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**HOUSE BILL 2374**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Pollet, Reed, Bergquist, Callan, Farivar, Ryu, Berry, Nance, Tharinger, Doglio, Slatter, Simmons, Paul, Street, Goodman, and Macri

Read first time 01/15/24. Referred to Committee on Postsecondary Education & Workforce.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the Washington promise program,  
2 which provides for affordable access to community and technical  
3 colleges; amending RCW 28B.50.536, 28A.230.310, 28A.230.212, and  
4 28B.77.300; reenacting and amending RCW 43.88C.010; adding a new  
5 section to chapter 28B.10 RCW; adding a new section to chapter  
6 28A.230 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 28B RCW; creating new  
7 sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to establish the  
10 Washington promise program to help make the first two years of  
11 college affordable and accessible to all citizens of the state of  
12 Washington by offering a tuition waiver for eligible students  
13 enrolled in associate degree or certificate programs offered by  
14 Washington's community and technical colleges. The purposes of the  
15 Washington promise program are to encourage more Washington residents  
16 to enroll in and successfully complete an associate's degree,  
17 workforce training certificate, or apprenticeship program that will  
18 lead to opportunities for further education, well-paying jobs, and  
19 increased opportunity to reduce intergenerational poverty; and to  
20 increase high school graduation and equivalency program completion.  
21 By making a postsecondary education credential more affordable and

1 accessible, Washington will make more progress towards the  
2 legislature's attainment goal of 70 percent of Washington adults  
3 having a postsecondary credential.

4 The legislature recognizes that increasing the number of  
5 residents with associate degrees will lead to increased attainment  
6 for higher level degrees as students are encouraged to transfer to  
7 comprehensive or research universities.

8 It is the intent of the legislature to implement the Washington  
9 promise program in phases. The legislature recognizes that promise  
10 programs are proven to significantly increase high school graduation  
11 rates by ensuring all high school graduates know they can attend a  
12 community or technical college regardless of their family income.  
13 Thus, investment in these programs is an evidence-based means to  
14 improve high school graduation rates and to reduce, or even  
15 eliminate, opportunity gaps in postsecondary education for students  
16 from underrepresented minority groups, low-income students, foster  
17 youth, and students with disabilities.

18 The legislature also recognizes that evidence shows that merely  
19 making enrollment free does not address the many obstacles for  
20 students to complete a degree or workforce training program.  
21 Therefore, the legislature intends for the Washington promise program  
22 to include evidence-based supports, including student orientation and  
23 success courses, peer mentoring programs, and assistance in meeting  
24 such basic needs as food and housing security or child care.

25 The Washington promise program is intended to provide tuition and  
26 other supports to students, filling the gap left from federal Pell  
27 grants and other federal financial aid that a student qualifies for  
28 upon completion of the free application for federal student aid.

29 The legislature also finds that increasing the rate of high  
30 school students' completion of the free application for federal  
31 student aid and Washington application for state financial aid is a  
32 necessary component to increasing postsecondary enrollment and  
33 attainment. Therefore, the legislature intends for all Washington  
34 high school students to complete the free application for federal  
35 student aid and the Washington application for state financial aid  
36 and receive information on the Washington promise program and  
37 Washington college grant prior to high school graduation.

1        NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 2.**    The definitions in this section apply  
2 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires  
3 otherwise.

4        (1) "Board" means the state board for community and technical  
5 colleges.

6        (2) "Community or technical college" means the community or  
7 technical colleges governed under chapter 28B.50 RCW.

8        (3) "Eligible degree or certificate program" means:

9        (a) An associate degree program;

10       (b) Academic programs with credits that can fully transfer via an  
11 articulation agreement toward a baccalaureate degree or  
12 postbaccalaureate degree at an institution of higher education, as  
13 defined in RCW 28B.10.016;

14       (c) Professional and technical programs that lead to a recognized  
15 postsecondary credential; or

16       (d) Apprenticeship programs approved under RCW 49.04.010 and  
17 conducted in association with any community or technical college.

