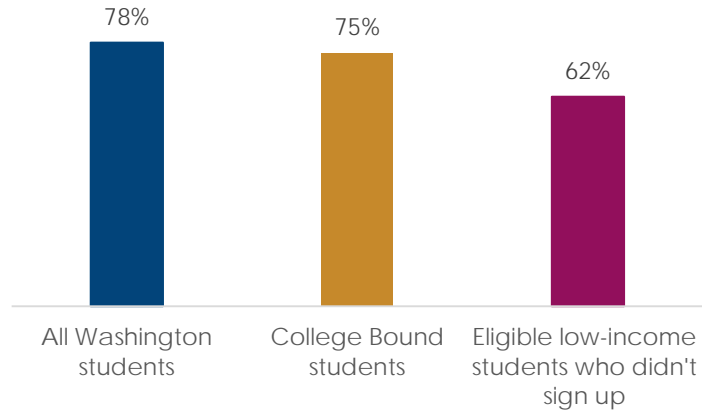


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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College Bound high school grad rate 13 points higher than low-income student rate

Olympia — The 2015 four-year high school graduation rate for College Bound Scholarship (CBS) students was 75 percent. In comparison, only 62 percent of low-income students who were eligible—but didn’t sign up—graduated in 2015.

2015 Four-Year High School Graduation Rate



This is the fourth year that CBS students have graduated from high school at rates that are at least ten points higher than their low-income peers who didn’t sign up for the program. The first CBS cohort graduated from high school in 2012, and nearly 19,000 CBS students attended college last school year.

The CBS program gives financial aid to low-income students who want to realize the dream of a college education. Students sign up in middle school, no later than June 30 of their 8th grade year, to receive an early commitment of state financial aid. The scholarship, in combination with other state aid, covers tuition (at public college rates), some fees, and a small book allowance. Students can use the scholarship to pay for certificate programs as well as two- and four-year degrees at [68 colleges](#) in Washington State.

Efforts to get eligible students signed up for the program begin in September and continue throughout the school year. Recently, [110 school districts](#) received Gold Star Awards from Governor Inslee for signing up 92 percent or more of students who were eligible for free and reduced price lunch. Today’s 8th graders have until June 30 to [sign up](#).

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About the Washington Student Achievement Council: Established as a cabinet-level state agency on July 1, 2012, the council provides strategic planning, oversight and advocacy to support increased student success and higher levels of educational attainment in Washington. The council proposes improvements and innovations to meet the evolving needs of students, employers and the educational community. In recognition of the economic, social and civic benefits of public education, the council advocates for increased financial support and civic commitment to ensure a thriving Washington.

The nine-member council includes five citizens (including a current student) and one representative from each of Washington's four major educational sectors. Find us [online](#), on Twitter [@WSACouncil](#), and on [Facebook](#).