

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Council statement on Governor Inslee’s budget

Olympia—Most jobs in Washington require a postsecondary credential. That is why our state has a goal that 70 percent of adults in Washington will have a postsecondary credential by 2023. In the council’s [2017-19 Strategic Action Plan](#), we note that Washington State faces broad, persistent, and systemic challenges to increasing educational attainment. This budget takes a substantial step forward.

The council has identified State Need Grant as the cornerstone of making college affordable. With Governor Inslee’s proposed \$146 million investment in State Need Grant, Washington can serve 18,000 more low-income students each year for the next two years. We know that State Need Grant helps these students persist and complete their education at higher rates—and with less student debt.

The Governor’s budget also makes key investments throughout the educational continuum. It includes funding for postsecondary readiness in high school, student support initiatives in college, and helps align our education system with workforce needs.

We commend Governor Inslee’s commitment to making college affordable, following the tuition reduction of the last two years. We look forward to working with legislators during the upcoming session.

**Correction: \$146 million will serve 18,000 more students each year for the next two years. The original statement said 14,000 students.*

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About the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC)

The Washington Student Achievement Council is committed to increasing educational opportunities and attainment in Washington. The council has three main functions:

1. Lead statewide strategic planning to increase educational attainment.
2. Administer programs that help people access and pay for college.
3. Advocate for the economic, social and civic benefits of higher education.

The council has [nine members](#). Four members represent each of Washington's major education sectors: four-year public baccalaureates, four-year private colleges, public community and technical colleges and K-12 public schools. Five are citizen members, including one current student.

Find us online at www.wsac.wa.gov, on Twitter [@WSACouncil](https://twitter.com/WSACouncil) and on [Facebook](#).