18       (4) "Gift aid" means financial aid received from the federal Pell  
19 grant, the state need grant program under chapter 28B.92 RCW, the  
20 college bound scholarship program under chapter 28B.118 RCW, the  
21 opportunity grant program under chapter 28B.50 RCW, the opportunity  
22 scholarship program under chapter 28B.145 RCW, or any other state  
23 grant or scholarship program that provides funds for educational  
24 purposes with no obligation of repayment. "Gift aid" does not include  
25 student loans and work-study programs.

26       (5) "Office" means the office of student financial assistance.

27       (6) "Program" means the Washington promise program.

28       (7) "Program recipient" means an eligible student who has been  
29 awarded a Washington promise program grant.

30       (8) "Resident student" means a student who is a resident student  
31 as defined in RCW 28B.15.012.

32       (9) "Wraparound services" means evidence-based programs that have  
33 been demonstrated to, or which research provides support that the  
34 program will, increase student retention and degree or certificate  
35 completion.

36       NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 3.**    (1) Subject to availability of amounts  
37 appropriated for this specific purpose, the Washington promise  
38 program is established to provide up to 90 credits to be earned  
39 within six years from the date of enrollment or the equivalent of two

1 years of full-time enrollment of tuition free community or technical  
2 college, whichever comes first, for eligible students enrolled in any  
3 quarter or semester beginning with the 2026-27 academic year. The  
4 office shall administer the program. To become a program recipient,  
5 an eligible student:

6 (a) Must have graduated from a public high school or earned a  
7 high school equivalency certificate, as described in RCW 28B.50.536,  
8 in the state within 15 calendar months prior to enrolling in a  
9 community or technical college;

10 (b) Must not have previously earned an associate degree;

11 (c) Must be enrolled at least part time in an eligible degree or  
12 certificate program at a community or technical college;

13 (d) Must complete the free application for federal student aid or  
14 the Washington application for state financial aid for the academic  
15 year in which they seek eligibility for the program;

16 (e) Must be a resident student; and

17 (f) Must have a family income that does not exceed 200 percent of  
18 the state median family income, adjusted for family size as  
19 established and updated annually by the student achievement council.

20 (2) Beginning with the 2028-29 academic year, an eligible student  
21 is expanded to include an individual who:

22 (a) Has graduated from a public high school or earned a high  
23 school equivalency certificate, as described in RCW 28B.50.536, in  
24 the state;

25 (b) Has not have previously earned an associate degree;

26 (c) Is enrolled at least part time in an eligible degree or  
27 certificate program at a community or technical college;

28 (d) Has completed the free application for federal student aid or  
29 the Washington application for state financial aid for the academic  
30 year in which they seek eligibility for the program;

31 (e) Is a resident student; and

32 (f) Has a family income that does not exceed 150 percent of the  
33 state median family income, adjusted for family size as established  
34 and updated annually by the student achievement council.

35 (3) The office shall award grants to program recipients for an  
36 amount up to the cost of tuition and fees as defined in RCW  
37 28B.15.020, and services and activities fees as defined in RCW  
38 28B.15.041, less all other gift aid.

39 (4) Program recipients must receive intensive advising, defined  
40 by the board in consultation with the student achievement council,

1 for student success from the community or technical college in which  
2 they are enrolled.

3 (5) (a) The board shall develop a plan to provide program  
4 recipients with median family incomes at or below 100 percent of the  
5 state median family income, adjusted for family size as established  
6 and updated annually by the student achievement council, or who are  
7 eligible for the Washington college grant created in RCW 28B.92.200,  
8 with a preenrollment orientation program or a quarter or semester to  
9 year-long student success course that provides advising and peer  
10 support and teaches essential skills for college success. Essential  
11 skills may include study habits and time management, financial aid  
12 information and resources, connecting students with advisors,  
13 encouraging student mentoring, helping establish student cohorts, and  
14 providing information about services available on campus.  
15 Participation in programs or courses created under this subsection  
16 must be free of cost and may not result in a reduction of gift aid.

