



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB FERGUSON —

Spring 2026

Dear High School Senior:

Now is the time to think about your future. I have good news about the career pathways and financial help available here in Washington. Whatever path you choose, the state of Washington is here to support you.

Countless possibilities lie ahead, whether you're thinking about college or planning to transition into the workforce, but keep in mind: **over 70 percent of jobs require some education beyond high school.** Many of you may qualify for free money from the state to help pay for college or job training. This money can help manage your costs.

You will never know how much money you can get unless you apply for financial aid. **Go to wsac.wa.gov/apply to get started and complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) today!**

Washington state has the most generous financial support available to you. For example, about half of Washington families qualify for the Washington College Grant (WA Grant). With WA Grant, a student from a family of four making \$78,500 or less can get the equivalent of free public college tuition and fees for their post-high school program. Even someone from a family of four making up to \$131,000 per year can get some money to help pay for college or training.

State financial aid programs like WA Grant and College Bound can be used at about 60 public and private colleges in Washington, including our state universities, community and technical colleges, and approved private institutions. WA Grant can also cover job training like certificate programs and even approved apprenticeship expenses. The money can also be used to pay for housing, supplies, books, and other education-related costs. Learn more and check your eligibility at WGrant.org.

Apply for financial aid using a federal or state application, either the FAFSA or the WASFA, to maximize the money you can access for education after high school. The FAFSA is now shorter and simpler, making it quicker and easier to complete. **Need help? Text "Hi OtterBot" to 360-928-7281 to get free, trusted support.**

It is not too late to apply for financial aid and make a plan for education after high school. Washington is here to support you. Do not miss out on this opportunity. I wish you the very best as you move into the next chapter of your life.

Sincerely,

Bob Ferguson
Governor

