

---

SENATE BILL 5851

---

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Frockt, Kohl-Welles, Miloscia, Liias, Mullet, Pedersen, Nelson, and McAuliffe

Read first time 02/05/15. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to recommendations of the college bound  
2 scholarship program work group; amending RCW 28B.118.040; reenacting  
3 and amending RCW 28B.118.010; adding new sections to chapter 28B.118  
4 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the college  
7 bound scholarship program has demonstrated that an early promise of  
8 financial aid results in increased high school graduation rates for  
9 low-income students. The promise of state financial aid to students  
10 from low-income families who work to graduate with sufficient grades  
11 and no felony convictions provides them with a path toward greater  
12 educational attainment and upward mobility. The scholarship program  
13 has the potential to move Washington toward its long-term goal of a  
14 better trained and educated workforce. Among the first two cohorts,  
15 college bound enrollees were fifteen percent and nineteen percent  
16 more likely to graduate from high school in 2012 and 2013 compared to  
17 low-income peers who were not part of the program.

18 The legislature also finds that a comprehensive review of the  
19 college bound scholarship program in 2014 resulted in unanimous  
20 recommendations to improve and enhance certain components of the  
21 program, including data collection, outreach, and program outcomes.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.118.010 and 2012 c 229 s 402 and 2012 c 163 s 8  
2 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

3       The office of student financial assistance shall design the  
4 Washington college bound scholarship program in accordance with this  
5 section and in alignment with the state need grant program in chapter  
6 28B.92 RCW unless otherwise provided in this section.

7       (1) "Eligible students" are those students who:

8       (a) Qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. If a student  
9 qualifies in the seventh grade, the student remains eligible even if  
10 the student does not receive free or reduced-price lunches  
11 thereafter; or

12       (b) Are dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW and:

13       (i) In grade seven through twelve; or

14       (ii) Are between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one and have not  
15 graduated from high school.

16       (2) Eligible students shall be notified of their eligibility for  
17 the Washington college bound scholarship program beginning in their  
18 seventh grade year. Students shall also be notified of the  
19 requirements for award of the scholarship.

20       (3)(a) To be eligible for a Washington college bound scholarship,  
21 a student eligible under subsection (1)(a) of this section must sign  
22 a pledge during seventh or eighth grade that includes a commitment to  
23 graduate from high school with at least a C average and with no  
24 felony convictions. The pledge must be witnessed by a parent or  
25 guardian and forwarded to the office of student financial assistance  
26 by mail or electronically, as indicated on the pledge form.

27       (b) A student eligible under subsection (1)(b) of this section  
28 shall be automatically enrolled, with no action necessary by the  
29 student or the student's family, and the enrollment form must be  
30 forwarded by the department of social and health services to the  
31 higher education coordinating board or its successor by mail or  
32 electronically, as indicated on the form.

33       (4)(a) Scholarships shall be awarded to eligible students  
34 graduating from public high schools, approved private high schools  
35 under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or who received home-based instruction  
36 under chapter 28A.200 RCW.

37       (b) To receive the Washington college bound scholarship, a  
38 student must graduate with at least a "C" average from a public high  
39 school or an approved private high school under chapter 28A.195 RCW  
40 in Washington or have received home-based instruction under chapter

1 28A.200 RCW, must have no felony convictions, and must be a resident  
2 student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a) through (d).

3 (5) A student's family income will be assessed upon graduation  
4 before awarding the scholarship.

5 (6) If at graduation from high school the student's family income  
6 does not exceed sixty-five percent of the state median family income,  
7 scholarship award amounts shall be as provided in this section.

8 (a) For students attending two or four-year institutions of  
9 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, the value of the award  
10 shall be (i) the difference between the student's tuition and  
11 required fees, less the value of any state-funded grant, scholarship,  
12 or waiver assistance the student receives; (ii) plus five hundred  
13 dollars for books and materials.

14 (b) For students attending private four-year institutions of  
15 higher education in Washington participating in the state need grant  
16 program, the award amount shall be the ((~~representative average~~))  
17 equivalent of awards granted to students in public research  
18 universities in Washington.

19 (c) For students attending private vocational schools in  
20 Washington participating in the state need grant program, the award  
21 amount shall be the ((~~representative average~~)) equivalent of awards  
22 granted to students in public community and technical colleges in  
23 Washington.

24 (7) Recipients may receive no more than four full-time years'  
25 worth of scholarship awards and have undergraduate student status.

26 (8) Institutions of higher education shall award the student all  
27 need-based and merit-based financial aid for which the student would  
28 otherwise qualify. The Washington college bound scholarship is  
29 intended to replace unmet need, loans, and, at the student's option,  
30 work-study award before any other grants or scholarships are reduced.

31 (9) The first scholarships shall be awarded to students  
32 graduating in 2012.