17 (b) The board shall provide the plan to the relevant committees  
18 of the legislature by December 1, 2024, pursuant to RCW 43.01.036,  
19 and begin implementation of the plan for the 2025-26 academic year.

20 (6) Program recipients with median family incomes at or below 150  
21 percent of the state median family income, adjusted for family size  
22 as established and updated annually by the student achievement  
23 council, must receive an annual \$500 college basic attendance grant  
24 for books and other related higher education expenses and a transit  
25 pass for public transit serving the community or technical college at  
26 which the program recipient is enrolled.

27 (a) The college basic attendance grant must be distributed on a  
28 quarterly or semester basis for each quarter or semester a program  
29 recipient is enrolled, with the grant prorated based on three  
30 quarters or two semesters of attendance per academic year. Program  
31 recipients who enroll in four quarters are entitled to a college  
32 basic attendance grant equivalent to one-third of the annual stipend  
33 for the fourth quarter.

34 (b) Program recipients enrolled less than full time must receive  
35 a prorated portion of the college basic attendance grant based on the  
36 number of credits enrolled. Receipt of the stipend may not result in  
37 a reduction of gift aid.

38 (c) Beginning December 31, 2026, and every two years thereafter,  
39 the student achievement council shall adopt an annual inflation  
40 increase for the college basic attendance grant based on the cost of

1 attendance, including required textbooks and other costs for  
2 attendance. By January 31, 2027, and every two years thereafter, the  
3 student achievement council shall report the inflation adjustment for  
4 the following biennium to the governor, the caseload forecast  
5 council, and the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the  
6 legislature, pursuant to RCW 43.01.036.

7 (7) (a) By June 30, 2025, the board, in consultation with the  
8 student achievement council, shall adopt a menu of evidence-based  
9 wraparound services that increase student retention and degree or  
10 certificate completion rates. The menu of wraparound services must be  
11 updated every five years.

12 (b) Each community or technical college district shall devise a  
13 plan for providing wraparound services based on the needs of the  
14 population the district serves and including evidence-based  
15 wraparound services identified in the menu created in (a) of this  
16 subsection. Wraparound services may include collaborations with not-  
17 for-profit and community-based organizations using evidence-based  
18 mentoring and advising. Each community or technical college district  
19 shall submit its plan to the board for approval by December 1, 2025,  
20 and every five years thereafter.

21 (c) Wraparound services must be provided to all program  
22 recipients from the community or technical college in which they are  
23 enrolled for the purpose of reducing, or helping to reduce, barriers  
24 that threaten completion of their degree or certificate program.  
25 Wraparound services may include, but are not limited to, navigation  
26 support for public benefits, financial coaching, and access to food,  
27 housing, and child care resources and referrals.

28 (d) Program recipients who are considered first generation  
29 college students or members of other groups whose retention and  
30 completion rates are lower than target rates set by the board must be  
31 offered additional evidence-based wraparound services including  
32 mentoring and peer support programs. The board is encouraged to  
33 utilize community-based nonprofit partners who may begin mentoring  
34 and supporting students in developing postsecondary success skills  
35 while in high school and continuing through the first two quarters of  
36 enrollment at a community or technical college.

37 (8) Program recipients with eligible dependent children are  
38 eligible for subsidized child care and early learning programs which  
39 are accredited through head start, the early childhood education and

1 assistance program, or a public school system at the community or  
2 technical college, or in the community.

