

## Work Study Contributes to Economic Growth

Washington's State Work Study (SWS) program partners with nearly 500 employers and 54 nonprofit institutions to provide financial aid for low- and middle-income students. Qualifying students get an approved job, on- or off-campus, to support their education. Work study builds students' skills, increases their earnings, and reduces reliance on student loans.

The state contributes to the wages of work study employees, so participating employers benefit from educated, motivated workers at a lower cost. Work study contributes to economic growth by creating jobs and adding experienced, high-skilled college graduates to the state's workforce. Many employers hire work study employees permanently after graduation.

“It's really hard for new graduates to get jobs if they don't have practical experience that sets them apart from all other applicants vying for limited employment opportunities. Through my State Work Study position in the information technology area, I am developing a range of skills while in school that I believe will give me a lot more choices in my career path once I've graduated.”

In 2019-20, nearly

**3,500 students earned  
over \$11.7million**

in SWS wages.

**SWS employers matched  
state appropriations by  
an average of 36%,**

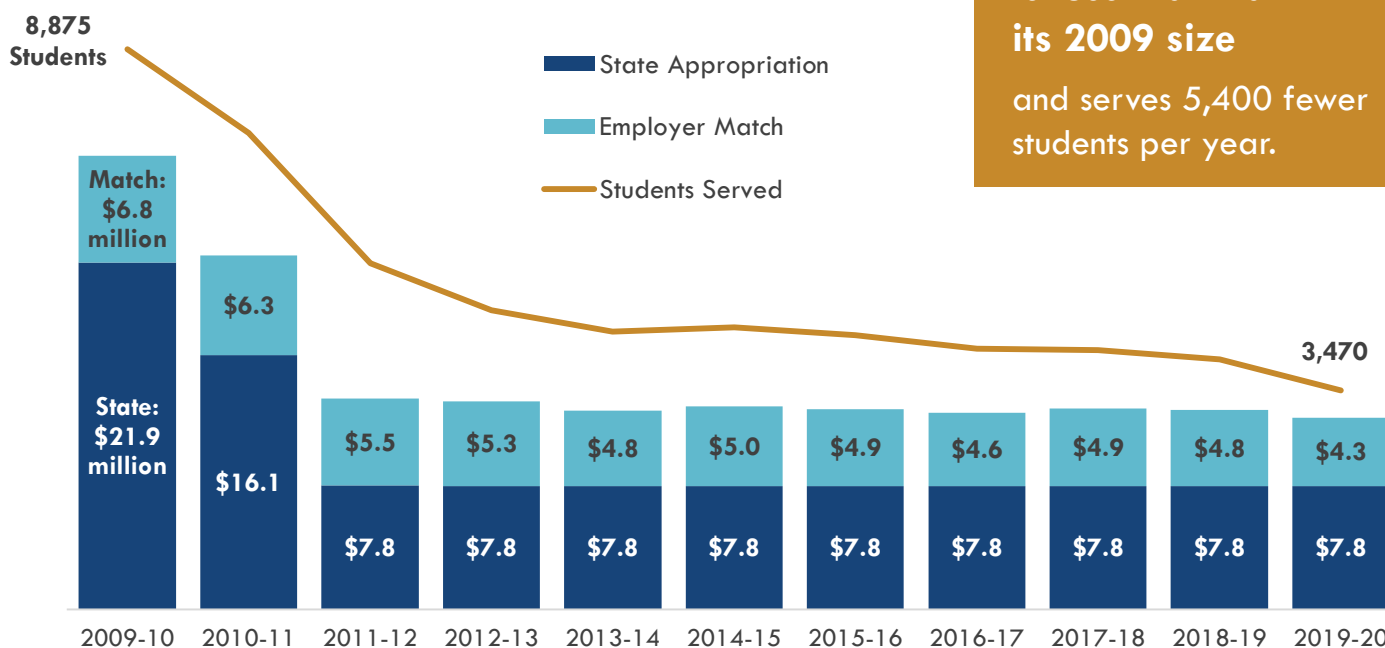
leveraging nearly  
\$4.3 million in additional  
student earnings and enabling  
some 1,300 more eligible  
students to earn while they  
learn.

