
HOUSE BILL 1293

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Ortiz-Self, Caldier, Stonier, Doglio, Orwall, Senn, Tarleton, McBride, Gregerson, Kagi, Jinkins, Santos, Pollet, Bergquist, Kilduff, Young, and Frame

Read first time 01/16/17. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to eliminating the parent or guardian approval
2 requirement for the college bound scholarship pledge; and amending
3 RCW 28B.118.010 and 28B.118.040.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.118.010 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 36 s 8 are each
6 amended to read as follows:

7 The office of student financial assistance shall design the
8 Washington college bound scholarship program in accordance with this
9 section and in alignment with the state need grant program in chapter
10 28B.92 RCW unless otherwise provided in this section.

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

12 (a) Qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. If a student
13 qualifies in the seventh grade, the student remains eligible even if
14 the student does not receive free or reduced-price lunches
15 thereafter; or

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

17 (i) In grade seven through twelve; or

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

20 (2) Eligible students and the students' parents or guardians
21 shall be notified of (~~their~~) the student's eligibility for the

1 Washington college bound scholarship program beginning in (~~their~~)
2 the student's seventh grade year. Students and the students' parents
3 or guardians shall also be notified of the requirements for award of
4 the scholarship.

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

12 (b)(i) Beginning in the 2017-18 academic year, the office of
13 student financial assistance shall make multiple attempts to secure
14 the signature of the student's parent or guardian for the purpose of
15 witnessing the pledge.

16 (ii) If the signature of the student's parent or guardian is not
17 obtained, the office of student financial assistance may partner with
18 the school counselor or administrator to secure the parent's or
19 guardian's signature to witness the pledge. The school counselor or
20 administrator shall make multiple attempts via all phone numbers,
21 email addresses, and mailing addresses on record to secure the
22 parent's or guardian's signature.

23 (iii) If a parent's or guardian's signature is still not
24 obtained, the school counselor or administrator shall indicate to the
25 office of student financial assistance the nature of the unsuccessful
26 efforts to contact the student's parent or guardian and the reasons
27 the signature is not available. Then the school counselor or
28 administrator may witness the pledge unless the parent or guardian
29 has indicated that he or she does not wish for the student to
30 participate in the program.

31 (c) A student eligible under subsection (1)(b) of this section
32 shall be automatically enrolled, with no action necessary by the
33 student or the student's family, and the enrollment form must be
34 forwarded by the department of social and health services to the
35 (~~higher education coordinating board or its successor~~) office of
36 student financial assistance by mail or electronically, as indicated
37 on the form.

38 (4)(a) Scholarships shall be awarded to eligible students
39 graduating from public high schools, approved private high schools

1 under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or who received home-based instruction
2 under chapter 28A.200 RCW.

3 (b)(i) To receive the Washington college bound scholarship, a
4 student must graduate with at least a "C" average from a public high
5 school or an approved private high school under chapter 28A.195 RCW
6 in Washington or have received home-based instruction under chapter
7 28A.200 RCW, must have no felony convictions, and must be a resident
8 student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a) through (d).

9 (ii) For a student who does not meet the "C" average requirement,
10 and who completes fewer than two quarters in the running start
11 program, under chapter 28A.600 RCW, the student's first quarter of
12 running start course grades must be excluded from the student's
13 overall grade point average for purposes of determining their
14 eligibility to receive the scholarship.

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

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

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

26 (b) For students attending private four-year institutions of
27 higher education in Washington, the award amount shall be the
28 representative average of awards granted to students in public
29 research universities in Washington or the representative average of
30 awards granted to students in public research universities in
31 Washington in the 2014-15 academic year, whichever is greater.

32 (c) For students attending private vocational schools in
33 Washington, the award amount shall be the representative average of
34 awards granted to students in public community and technical colleges
35 in Washington or the representative average of awards granted to
36 students in public community and technical colleges in Washington in
37 the 2014-15 academic year, whichever is greater.

38 (7) Recipients may receive no more than four full-time years'
39 worth of scholarship awards.

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

6 (9) The first scholarships shall be awarded to students
7 graduating in 2012.

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

13 (11) The scholarship award must be used within five years of
14 receipt. Any unused scholarship tuition units revert to the
15 Washington college bound scholarship account.

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

20 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.118.040 and 2015 c 244 s 4 are each amended to
21 read as follows:

22 The office of student financial assistance shall:

23 (1) With the assistance of the office of the superintendent of
24 public instruction, implement and administer the Washington college
25 bound scholarship program;

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

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

34 (4) Annually in March, with the assistance of the office of the
35 superintendent of public instruction, distribute to tenth grade
36 college bound scholarship students and their families: (a)
37 Notification that, to qualify for the scholarship, a student's family
38 income may not exceed sixty-five percent of the state median family
39 income at graduation from high school; (b) the current year's value

1 for sixty-five percent of the state median family income; and (c) a
2 statement that a student should consult their school counselor if
3 their family makes, or is projected to make, more than this value
4 before the student graduates;

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

10 (6) Track scholarship recipients to ensure continued eligibility
11 and determine student compliance for awarding of scholarships;

12 (7) Within existing resources, collaborate with college access
13 providers and K-12, postsecondary, and youth-serving organizations to
14 map and coordinate mentoring and advising resources across the state;

15 (8) Subject to appropriation, deposit funds into the state
16 educational trust fund;

17 (9) Purchase tuition units under the advanced college tuition
18 payment program in chapter 28B.95 RCW to be owned and held in trust
19 by the ((board)) office of student financial assistance, for the
20 purpose of scholarship awards as provided for in this section; and

21 (10) Distribute scholarship funds, in the form of tuition units
22 purchased under the advanced college tuition payment program in
23 chapter 28B.95 RCW or through direct payments from the state
24 educational trust fund, to institutions of higher education on behalf
25 of scholarship recipients identified by the office, as long as
26 recipients maintain satisfactory academic progress.

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