3 (9) By December 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the board shall  
4 report to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the  
5 legislature, pursuant to RCW 43.01.036, on the following impacts of  
6 the program:

7 (a) Program recipient enrollment in eligible degree or  
8 certificate programs;

9 (b) Program recipient completion rates of credits, certificates,  
10 and degrees;

11 (c) The cost of implementation, including the cost per program  
12 recipient;

13 (d) Additional resources used to meet program recipient needs,  
14 such as counseling, precollege courses, child care, or  
15 transportation;

16 (e) The number of program recipients receiving wraparound  
17 services, the number of schools providing wraparound services, and  
18 the resources needed to provide wraparound services; and

19 (f) Evidence relating to changes in student retention and degree  
20 or certificate completion rates for different student populations  
21 divided, to the extent possible, by type of wraparound services  
22 students received.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10  
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 The state universities, regional universities, and the state  
26 college shall offer students who transferred from a community or  
27 technical college at which they received wraparound services under  
28 section 3(7) of this act a quarter or semester-long student success  
29 course, intensive advising, or a peer advising or mentoring program.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230  
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 (1) The state board of education and office of the superintendent  
33 of public instruction shall adopt learning requirements and a  
34 curriculum for every high school junior and senior to learn about the  
35 Washington promise program created in section 3 of this act, the  
36 Washington college grant created in RCW 28B.92.200, and the benefits  
37 and opportunities of postsecondary education.

1 (2) Beginning with the 2025-26 academic year, high school  
2 graduation requirements established by the state board of education  
3 must include participation in a program in junior or senior year  
4 assisting students and parents or legal guardians in completing the  
5 free application for federal student aid and the Washington  
6 application for state financial aid.

7 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28B.50.536 and 2013 c 39 s 9 are each amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 (1) Subject to rules adopted by the state board of education  
10 under RCW 28A.305.190, the state board for community and technical  
11 colleges shall adopt rules governing the eligibility of persons  
12 sixteen years of age and older to take a test to earn a high school  
13 equivalency certificate, rules governing the administration of the  
14 test, and rules governing the issuance of a high school equivalency  
15 certificate to persons who successfully complete the test.

16 (2) A high school equivalency certificate is a certificate issued  
17 jointly by the college board and the office of the superintendent of  
18 public instruction that indicates that the holder has attained  
19 standard scores at or above the minimum proficiency level prescribed  
20 by the college board on a high school equivalency test. The college  
21 board must identify and accept a high school equivalency test that is  
22 at least as rigorous as the general educational development test. The  
23 high school equivalency test identified by the college board must  
24 cover reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies  
25 subject areas.

26 (3) High school equivalency certificates issued under this  
27 section shall be issued in such form and substance as agreed upon by  
28 the state board for community and technical colleges and  
29 superintendent of public instruction.

30 (4) The college board and the office of the superintendent of  
31 public instruction shall create a notice about the Washington college  
32 grant created in RCW 28B.92.200, the Washington promise program  
33 created in section 3 of this act, and the benefits and opportunities  
34 of postsecondary education. The notice must be provided to  
35 individuals upon registration for the test to earn a high school  
36 equivalency certificate and issuance of a high school equivalency  
37 certificate.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 7.**    (1) The student achievement council, in  
2 collaboration with the board, shall conduct a study on the  
3 effectiveness of the program including, but not limited to: Increases  
4 in enrollment in community or technical colleges; changes in  
5 enrollments elsewhere in institutions of higher education; changes in  
6 high school graduation or equivalency program completion rates; and  
7 changes in student persistence, completion, and time to degree rates  
8 in eligible degree or certificate programs. The study must include an  
9 analysis on the demand for student services, such as advising and  
10 student success courses, recommendations to improve student services  
11 and outcomes, and the financial impact of the program on program  
12 recipients. The student achievement council shall report its findings  
13 to the relevant committees of the legislature by December 1, 2028,  
14 pursuant to RCW 43.01.036.

15        (2) This section expires August 1, 2029.

16        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 8.**    The caseload forecast council shall  
17 estimate the anticipated caseload of the program and submit this  
18 forecast as required in RCW 43.88C.020.

19        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 9.**    The board may adopt, and amend as  
20 necessary, rules to implement this chapter.

