

# Washington State Aid Extension Annual Report

*Required by Chapter 323, Laws of 2024*

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WASHINGTON STATE  
**Education Research and Data Center**  
Office of Financial Management  
Forecasting and Research Division



**Washington Student Achievement Council**



# Washington State Aid Extension

2025

## Annual Report

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The objective of the 2025 report is to provide the Legislature with information about the impact of the state aid extension on state aid utilization in academic year 2024-25, which was the first year of the extension. Information about the impact of the extension on degree completion outcomes is expected to be available in the 2027 report.

## Key Takeaways

Washington's state aid extension allows students more time to complete their education after high school.

**1,281 students utilized the state aid extension, which represents 1% of all state aid recipients.**

- WA Grant: 776 students
- College Bound: 629 students
- Passport: 15 students

**\$4.8M was used for the state aid extension, which represents 1% of all state aid awards.**

- WA Grant: \$4,409,451
- College Bound: \$383,525
- Passport: \$32,036

**A higher proportion of students who utilized the extension are low-income, older, and enrolled at public 4-year institutions.**

- Low-income: 96.4% compared to 81.9% of other state aid recipients
- Age 23 or older: 71.4% compared to 48.0% of other state aid recipients
- Public 4-year: 63.8% compared to 33.8% of other state aid recipients

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### Background

Chapter 323, Laws of 2024 (Senate Bill 5904) extended and aligned the maximum timeframe to six years for students to receive financial aid from three of Washington’s need-based financial aid programs:

- Washington College Grant (WA Grant or WCG)
- College Bound Scholarship (College Bound or CBS)
- Passport to Careers (Passport or PTC)

For more context about the state aid extension and the three state financial aid programs, see the [2024 report](#).

### Over 1,200 students used the extension

In academic year 2024-25, 1,281 students utilized the state aid extension. They represent 1% of all state aid recipients (WA Grant, College Bound, and Passport combined). The majority of the extension students (93.1%) received need-based financial aid in the previous academic year (WSAC Unit Record Report, 2023-24). Without the additional year of state aid program eligibility offered by the extension, it is possible that these students may not have been able to continue their postsecondary education in 2024-25.

Financial Aid Program	All Recipients	Extension Recipients	Share
WA Grant	106,001	776	0.7%
College Bound	25,394	629	2.5%
Passport	1,914	15	0.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>106,004</b>	<b>1,281</b>	<b>1.2%</b>

Note: Some recipients received more than one of these grants. The total headcount is unduplicated.

Data source: WSAC Final Interim Report, 2024-25.

### \$4.8M was awarded to extension students

In academic year 2024-25, \$4.8 million dollars were used for the state aid extension. This amount represents 1% of the total state aid awards (WA Grant, College Bound, and Passport combined). Not surprisingly, most of the extension dollars were awarded to WA Grant recipients. WA Grant is Washington’s largest need-based financial aid program.

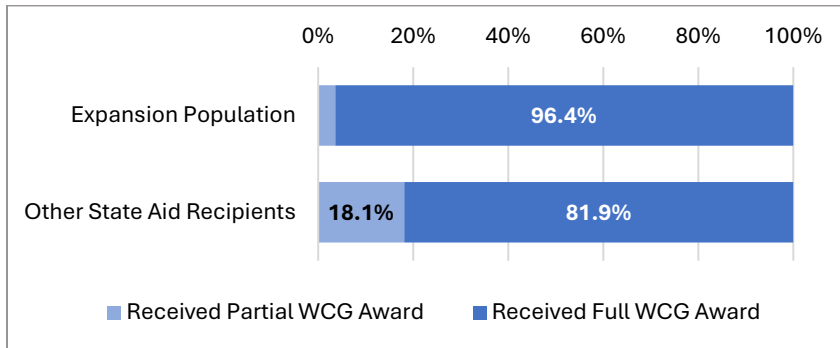
Financial Aid Program	Awards for All Recipients	Awards for Extension Recipients	Share
WA Grant	\$541,780,613	\$4,409,451	0.8%
College Bound	\$18,099,647	\$383,525	2.1%
Passport	\$4,679,058	\$32,036	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$564,559,317</b>	<b>\$4,825,012</b>	<b>0.9%</b>

Data source: WSAC Final Interim Report, 2024-25.

