

## **College Bound Webinar Questions & Answers - October 8, 2024:**

### **College Bound (CB):**

#### **What does FRPL mean?**

- It stands for Free or Reduced Price Lunch. To qualify for CB, families must be noted as eligible for FRPL by their district.
- One way to do this is to complete the *Child Nutrition Eligibility and Education Benefit (CNEEB)* application at the school or district. Starting in the 24-25 school year, this application will replace both the FRPL application and the Family Income Survey. More info about the meal application is available on the WA Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI's) [webpage](#).
- There is also a process called direct certification, which uses data from other programs like SNAP, TANF, or more to determine eligibility for FRPL.
- It is important to note that while some public schools provide free meals to all students, only those students noted as FRPL-eligible can be auto-enrolled in CB.

#### **Do students still need to qualify for FRPL after they are enrolled in College Bound?**

- No, once a student is enrolled in CB, they do not need to qualify for FRPL again. Their CB status stays active while in middle and high school. However, when they apply for financial aid (FAFSA or WASFA) during their senior year in high school and while attending college, they must meet income and other program requirements to receive College Bound funds.

#### **Who is a "newly eligible 9th grader"?**

- Students who meet all the following:
  - Were enrolled in a Washington State middle school in 7th or 8th grade
  - Were not eligible for FRPL in 7th and/or 8th grade
  - Are newly eligible for FRPL in 9th grade

#### **How do the private and homeschool students know that they are supposed to sign up through your CB office?**

- We reach out to private schools to encourage them to promote CB with their students. These families will need to contact CB staff directly at [collegebound@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:collegebound@wsac.wa.gov) to begin the application.
- We have information on our website for private and homeschool families that encourages them to contact us to begin the application. This information can be found under the "Private and Homeschooled Students" [tab](#) at [collegebound.wsac.wa.gov](http://collegebound.wsac.wa.gov).

#### **Are youth in foster care eligible if they are adopted out of foster care?**

- Yes, a student will be auto-enrolled in CB if they are in state foster care for any period of time from 7<sup>th</sup> grade through high school graduation. If they are adopted before being auto-enrolled, then they must be FRPL-eligible. If they are adopted after being auto-enrolled, they must meet all [requirements](#) to receive CB in college. We receive youth in foster care data from the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF). However, the timing of the of their adoption may impact their dependency status on the FAFSA. For specifics, please contact a financial aid administrator at the student's choice of college.

**Do unaccompanied minors fall into the same category of youth in foster care?**

- No, they do not.

**If a youth in foster care has an interest to attend college two years after graduating from high school, will they be eligible to receive CB?**

- No, all students must enroll in college within one year of high school graduation, regardless of how they were auto-enrolled in the program. Students who receive college credits while in high school, such as through Running Start or College in the High School, meet the one-year enrollment requirement.

**Can we expand CB access to students who earn their GED?**

- The Washington State high school diploma/graduation requirement is written into state law.
- Youth in foster care may be able to receive CB with a GED. If you have a CB youth in foster care at your school, they can reach out to us to see if they meet that requirement.

**What does CTC mean?**

- Community and Technical Colleges

**What's the difference between "enrolling in ANY college", but they must "attend one of the 65+ eligible WA institutes"?**

- Students can enroll in any college to meet the one-year enrollment deadline after high school graduation, but they must enroll in a CB [participating institution](#) to receive CB funds.
- Students can attend any college outside of WA and then return to WA to use CB funds if they meet other program requirements.

**Would students with below a 2.0 GPA qualify for CB at a community college?**

- Yes, students with a cumulative GPA below 2.0 can receive CB at a community college if they meet all other [eligibility requirements](#). They can then transfer to a university if they attend the community college first.
- Students must have a cumulative 2.0 or higher GPA to directly enroll in a university and receive CB, in addition to meeting other program requirements.

**How much financial support (monetary value) does the College Bound Commitment provide each year?**

- College Bound works together with other state aid (usually the [WA Grant](#)) to cover the cost of tuition (at public rates), some fees, and a small amount for books. The amount students receive will vary depending on the type of school they attend. The college will list the amount on their financial aid award letter. Reminder! WA Grant funds meet the majority of most students' College Bound commitment funding.