21        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 10.**    If the legislature does not appropriate  
22 enough funding to support the statewide implementation of section  
23 3(1) of this act in full, the board shall provide matching grants to  
24 community or technical college districts based on the appropriation  
25 received to implement a program offering tuition free community or  
26 technical college for recent graduates of high schools within the  
27 region served by the college or college district. The community or  
28 technical college districts shall partner with local governments and  
29 private entities to secure match funding. Programs may include a free  
30 "13th year," under which up to 45 credits may be obtained tuition  
31 free in the 15 months following graduation from a public high school  
32 or obtaining a high school equivalency certificate, as described in  
33 RCW 28B.50.536. The board shall adopt criteria for the grants,  
34 prioritizing aid for at-risk students and programs with funding  
35 partners.

1       **Sec. 11.** RCW 43.88C.010 and 2023 c 420 s 4, 2023 c 345 s 1, and  
2 2023 c 244 s 1 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

3       (1) The caseload forecast council is hereby created. The council  
4 shall consist of two individuals appointed by the governor and four  
5 individuals, one of whom is appointed by the chairperson of each of  
6 the two largest political caucuses in the senate and house of  
7 representatives. The chair of the council shall be selected from  
8 among the four caucus appointees. The council may select such other  
9 officers as the members deem necessary.

10       (2) The council shall employ a caseload forecast supervisor to  
11 supervise the preparation of all caseload forecasts. As used in this  
12 chapter, "supervisor" means the caseload forecast supervisor.

13       (3) Approval by an affirmative vote of at least five members of  
14 the council is required for any decisions regarding employment of the  
15 supervisor. Employment of the supervisor shall terminate after each  
16 term of three years. At the end of the first year of each three-year  
17 term the council shall consider extension of the supervisor's term by  
18 one year. The council may fix the compensation of the supervisor. The  
19 supervisor shall employ staff sufficient to accomplish the purposes  
20 of this section.

21       (4) The caseload forecast council shall oversee the preparation  
22 of and approve, by an affirmative vote of at least four members, the  
23 official state caseload forecasts prepared under RCW 43.88C.020. If  
24 the council is unable to approve a forecast before a date required in  
25 RCW 43.88C.020, the supervisor shall submit the forecast without  
26 approval and the forecast shall have the same effect as if approved  
27 by the council.

28       (5) A councilmember who does not cast an affirmative vote for  
29 approval of the official caseload forecast may request, and the  
30 supervisor shall provide, an alternative forecast based on  
31 assumptions specified by the member.

32       (6) Members of the caseload forecast council shall serve without  
33 additional compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses  
34 in accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the  
35 council or on official business authorized by the council.  
36 Nonlegislative members of the council shall be reimbursed for travel  
37 expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

38       (7) "Caseload," as used in this chapter, means:

39       (a) The number of persons expected to meet entitlement  
40 requirements and require the services of public assistance programs,

1 state correctional institutions, state correctional noninstitutional  
2 supervision, state institutions for juvenile offenders, the common  
3 school system, long-term care, medical assistance, foster care, and  
4 adoption support;

5 (b) The number of students who are eligible for the Washington  
6 college bound scholarship program and are expected to attend an  
7 institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.92.030;

8 (c) The number of students who are eligible for the Washington  
9 college grant program under RCW 28B.92.200 and 28B.92.205 and are  
10 expected to attend an institution of higher education as defined in  
11 RCW 28B.92.030;

12 (d) The number of students who are eligible for the Washington  
13 promise program and are expected to attend a community or technical  
14 college;

15 (e) The number of children who are eligible, as defined in RCW  
16 43.216.505, to participate in, and the number of children actually  
17 served by, the early childhood education and assistance program; and

18 ((-e)) (f) Beginning with the first official forecast after July  
19 23, 2023, the number of people eligible for the working families' tax  
20 credit under RCW 82.08.0206. The total number of people eligible for  
21 the working families' tax credit should include:

22 (i) The number of eligible people with no qualifying children;

23 (ii) The number of eligible people with one qualifying child;

24 (iii) The number of eligible people with two qualifying children;

25 and

26 (iv) The number of eligible people with three or more qualifying  
27 children.

