to implement necessary changes:

To Honorable Legislative Leaders


April 10, 2015

Page 2

- Postponing tuition reductions to the second year would provide time for the Office of the State Actuary to complete modeling of various pricing and other options and to inform customers of changes. This is particularly critical if budget negotiations run past April 26.


Thank you again for your support for students and education during the 2015 Legislative Session. Please do not hesitate to contact us for additional information.

Sincerely,




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Maud Daudon (Chair)



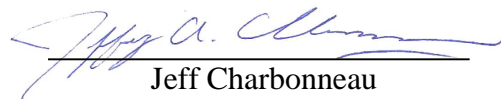
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Karen Lee (Vice Chair)



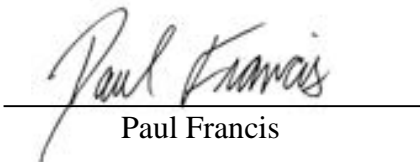
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Marty Brown



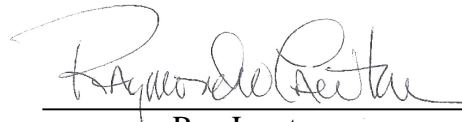
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Jeff Charbonneau



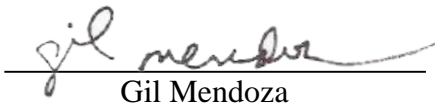
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Paul Francis



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Ray Lawton



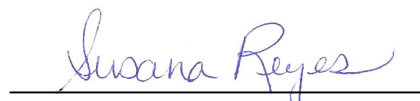
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Gil Mendoza



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Rai Nauman Mumtaz



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Susana Reyes

cc: Senator Bailey, Representative Hansen, Senator Kohl-Welles, Representative Zeiger, Gene Sharratt (WSAC Exec Director) and staff.