

WEIAOB 2025 Legislative Session Summary—May 8, 2025

Recommended Proposals

On January 9, 2025, the Board recommended 14 [budget and policy proposals](#) from postsecondary education stakeholders based on their alignment with the Board’s [evaluation rubric](#) (informed by its guiding principles and performance accountability metrics). **The inclusion of each proposal (or lack thereof) in the 2025–27 operating budget passed by the legislature is noted below:**

Agency or Organization	Original Proposal	Amount in Passed Budget and Source
CWU	\$1.2 million—expanding the Business and Community Services Program	None
ESD	\$13.3 million—increasing funding for Career Connect WA program development grants	None
EWU	\$6.1 million—establishing a Master’s Degree In Dental Therapy program	None
	\$4.4 million—expanding applied learning in high-demand fields and community engagement	None
Foundation for Tacoma Students	\$23.7 million—expanding the Student Aid Outreach and Completion Initiative pilot program (SB 5164 / HB 1136)	\$340,000 (proviso only, bill did not pass); WEIA
TESC	\$901,000—continuing the Shelton Promise pilot program	\$901,000 ; WEIA
UW	\$9.9 million—expanding investments in computer science and engineering degree capacity, AI enrollments, and research	None

	\$4.0 million—establishing new nursing degree programs at UW-Tacoma	None
	\$130,000—establishing a scholarship and mentorship program for Latinx students in health professional programs (Latino Center for Health)	None*
WSAC	\$38.8 million—maintaining current income eligibility and award levels (65% MFI) for the WA College Grant and codifying bridge grants	See SB 5785 under other relevant legislation (below)
	\$12.6 million—increasing funding for Career Connect WA program enrollments, outreach, and staffing	None
	\$12.1 million—making Passport to Careers an entitlement program (SB 5275)	None
WSU	\$2.2 million—continuing the Native American Student Scholarship pilot program	\$2.2 million; WEIA
WWU	\$808,000—increasing funding for the Office of Academic Access and Outreach	None

*UW Latino Center for Health received a \$300,000 proviso from WEIA

Other Relevant Legislation

The Legislature passed multiple bills during the 2025 legislative session that will impact the Workforce Education Investment Account (WEIA) and postsecondary education, such as:

- **2025–27 operating and 2025 supplemental operating budgets ([SB 5167](#))**
 - Section 951 (page 522, lines 6–21) includes new language that:
 - Allows WEIA expenditures to supplant other federal, state, and local funding for higher education in 2025–27
 - States the Legislature’s intent to continue this policy in 2027–29

- **Revenue bills**

- [HB 2081](#)—increasing B&O tax rates and the annual cap for the Advanced Computing Surcharge, among other changes; projected to increase WEIA revenue by **\$653.2 million** in 2025–27 and **\$967.7 million** in 2027–29
- [SB 5814](#)—expanding the application of taxes such as retail sales and use, among other changes; projected to decrease WEIA revenue by **\$89.5 million** in 2025–27 and **\$117.2 million** in 2027–29

- **Postsecondary education bills**

- [HB 1273](#)—increasing career and technical education dual credit participation and credit attainment
- [HB 1540](#)—allowing Northwest Indian College to participate in Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness
- [HB 1587](#)—allowing local governments to create promise scholarships through the WA State Opportunity Scholarship
- [SB 5543](#)—allowing GED recipients to utilize College Bound Scholarship (CBS) awards
- [SB 5785](#)—modifying WA Grant and CBS awards; key changes include:
 - Codifying the income eligibility threshold for a maximum WA Grant award at 60% median family income (MFI) starting in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026
 - Reducing WA Grant and CBS awards in FY2027 and FY2028, respectively, for two- and four-year not-for-profit and for-profit institutions, Western Governors University-WA, and registered apprenticeships