28 (8) The caseload forecast council shall forecast the temporary  
29 assistance for needy families and the working connections child care  
30 programs as a courtesy.

31 (9) By January 1, 2023, the caseload forecast council shall  
32 present the number of individuals who are assessed as eligible for  
33 and have requested a service through the individual and family  
34 services waiver and the basic plus waiver administered by the  
35 developmental disabilities administration as a courtesy. The caseload  
36 forecast council shall be presented with the service request list as  
37 defined in RCW 71A.10.020 to aid in development of this information.

38 (10) Beginning with the official forecast submitted in November  
39 2022 and subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
40 specific purpose, the caseload forecast council shall forecast the

1 number of individuals who are assessed as eligible for and have  
2 requested supported living services, a service through the core  
3 waiver, an individual and family services waiver, and the basic plus  
4 waiver administered by the developmental disabilities administration  
5 as a courtesy. The caseload forecast council shall be presented with  
6 the service request list as defined in RCW 71A.10.020 to aid in  
7 development of this information.

8 (11) As a courtesy, beginning with the official forecast  
9 submitted in November 2022, the caseload forecast council shall  
10 forecast the number of individuals who are expected to reside in  
11 state-operated living alternatives administered by the developmental  
12 disabilities administration.

13 (12) The caseload forecast council shall forecast youth  
14 participating in the extended foster care program pursuant to RCW  
15 74.13.031 separately from other children who are residing in foster  
16 care and who are under eighteen years of age.

17 (13) The caseload forecast council shall forecast the number of  
18 youth expected to receive behavioral rehabilitation services while  
19 involved in the foster care system and the number of screened in  
20 reports of child abuse or neglect.

21 (14) The caseload forecast council shall forecast the number of  
22 individuals who are functionally and financially eligible for  
23 medicaid waiver services administered by the developmental  
24 disabilities administration who also meet the criteria outlined in  
25 RCW 71A.12.370 and are expected to utilize a medicaid waiver service.

26 (15) The caseload forecast council shall forecast eligible  
27 children participating in the transition to kindergarten program  
28 under RCW 28A.300.072.

29 (16) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the  
30 definitions provided in RCW 43.88.020 apply to this chapter.

31 (17) During the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium, and beginning with the  
32 November 2021 forecast, the caseload forecast council shall produce  
33 an unofficial forecast of the long-term caseload for juvenile  
34 rehabilitation as a courtesy.

35 **Sec. 12.** RCW 28A.230.310 and 2023 c 271 s 7 are each amended to  
36 read as follows:

37 (1)(a) Beginning with the 2020-21 school year, all school  
38 districts with a high school must provide a financial aid advising  
39 day, as defined in RCW 28A.300.815.

1 (b) Districts must provide both a financial aid advising day and  
2 notification of financial aid opportunities at the beginning of each  
3 school year to parents and guardians of any student entering the  
4 twelfth grade. The notification must include information regarding:

5 (i) The eligibility requirements of the Washington college grant  
6 and the Washington promise program established in chapter 28B.--- RCW  
7 (the new chapter created in section 15 of this act);

8 (ii) The requirements of the financial aid advising day;

9 (iii) The process for opting out of the financial aid advising  
10 day; and

11 (iv) Any community-based resources available to assist parents  
12 and guardians in understanding the requirements of and how to  
13 complete the free application for federal student aid and the  
14 Washington application for state financial aid.

15 (2) Districts may administer the financial aid advising day, as  
16 defined in RCW 28A.300.815, in accordance with information-sharing  
17 requirements set in the high school and beyond plan in RCW  
18 28A.230.212 and 28A.230.215.

19 (3) The Washington state school directors' association, with  
20 assistance from the office of the superintendent of public  
21 instruction and the Washington student achievement council, shall  
22 develop a model policy and procedure that school district board of  
23 directors may adopt. The model policy and procedure must describe  
24 minimum standards for a financial aid advising day as defined in RCW  
25 28A.300.815.

