



# 2025 Legislative Session Summary

May 2025

The following brief summarizes legislative and 2025-27 operating budget outcomes from the 2025 legislative session related to the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) and the state's broader postsecondary education landscape.

## Agency Legislation Requests

WSAC requested three bills in advance of the 2025 legislative session. **Two of these were introduced by legislators. One was funded in former Gov. Inslee's proposed 2025-27 operating budget and subsequently passed by the Legislature:**

- [HB 1540](#)—Expanding eligibility for the Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness program to an accredited tribal college (Northwest Indian College).
- [SB 5275](#)\*—Making Passport to Careers (PTC) an entitlement program, codifying annual PTC awards of \$5,000, and automatically qualifying PTC-eligible students for maximum WA Grant awards.

*\*Not funded in former Gov. Inslee's proposed 2025-27 operating budget; filed as a non-agency request bill.*

## Agency Budget Requests

The table below outlines which WSAC requests were funded in former Gov. Inslee's proposed 2025-27 operating budget and the Legislature's final budget:

Topic	Request	Former Gov. Inslee	Final
HB 1540	\$826,000	\$204,000	\$204,000
SB 5275	\$12.1 million	-	-
WA Grant awards (65% MFI)*	\$38.8 million	\$46.1 million	See other outcomes below
Career Connect WA	\$12.6 million	-	-
Regional Challenge Grant	\$4 million	-	-
OtterBot texting tool	\$1.5 million	-	-
Academic Credit for Prior Learning (ACPL) pilot	\$750,000	-	-
WashBoard scholarship platform enhancement	\$394,000	-	-
Student food security pilot evaluation	\$200,000	-	-

*\*Originally submitted as agency request legislation; former Gov. Inslee proposed funding in a proviso.*

## Other Postsecondary Education Legislative Outcomes

The table below summarizes other bills passed by the Legislature related to postsecondary education and WSAC's policy clusters (if applicable):

Policy Cluster	Legislation
Enrollment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving access to dual credit programs (<a href="#">HB 1273</a>).</li> </ul>
Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allowing community and technical colleges (CTCs) to waive GED course fees for students younger than 19 (<a href="#">HB 1556</a>).</li> <li>Allowing local governments to establish promise scholarship programs within the WA State Opportunity Scholarship program (<a href="#">HB 1587</a>).</li> <li>Allowing CTCs to waive tuition and fees for tribal elders (<a href="#">SB 5110</a>).</li> <li>Allowing GED recipients to utilize College Bound Scholarship (CBS) awards (<a href="#">SB 5543</a>).</li> <li>Modifying WA Grant and CBS awards (<a href="#">SB 5785</a>).</li> </ul>
Completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>
Student Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing postsecondary education consumer protections (<a href="#">HB 1279</a>).</li> <li>Modifying higher education accreditation standards (<a href="#">HB 1572</a>).</li> <li>Supporting the implementation of competency-based education (<a href="#">SB 5189</a>).</li> </ul>

## Other Postsecondary Education Budget Outcomes

The table below summarizes new appropriations and cuts to postsecondary education in the 2025-27 operating budget, which was passed by the Legislature. The items are ordered by their relation to WSAC's policy clusters.

Policy Cluster	New Appropriations	New Cuts
Enrollment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>\$5.9 million</b> for College in the High School programs (public four-year IHEs and SBCTC).</li> <li>• <b>\$340,000</b> to expand a financial aid outreach pilot program (SBCTC).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>\$5.4 million</b> to end partnerships between CTCs and community-based organizations for financial aid outreach (SBCTC).</li> </ul>
Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>\$2.2 million</b> to continue the Native American Student Scholarship pilot program (WSU).</li> <li>• <b>\$901,000</b> to continue Shelton Promise (TESC).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>\$89.0 million</b> to eliminate the WA Student Loan Program (WSAC).</li> <li>• <b>\$55.3 million</b> to eliminate bridge grants (WSAC).</li> <li>• <b>\$26.7 million</b> to reduce WA Grant and CBS awards at private non-profit and for-profit institutions, WGU-WA, and apprenticeships, starting in the 2026-27 AY (WSAC).</li> <li>• <b>\$6 million</b> to suspend the Nurse Educator Loan Repayment program in 2025-27 (WSAC).</li> <li>• <b>\$2.6 million</b> to reduce WA Health Corps awards in 2025-27 (WSAC).</li> <li>• <b>\$1.6 million</b> to reduce National Guard Grant awards (WSAC).</li> </ul>
Completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>\$250,000</b> for Allen School Scholars (UW).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
Student Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>\$50,000</b> for accessibility accommodations (TESC).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>\$23.7 million</b> to reduce funding for Career Connect WA programs (WSAC, SBCTC, ESD, and OSPI).</li> <li>• <b>\$16 million</b> to eliminate Regional Challenge Grant (WSAC).</li> <li>• <b>IHE funding reductions (1.5%):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>\$15.4 million</b> at UW</li> <li>○ <b>\$12.3 million</b> at SBCTC</li> <li>○ <b>\$9.9 million</b> at WSU</li> <li>○ <b>\$4.0 million</b> at TESC*</li> <li>○ <b>\$3.6 million</b> at WWU</li> <li>○ <b>\$2.7 million</b> at CWU</li> <li>○ <b>\$2.6 million</b> at EWU</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

\*Includes 1.5 percent institutional reduction and separate reduction for TESC operating support.