
SENATE BILL 5442

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Riccelli, Christian, Holy, Bateman, Chapman, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Lovick, Nobles, Saldaña, Schoesler, Short, Trudeau, Valdez, and Warnick

Read first time 01/22/25. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a college promise pilot program;
2 adding new sections to chapter 28B.92 RCW; making an appropriation;
3 and providing expiration dates.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts
6 appropriated for this specific purpose, the council shall collaborate
7 with a registered 501(c)(3) that provides student services in 10
8 counties across eastern Washington and is headquartered in a county
9 east of the crest of the Cascade mountains to establish a college
10 promise pilot program beginning in the 2025-26 academic year.

11 (2) The college promise pilot program must select a minimum of
12 100 students per year within a 10-county region served by a single
13 regional promise program to receive up to \$5,000 annually for tuition
14 and fees. Eligible recipients are students who:

15 (a) Have graduated from a high school within the 10-county
16 region;

17 (b) Have enrolled in an institution of higher education, an
18 apprenticeship, or other postsecondary credential program located
19 within the 10-county region within one year of graduating high
20 school;

1 (c) Have filled out a free application for federal student aid or
2 a Washington application for state financial aid;

3 (d) Have a family income that does not exceed 150 percent of the
4 state median family income; and

5 (e) Are part of a program that provides mentoring services to
6 students on posthigh school education.

7 (3) Funds must be distributed to the council and paid directly to
8 the institution, apprenticeship, or program indicated in subsection
9 (2)(b) of this section.

10 (4) The amount of funds awarded to eligible students under the
11 college promise pilot program must be calculated and determined after
12 all other state and federal aid has been applied.

13 (5) This section expires August 1, 2029.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The source of funds for the college
15 promise pilot program shall be a combination of private grants and
16 contributions and state matching funds.

17 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
18 specific purpose, the state shall provide an annual appropriation to
19 match private grants and contributions on an equal dollar basis.

20 (3) A state match may be earned under this section after the
21 effective date of this section.

22 (4) This section expires August 1, 2029.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The college promise pilot program
24 match transfer account is created in the custody of the state
25 treasurer. All receipts from appropriations by the legislature, and
26 any gifts, grants, or donations received by the council for this
27 purpose must be deposited into the account. Expenditures from the
28 account may be used only for the college promise pilot program
29 established in section 1 of this act. Only the executive director of
30 the council or the director's designee may authorize expenditures
31 from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures
32 under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for
33 expenditures.

34 (2) No expenditures from the account may be made except upon
35 receipt of proof, by the council from the program administrator, of
36 private contributions to the college promise pilot program.
37 Expenditures, in the form of matching funds, may not exceed the total
38 amount of private contributions. Expenditures must be made as soon as

1 practicable following receipt of proof as required under this
2 subsection.

3 (3) The council shall enter into an appropriate agreement with
4 the program administrator to demonstrate exchange of consideration
5 for the matching funds.

6 (4) For the purpose of this section, "program administrator"
7 means the registered 501(c)(3) that provides student services in 10
8 counties across eastern Washington and is headquartered in a county
9 east of the crest of the Cascade mountains which administers the
10 college promise pilot program in section 1 of this act.

11 (5) This section expires August 1, 2029.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts
13 appropriated for this specific purpose, beginning in the 2025-26
14 academic year, a registered 501(c)(3) that provides student services
15 in 10 counties across eastern Washington and is headquartered in a
16 county east of the crest of the Cascade mountains shall establish a
17 high school promise pilot program within the college promise pilot
18 program at which graduating high school students may receive full
19 tuition for two years of community college located within the 10-
20 county region.

21 (2) The registered 501(c)(3) must select three high schools
22 within the most populous county east of the crest of the Cascade
23 mountains as follows:

24 (a) One public high school serving fewer than 1,000 students;

25 (b) One project-based high school serving fewer than 300
26 students; and

27 (c) One high school serving only juniors and seniors and serving
28 fewer than 500 students.

29 (3) This section expires August 1, 2029.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) In accordance with RCW 43.01.036, the
31 registered 501(c)(3) shall submit a report to the council to submit
32 it to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1,
33 2028. The report must include the following information:

34 (a) The number of promise program students that attend a
35 community college and received funds under the programs established
36 in sections 1 and 4 of this act;

37 (b) The number of promise program students who complete a degree
38 within two years; and

1 (c) The number of promise program students who transfer to a
2 four-year institution of higher education.

3 (2) For the purposes of this section, "promise program students"
4 include those who received up to \$5,000 annually for tuition and fees
5 through the program established in section 1 of this act, and
6 graduating high school students that received full tuition for two
7 years of community college through the program established in section
8 4 of this act.

9 (3) This section expires August 1, 2029.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The sum of \$500,000, or as much thereof as
11 may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30,
12 2026, and the sum of \$1,000,000, or as much thereof as may be
13 necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027,
14 from the general fund—state to the student achievement council for
15 deposit into the college promise pilot program match transfer account
16 solely for the purpose of implementing this act.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act are each
18 added to chapter 28B.92 RCW.

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