26 (4) School districts are encouraged to engage in the Washington  
27 student achievement council's financial aid advising training.

28 (5) The office of the superintendent of public instruction may  
29 adopt rules for the implementation of this section.

30 **Sec. 13.** RCW 28A.230.212 and 2023 c 271 s 3 are each amended to  
31 read as follows:

32 (1) This section establishes the school district, content, and  
33 other substantive requirements for the high school and beyond plan  
34 required by RCW 28A.230.090.

35 (2)(a) Beginning by the seventh grade, each student must be  
36 administered a career interest and skills inventory which is intended  
37 to be used to inform eighth grade course taking and development of an  
38 initial high school and beyond plan. No later than eighth grade, each  
39 student must have begun development of a high school and beyond plan

1 that includes a proposed plan for first-year high school courses  
2 aligned with graduation requirements and secondary and postsecondary  
3 goals.

4 (b) For each student who has not earned a score of level 3 or 4  
5 on the middle school mathematics assessment identified in RCW  
6 28A.655.070 by ninth grade, the high school and beyond plan must be  
7 updated to ensure that the student takes a mathematics course in both  
8 ninth and 10th grades. These courses may include career and technical  
9 education equivalencies in mathematics adopted pursuant to RCW  
10 28A.230.097.

11 (3) With staff support, students must update their high school  
12 and beyond plan annually, at a minimum, to review academic progress  
13 and inform future course taking.

14 (a) The high school and beyond plan must be updated in 10th grade  
15 to reflect high school assessment results in RCW 28A.655.061, ensure  
16 student access to advanced course options per the district's academic  
17 acceleration policy in RCW 28A.320.195, assess progress toward  
18 identified goals, and revised as necessary for changing interests,  
19 goals, and needs.

20 (b) Each school district shall provide students who have not met  
21 the standard on state assessments or who are behind in completion of  
22 credits or graduation pathway options with the opportunity to access  
23 interventions and academic supports, courses, or both, designed to  
24 enable students to meet all high school graduation requirements. The  
25 parents or legal guardians shall be notified about these  
26 opportunities as included in the student's high school and beyond  
27 plan, preferably through a student-led conference, including the  
28 parents or legal guardians, and at least annually until the student  
29 is on track to graduate.

30 (c) For students with an individualized education program, the  
31 high school and beyond plan must be developed and updated in  
32 alignment with their school to postschool transition plan. The high  
33 school and beyond plan must be developed and updated in a similar  
34 manner and with similar school personnel as for all other students.

35 (4) School districts shall involve parents and legal guardians to  
36 the greatest extent feasible in the process of developing and  
37 updating the high school and beyond plan.

38 (a) The plan must be provided to the student and the students'  
39 parents or legal guardians in a language the student and parents or  
40 legal guardians understand and in accordance with the school

1 district's language access policy and procedures as required under  
2 chapter 28A.183 RCW, which may require language assistance for  
3 students and parents or legal guardians with limited English  
4 proficiency.

5 (b) School districts must annually provide students in grades  
6 eight through 12 and their parents or legal guardians with  
7 comprehensive information about the graduation pathway options  
8 offered by the district and are strongly encouraged to begin  
9 providing this information beginning in sixth grade. School districts  
10 must provide this information in a manner that conforms with the  
11 school district's language access policy and procedures as required  
12 under chapter 28A.183 RCW.

13 (5) School districts are strongly encouraged to partner with  
14 student serving, community-based organizations that support career  
15 and college exploration and preparation for postsecondary and career  
16 pathways. Partnerships may include high school and beyond plan  
17 coordination and planning, data-sharing agreements, and safe and  
18 secure access to individual student's high school and beyond plans.

