

# Enhance Consumer Protection.

Ensure high quality schools for Washington's postsecondary students.



**The Washington Student Achievement Council is charged with regulatory oversight designed to protect students through a variety of programs.** These include degree authorization, state student financial aid, and program approval for veteran's education benefits.

**Additional resources are needed to provide the necessary oversight of Washington's higher education institutions.** Supplemental funding will increase efficiencies and provide better protection of students' investments in higher education.

**Degree Authorization: 58 non-exempt institutions are authorized to operate in Washington.** Recent school closures and financial instability in a number of schools have raised the importance of increased monitoring and proactive technical assistance. Though institutions pay fees to support Degree Authorization activities, the fees do not support the operational demands of the agency. Supplemental funding would allow the Student Achievement Council to visit every school on a biennial basis and would provide greater flexibility for targeted visits and interventions as issues emerge among our authorized schools.

**State Financial Aid: 68 approved institutions participate in state financial aid programs.** Supplemental funding would allow the Student Achievement Council to conduct proactive on-site visits for newly participating institutions and provide training for new financial aid administrators. Additional resources would allow for another 8-10 school visits for training and compliance purposes annually. Where there is overlap with degree authorization, efficiencies would be gained by having one staff member visit the school for dual purposes.

**Strong oversight of our schools is necessary to protect students' investments in higher education.**

**Program Approval for Veteran's Educational Benefits: The Student Achievement Council is responsible for approval, oversight, and outreach activities to ensure veterans can access earned higher education benefits.** Without additional funding, the

Student Achievement Council will not be able to maintain current levels of program supervision and outreach.

**The supplemental request would provide funding for a shared staff position.** This will result in increased school site visits, enhanced on-site training for financial aid administrators.



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