

1. **Question:** What is the State Work Study (SWS) program?

**Answer:** SWS gives Washington resident students the opportunity to earn money for college by working up to 19 hours a week while gaining valuable work experience, often in jobs related to their academic and career goals.

Through partnerships with nearly 500 Washington employers—who match up to 60 percent of student wages—approximately 3,500 students earned more than \$11.7 million in 2019–20, with employers contributing nearly \$4.3 million.

2. **Question:** Which Washington colleges and universities participate in the program?

**Answer:** Fifty-four regionally accredited nonprofit colleges and universities, including all public two- and four-year institutions and many private four-year schools.

3. **Question:** How does SWS benefit students?

**Answer:**

- Improved persistence: Students who work 10-19 hours a week are more likely to persist toward a degree than other financially needy students.
- Fewer loans: Earning money while in college reduces the need to borrow.
- Enhanced employability: SWS students make connections with local employers while developing valuable hands-on career skills that enhance and distinguish their resumes post-graduation.

4. **Question:** How does SWS benefit employers?

**Answer:** Participating Washington employers access a well-educated and highly motivated pool of workers, allowing for improved productivity at a reduced cost now, as well as the chance to preview talent for future employment needs.

5. **Question:** How does SWS leverage additional resources for students?

**Answer:** Because participating employers pay a portion of student wages, more eligible students have the opportunity to earn SWS dollars without a corresponding need for additional state investment.

Employer contributions enabled SWS to deliver an average 36 percent return for each state dollar invested and provided an additional 1,300 students with work opportunities in 2019–20.