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### Low-Income students

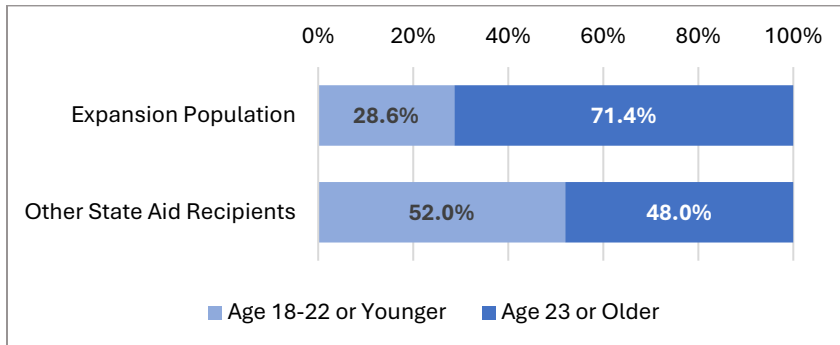
The expansion population has a higher proportion of students (96.4%) who received the full WA Grant award (i.e., who have a lower income) compared to other state aid recipients (81.9%). More importantly, these lower income students represent almost 100% of the total expansion population. Therefore, the expansion served one of its intended populations – students with the highest need for financial aid.



Data source: WSAC Final Interim Report, 2024-25.

### Older students

As expected, the expansion population has a higher proportion of students who were age 23 or older (71.4%) compared to other state aid recipients (48.0%). At the beginning of the 2024-25 academic year, expansion students had already used 15 quarters (i.e., five years) of their state financial aid eligibility, and had been enrolled in postsecondary education for at least five years, so it stands to reason that their population skews older than other state aid recipients.

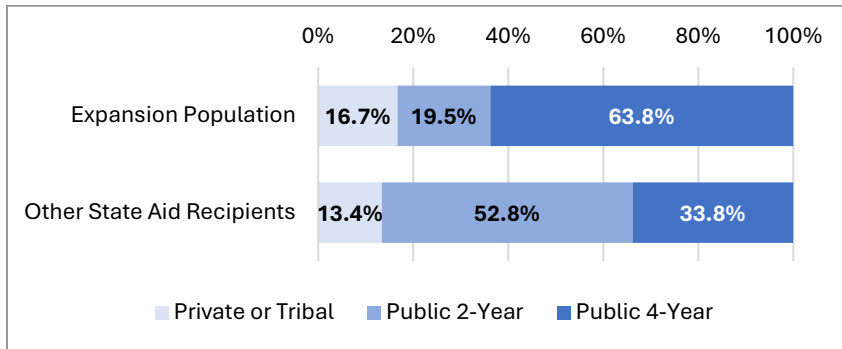


Data source: WSAC Final Interim Report, 2024-25.

### Students at public four-year institutions

The expansion population has a higher proportion of students who were enrolled at public 4-year institutions (63.8%) compared to other state aid recipients (33.8%). This is not surprising since it takes longer to complete a four-year degree.

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Data source: WSAC Final Interim Report, 2024-25.

### *Conclusion*

The extension of Washington’s need-based financial aid to six years of eligibility is a small but important part of the state’s strategy to ensure equitable postsecondary outcomes for all Washington residents. It offers an additional year of aid to students who may not have been able to pursue their postsecondary education without assistance. Even if these students could have continued their education without the extension, it is still a meaningful benefit to those who used it since it lessened their financial burdens and reduced friction in receiving financial aid. These students have moved one year closer to their goal of a postsecondary credential. Helping these students reach this goal helps Washington reach its own goal of 70% of adults with a credential after high school.