33 (10) The state of Washington retains legal ownership of tuition  
34 units awarded as scholarships under this chapter until the tuition  
35 units are redeemed. These tuition units shall remain separately held  
36 from any tuition units owned under chapter 28B.95 RCW by a Washington  
37 college bound scholarship recipient.

38 (11) The scholarship award must be used within five years of  
39 receipt. The recipient must enroll in an institution of higher  
40 education no later than the fall term one academic year following

1 high school graduation. Any unused scholarship tuition units revert  
2 to the Washington college bound scholarship account.

3 (12) Should the recipient terminate his or her enrollment for any  
4 reason during the academic year, the unused portion of the  
5 scholarship tuition units shall revert to the Washington college  
6 bound scholarship account.

7 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.118.040 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 228 are each  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 The office of student financial assistance shall:

10 (1) With the assistance of the office of the superintendent of  
11 public instruction, implement and administer the Washington college  
12 bound scholarship program;

13 (2) Develop and distribute, to all schools with students enrolled  
14 in grade seven or eight, a pledge form that can be completed and  
15 returned electronically or by mail by the student or the school to  
16 the office of student financial assistance;

17 (3) Develop and implement a student application, selection, and  
18 notification process for scholarships, which includes working with  
19 other state agencies, law enforcement, or the court system to verify  
20 that eligible students do not have felony convictions;

21 (4) Develop comprehensive social media outreach with grade-level  
22 specific information designed to keep students on track to graduate  
23 and leverage current tools such as the high school and beyond plan  
24 required by the state board of education and the ready set grad web  
25 site maintained by the student achievement council;

26 (5) Track scholarship recipients to ensure continued eligibility  
27 and determine student compliance for awarding of scholarships;

28 ~~((+5))~~ (6) Within existing resources, collaborate with college  
29 access providers and K-12, postsecondary, and youth-serving  
30 organizations to map and coordinate mentoring and advising resources  
31 across the state;

32 (7) Subject to appropriation, deposit funds into the state  
33 educational trust fund;

34 ~~((+6))~~ (8) Purchase tuition units under the advanced college  
35 tuition payment program in chapter 28B.95 RCW to be owned and held in  
36 trust by the board, for the purpose of scholarship awards as provided  
37 for in this section; and

38 ~~((+7))~~ (9) Distribute scholarship funds, in the form of tuition  
39 units purchased under the advanced college tuition payment program in

1 chapter 28B.95 RCW or through direct payments from the state  
2 educational trust fund, to institutions of higher education on behalf  
3 of scholarship recipients identified by the office, as long as  
4 recipients maintain satisfactory academic progress.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.118  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 Each institution of higher education is encouraged to tailor  
8 advising resources for any enrolled student who is the recipient of a  
9 college bound scholarship. The institutions of higher education  
10 should identify campus officials, resources, programs, and other  
11 college bound scholarship students available to work with college  
12 bound scholarship recipients.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.118  
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 The education data center created in RCW 43.41.400, the student  
16 achievement council, and all institutions of higher education  
17 eligible to participate in the college bound scholarship program  
18 shall collaborate to ensure data needed to analyze and evaluate the  
19 effectiveness of the college bound scholarship program is available  
20 and easily accessible. The data to be reported should include but not  
21 be limited to:

22 (1) The number of students who sign up for the college bound  
23 scholarship program in seventh or eighth grade;

24 (2) The number of college bound scholarship students who graduate  
25 from high school;

26 (3) The number of college bound scholarship students who enroll  
27 in postsecondary education;

28 (4) Persistence and completion rates of college bound scholarship  
29 recipients disaggregated by institutions of higher education;

30 (5) College bound scholarship recipient grade point averages;

31 (6) The number of college bound scholarship recipients who did  
32 not remain eligible and reasons for ineligibility;

33 (7) College bound scholarship program costs; and

34 (8) Impacts to the state need grant program.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.118  
36 RCW to read as follows:

1           (1) The Washington state institute for public policy shall  
2 complete an evaluation of the college bound scholarship program and  
3 submit a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by  
4 December 1, 2018. The report shall evaluate educational outcomes  
5 emphasizing degree completion rates at both secondary and  
6 postsecondary levels. The report shall study certain aspects of the  
7 college bound scholarship program, including but not limited to:  
8           (a) College bound scholarship recipient grade point average and  
9 its relationship to positive outcomes;  
10           (b) Variance in remediation needed between college bound  
11 scholarship recipient and their peers;  
12           (c) Differentials in persistence between college bound  
13 scholarship recipients and their peers; and  
14           (d) The impact of ineligibility for the college bound scholarship  
15 program, for reasons such as moving into the state after middle  
16 school or change in family income.  
17           (2) This section expires August 1, 2019.

--- END ---