

From: Washington College Grant (WSAC) <wgc@wsac.wa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 11, 2025 2:55 PM
Subject: 2025-26 College Bound Updates

Hello Colleagues!

We wanted to provide some updated information about the CBS Eligibility Checker and College Bound (CBS) policy. **Please note:** CBS Eligibility Checker records will be fully reprocessed overnight. Do not rely on the Checker information until tomorrow. These changes reflect recent legislation and program updates that take effect in the 2025–26 academic year:

Rules Regarding College Credits Before High School Graduation

Students must enroll in college within one year of high school graduation to meet the enrollment deadline for College Bound.

- Effective July 1, 2025, credits earned before high school graduation (ex: Running Start/College in High School) do not meet the one-year enrollment deadline. Enrollment must be after high school graduation to meet the enrollment deadline.
- **Reminder:** Students will be considered to have enrolled upon earning credit(s) for the term or receiving the first scholarship disbursement, whichever comes first.

High School Equivalency (GED, etc.)

[SB5543](#): Eligibility expanded for CBS to students who have received a high school equivalency certificate as defined in RCW [28B.50.536](#).

Effective July 27, 2025, students who meet the following criteria will fulfill the graduation and 2.0 GPA requirements for College Bound:

1. Earned a high school equivalency certificate (example: GED) before their 21st birthday.
2. Enroll no later than the fall term, as defined by the institution of higher education, one academic year following high school graduation or high school equivalency completion.
3. Completed the high school equivalency in Washington State.
4. Submit a [GED Transcript](#) to their institution for verification.

Schools may **manually override** the student's record to reflect GED completion as their valid HS/GED Grad Year.

Overrides

Select a field to override

HS/GED Grad Year

Value

2021-2022

Is the student a GED graduate?

Yes

What was the student's age at graduation?

20



Reason

Per GED Transcript

Submit Override

Cancel





Once overridden, the student's GED year will display in the **HS/GED Grad Year** column of the CBS Eligibility Checker.

| Name ▾ | SSN ▾ | Birth Date ▾ | SID ▾ | OK to Award ▾ | OK to Pay ▾ | HS/GED Grad Year ▾ | HS 2.0 GPA ▾ | Enrolled By Deadline ▾ | Elig. Open ▾ | CBS Qtrs Used ▾ | CBS Qtrs Remaining ▾ | In Repayment ▾ | Last Updated ▾ |
|--|-------|--------------|-------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Smith   Details | | | | Yes updated 08/05/2025 | Yes updated 08/05/2025 | 2024 overridden | Yes | Yes overridden | Yes | 0.00 | 18.00 | No | 08/05/2025 |

Six-Year Eligibility Time Frame

5785-S.PL: Beginning in 2025-26, CBS awards must be used within six years of receipt, and students still must enroll within one year of high school graduation.

- The CBS Eligibility Checker has been updated to calculate the six-year eligibility time limit.

| Name ▾ | SSN ▾ | Birth Date ▾ | SID ▾ | OK to Award ▾ | OK to Pay ▾ | HS/GED Grad Year ▾ | HS 2.0 GPA ▾ | Enrolled By Deadline ▾ | Elig. Open ▾ | CBS Qtrs Used ▾ | CBS Qtrs Remaining ▾ | In Repayment ▾ | Last Updated ▾ |
|--|-------|--------------|-------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
|   Details | | | | No updated 02/04/2025 | No updated 08/15/2023 | 2019 actual from OSPI | Yes | No | No | 0.00 | 18.00 | No | 02/04/2025 |
| Smith   Details | | | | Yes updated 07/19/2025 | Yes updated 07/19/2025 | 2024 actual from OSPI | Yes | Verify | Yes | 0.00 | 18.00 | No | 07/19/2025 |

- If a student is still within their six-year eligibility, they will have a **“Yes”** in the Elig. Open column. For those who are not, they will have a **“No”**.
- The CBS Eligibility Checker evaluates when a student first enrolled based on CSAW reporting, and whether they have or will meet the Enrolled by Deadline.

CBS Eligibility Checker File Output

There have been two changes to the verbiage of the CBS Eligibility Checker output file:

- **"HSGradYear"** is now **"HSorGEDGradYear"**
- **"FiveYearEligibilityWindowOpen"** is now **"EligibilityWindowOpen"**

Please refer to the attached file layout for full details.

The **2025–26 Program Manual** will be updated to include these changes. We'll notify the community once the updated manual is available.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Take care,



Washington Student Achievement Council

Washington College Grant Team

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