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Passport to Careers

OVERVIEW

The Passport to Careers program provides higher education, apprenticeship, and pre-apprenticeship opportunities to youth and alumni of foster care. Institutions can also receive incentive grants to enhance and target support services to foster youth.

Three primary components are administered by the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC):

- 1) A student scholarship for former foster youth.
- 2) Campus incentive funding to colleges that designate campus support staff and take other steps to recruit and retain former foster youth.
- 3) A partnership with the College Success Foundation to provide training and technical assistance to campus staff.



BENEFITS STUDENTS

Passport provides foster youth and unaccompanied homeless youth with assistance in preparing for college and specialized support services from college staff. Students receive a scholarship that helps cover the cost of attending college (tuition, fees, books, housing, transportation, and some personal expenses), and recipients get priority consideration for the State Need Grant. In the 2018-19 academic year, the program served 316 students.

Without significant intervention,
less than 2%
of foster youth are likely to attain a **bachelor's degree.**



BENEFITS THE STATE

A college education can improve lifelong outcomes for these disadvantaged populations, helping them become productive and contributing adults in their communities.

Passport to Careers also provides the first opportunity to obtain verifiable baseline data on foster youth aspirations and performance in postsecondary education in Washington.

PROGRAM FUNDING

The maximum Passport award is evaluated each year based on available funds and projected enrollments. Since 2012-13, the award has been \$4,500. In 2018-19, students received \$1,155,134 in scholarship funds. Institutions received \$374,250 to provide enhanced support services to Passport-eligible students.

The College Success Foundation also received nearly \$500,000 to provide student intervention, campus support, and community integration services.

“I am able to have a college experience and make something out of myself. I’m so appreciative.”

“This program taught me to grow up, taught me responsibilities, and most of all that you believe in your students.”

DATA EXCHANGE

A groundbreaking data exchange was developed between the Washington Student Achievement Council, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), and colleges. In 2018-19, over 1,630 records were reviewed by DCYF, and of those, 299 students were determined eligible.

VIABLE PLAN

Intensive support services on college campuses assist student retention rates and postsecondary success. Currently, 45 institutions are participating in the “viable plan” to offer these support services. Colleges provide direct services, such as emergency funding, tutoring, meals, incentives for meeting academic goals, housing, school supplies, counseling, and transportation assistance.

Passport Students by Sector						
Sector	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Research	46	46	49	43	33	41
Public 4-Year	54	54	59	43	34	42
Private 4-Year	25	27	24	27	25	34
Comm. & Tech.	259	244	263	219	164	193
Private Career	12	4	6	4	1	1
Total	396	375	396	335	256	316

Washington’s student financial aid programs are known collectively as Opportunity Pathways.

The Washington Student Achievement Council administers these programs, helping tens of thousands of students earn college certificates and degrees annually.

Student and parent information about Passport can be found at www.readysetgrad.org/passport.