19 (6) All high school and beyond plans must, at a minimum, include  
20 the following elements:

21 (a) Identification of career goals and interests, aided by a  
22 skills and interest assessment;

23 (b) Identification of secondary and postsecondary education and  
24 training goals;

25 (c) An academic plan for course taking that:

26 (i) Informs students about course options for satisfying state  
27 and local graduation requirements;

28 (ii) Satisfies state and local graduation requirements;

29 (iii) Aligns with the student's secondary and postsecondary  
30 goals, which can include education, training, and career preparation;

31 (iv) Identifies available advanced course sequences per the  
32 school district's academic acceleration policy, as described in RCW  
33 28A.320.195, that include dual credit courses or other programs and  
34 are aligned with the student's postsecondary goals;

35 (v) Informs students about the potential impacts of their course  
36 selections on postsecondary opportunities;

37 (vi) Identifies available career and technical education  
38 equivalency courses that can satisfy core subject area graduation  
39 requirements under RCW 28A.230.097;

1 (vii) If applicable, identifies career and technical education  
2 and work-based learning opportunities that can lead to technical  
3 college certifications and apprenticeships; and

4 (viii) If applicable, identifies opportunities for credit  
5 recovery and acceleration, including partial and mastery-based credit  
6 accrual to eliminate barriers for on-time grade level progression and  
7 graduation per RCW 28A.320.192;

8 (d) Evidence that the student has received the following  
9 information on federal and state financial aid programs that help pay  
10 for the costs of a postsecondary program:

11 (i) The college bound scholarship program established in chapter  
12 28B.118 RCW, the Washington college grant created in RCW 28B.92.200,  
13 the Washington promise program established in chapter 28B.--- RCW  
14 (the new chapter created in section 15 of this act), and other  
15 scholarship opportunities;

16 (ii) The documentation necessary for completing state and federal  
17 financial aid applications; application timeliness and submission  
18 deadlines; and the importance of submitting applications early;

19 (iii) Information specific to students who are or have been the  
20 subject of a dependency proceeding pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW, who  
21 are or are at risk of being homeless, and whose family member or  
22 legal guardian will be required to provide financial and tax  
23 information necessary to complete applications;

24 (iv) Opportunities to participate in advising days and seminars  
25 that assist students and, when necessary, their parents or legal  
26 guardians, with filling out financial aid applications in accordance  
27 with RCW 28A.300.815; and

28 (v) A sample financial aid letter and a link to the financial aid  
29 calculator created in RCW 28B.77.280; and

30 (e) By the end of the 12th grade, a current resume or activity  
31 log that provides a written compilation of the student's education,  
32 any work experience, extracurricular activities, and any community  
33 service including how the school district has recognized the  
34 community service pursuant to RCW 28A.320.193.

35 (7) In accordance with RCW 28A.230.090(1)(c) any decision on  
36 whether a student has met the state board's high school graduation  
37 requirements for a high school and beyond plan shall remain at the  
38 local level, and a school district may establish additional, local  
39 requirements for a high school and beyond plan to serve the needs and  
40 interests of its students and the purposes of this section.

1 (8) The state board of education shall adopt rules to implement  
2 this section.

3 **Sec. 14.** RCW 28B.77.300 and 2022 c 214 s 2 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 Subject to availability of amounts appropriated for this specific  
6 purpose, the student achievement council shall conduct a statewide  
7 marketing campaign to increase awareness of the Washington college  
8 grant program established in chapter 28B.92 RCW and the Washington  
9 promise program established in chapter 28B.--- RCW (the new chapter  
10 created in section 15 of this act). The student achievement council  
11 shall issue a request for proposal for hiring a marketing firm that  
12 will produce high quality advertisements to promote the state's  
13 largest financial aid program. Advertisements should be marketed  
14 towards potential postsecondary students and their parents with the  
15 goal of increasing awareness of the Washington college grant program  
16 to further the state's educational attainment goals. The  
17 advertisements may include television commercials, billboards,  
18 advertisements on public transit, paid internet search  
19 advertisements, and social media marketing.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** Sections 2, 3, and 7 through 10 of this  
21 act constitute a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** This act may be known and cited as the  
23 Washington promise program.

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