

College Bound Scholarship, Made Easier

New for 2021-22: All public-school students eligible for Washington's College Bound Scholarship will be automatically enrolled (see [ESSB 5321](#)).

Who is eligible?

Students eligible for free and reduced price lunch in 7th, 8th, and newly eligible 9th grade students.

What is the effective date?

This bill is effective immediately and retroactively for the 2019-20 school year.

What is the implementation timeline?

- In July, WSAC received an updated file of eligible students. OSPI will continue to send a list of eligible students each November, with monthly updates to account for newly eligible students.
- WSAC is initiating a rule-making process, updating our WACs in response to the new eligibility changes. We will be seeking feedback on the revised rules in the early fall, to be completed by the end of 2021.

What will WSAC be doing to support CBS students?

- WSAC will coordinate with OSPI, local school districts, K-12 leaders, and others to notify students of their CBS enrollment.
- WSAC will send certificates to enrolled students monthly and engage with enrolled juniors and seniors through [Otterbot](#) texting in the fall of 2021. Students in other grades will receive timely email and print information.

What can districts, schools, and community-based organizations do to support CBS students?

- Districts should update student contact information in the [WSAC portal](#). Updated contact information will help WSAC deliver critical information to CBS students.
- District, school, and CBO staff with direct student and family contact can now have conversations around college-going pathways, opportunities, etc., rather than focusing on completing the CBS form.
- Those working with high school CBS students can support students' understanding of CBS and critical next steps, such as applying for financial aid.

Where can those working with students get help?

- The Washington College Access Network (WCAN) is the college access arm of the College Success Foundation. WCAN is a vital partner in supporting College Bound outreach and regional support. The team assists in College Bound training, financial aid completion support, and college access efforts across the state with regional College Bound officers. Visit their [website](#) to find regional contacts.
- WSAC will be leading a webinar about the technical aspects of the bill implementation on September 23, 2021 from 1-:2:30pm. Please register [here](#).

Where is additional information on supporting students available?

Many resources are available:

- www.collegebound.wa.gov: CBS specific resources.
- www.wsac.wa.gov/12th-year-campaign: resources for supporting students during financial aid advising day(s) or with financial aid in general.
- www.wsac.wa.gov/aim-higher-training: financial aid training opportunities.
- www.gearup.wa.gov: additional student and educator resources.
- www.wsac.wa.gov/actionplan and www.wsac.wa.gov/apply: student-facing resources to help students through the postsecondary planning and application processes.

Contact information for additional questions:

Sarah Weiss, Associate Director of College Access and Support, WSAC
T: 360-485-1003
E: sarahwe@wsac.wa.gov