## **Portal/Toolbox:**

### **Is it safe to assume we have permission from our districts to provide WSAC contact information for a student/family?**

- Yes, since the requested information is considered directory information and we are a state agency rather than a non-profit or higher education agency, the entering of contact information into the CB Toolbox is compliant with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). In cases where a student/family has a hold on contact information due to data security reasons, we ask that you follow your district's contact sharing policies to ensure their wishes are being met. More guidance in our [Portal FAQ](#) (question 24).

### **When is the information in the Portal/Toolbox updated each year?**

- We begin receiving data for newly enrolled CB students in November each year and that is typically when the grade level for already enrolled students will be updated as well. This is due to the fact that most schools first submit their enrollment data to OSPI in mid to late October and we receive our enrollment data from OSPI.
- We will receive updated information weekly and newly enrolled students monthly throughout the school year.

### **If I am helping 8th graders sign up, do I still need the Toolbox, since I won't have access to their info once they enter high school?**

- Yes, school staff who serve any grade(s) from 7th through 12th should have Toolbox access. The Toolbox is where you can see your list of CB students so you can update their contact info and better support them.
- We do not receive contact info for newly enrolled 7th and 8th graders, so we rely on the school staff to enter that information. Having Toolbox access will allow you to do that.

### **When adding Guardian address information, should we be providing the mailing address (PO Box) rather than physical address?**

- Yes, please only provide the mailing address so we can be sure they receive communications from the CB office.

### **Is there a way to see lists of CB completed applications from previous school years?**

- No, you can only view the list of students who are currently enrolled at your school. We are not able to provide information for students who have left your school or graduated. Those students can reach out to the CB office if they have any questions.

### **Should we notify the program if there are students who are no longer enrolled in our school but show up in our portal for our school?**

- No, we are not able to override the data we receive from OSPI. Those students should come off your list once their enrollment at their new school is reported or we receive an exit code for your school. Being on your list will not affect their CB eligibility.

### **Why do the WSAC CB list and Skyward differ at times?**

- There may be a variety of reasons that the list may differ. The main reason for this is that the CB Toolbox list is based on current CB students at your school with no exit code and whose expected graduation year has not passed. If you have students who recently had changed to exit/enrollment

codes in CEDARS, this may also take time to update. If you are unsure if the students may be linking to another school, you can go to the “Pages” feature at the top of the Toolbox and click on “Student Lookup”. If you enter the birthdate and student name and/or SSID, you can see if the student is currently in the Toolbox linked to another Washington school. In some rare cases, students may decide that they do not wish to be part of College Bound and then we mark them as Ineligible in the CB system. Those students would not appear on the CB list. If you have specific questions, please reach out to [collegebound@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:collegebound@wsac.wa.gov) to see if any issues can be located.

## **Materials:**

### **Do you have a flyer for virtual schools that talks about them having to contact your offices?**

- Most virtual schools in WA are considered alternative learning experiences (ALEs) within a public school district, meaning these students follow the same CB auto-enrollment process as other public school students. Our CB office offers a variety of materials for students and counselors on our CB webpage, including the [MS](#) and [HS](#) intro flyers. These one-page, printable PDFs explain the basics of CB and are available in 13 languages.

### **Could there be a way for portal users to retrieve a copy of a student’s CB certificate?**

- No, portal users cannot access the CB certificate that gets mailed to students. However, please refer to slide 19 of the CB Updates Webinar PPT for images of a sample of a CB certificate. We encourage you to download this [letter/email template](#), which resembles the one sent by the CB office, to confirm a CB student’s enrollment, provide key resources, and customize it with your school’s logo and contact details. It will be available in other languages soon.

## **College Success Foundation (CSF) :**

### **Who can we contact to arrange a College Bound presentation for our freshman and sophomores in an assembly format?**

- You can find your local CSF College Bound Regional Officer’s contact information [here](#).

## **OtterBot:**

### **Is OtterBot just for currently listed/identified College Bound qualifiers or any person seeking support?**

- OtterBot is a free texting service created to support all WA high school students and their parents/guardians with financial aid and postsecondary navigation. It was originally designed for high school seniors who are enrolled in College Bound, but has since expanded. More information can be found on the OtterBot [webpage](#).

## **Additional 2024 College Bound Updates Webinar Resources:**

- [PPT Presentation](#)
- [Recording](#)

### **Contact Information:**

email: [collegebound@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:collegebound@wsac.wa.gov) | phone: 888.535.0747, Option 1 | website: [collegebound.wa.gov](http://collegebound.wa.gov)