Currently funded at \$7.8  
million annually,

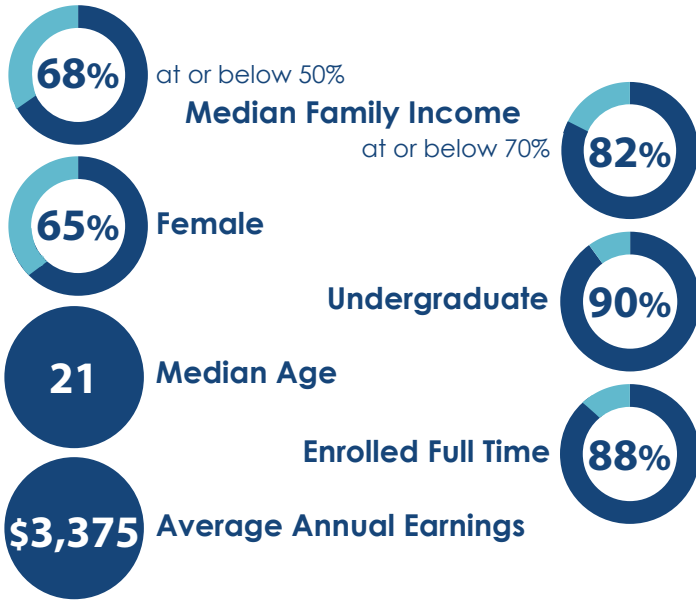
**SWS in 2020-21  
is less than half  
its 2009 size**

and serves 5,400 fewer  
students per year.

## Historical Funding & Service Levels

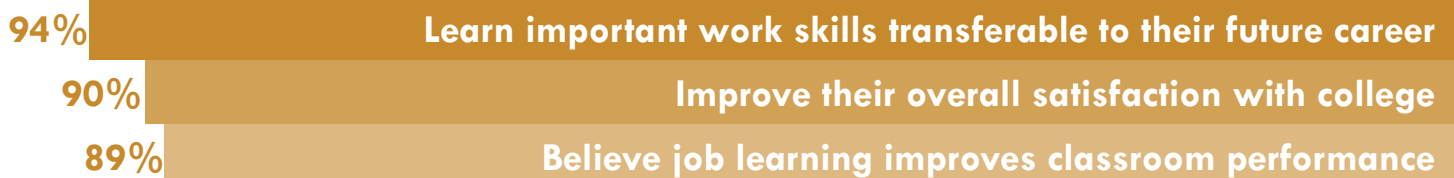


## State Work Study Student Profile

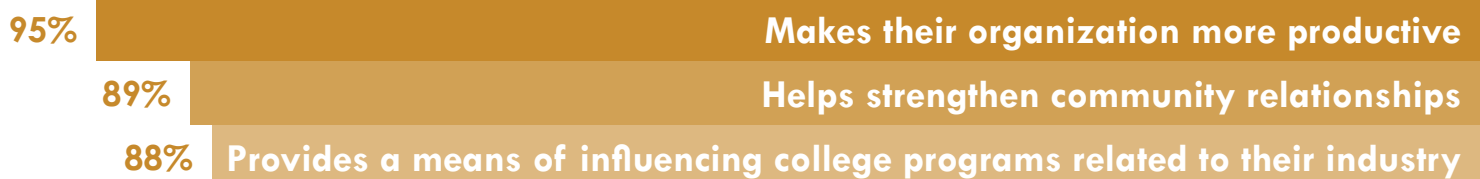


## SWS Survey Results

### Students benefit from work study jobs:



### Participating employers praise the State Work Study program:



### Employers say work study employees learn important workplace skills:



“Without State Work Study, our business would not have made nearly the progress, or been able to sustain the level of growth, especially in this difficult economic environment. Many of the students we’ve helped train over the years have been hired as full-time employees after graduation. SWS is a win-win for both employers and students.”