
SENATE BILL 5655

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators Torres, Dozier, and Wellman

Read first time 02/01/23. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the Washington achievers grant
2 program; and adding a new chapter to Title 28B RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Subject to amounts appropriated
5 specifically for this purpose, the student achievement council shall
6 administer the Washington achievers grant program. The Washington
7 achievers grant program is a matching grant program to expand access
8 for resident students to federal TRIO programs at institutions of
9 higher education. The Washington achievers grant program is designed
10 to leverage state appropriations to grow capacity in existing federal
11 TRIO programs for eligible students who are currently ineligible to
12 participate in a federal TRIO program. The student achievement
13 council must:

14 (a) Establish a request for proposal process to select the
15 institutions of higher education that may benefit from grants
16 provided under the Washington achievers grant program; and

17 (b) Create criteria for evaluating and reviewing the request for
18 proposals that, at a minimum, must consider:

19 (i) The number of potential eligible students to be served;

20 (ii) Success of the existing federal TRIO programs in providing
21 services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds; and

1 (iii) Success of the federal TRIO programs in helping eligible
2 students succeed in the educational pipeline.

3 (2) The student achievement council shall develop a process for
4 helping institutions of higher education identify eligible students
5 through Washington application for state financial aid submissions.

6 (3) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
7 section, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

8 (a) "Eligible student" means a student who:

9 (i) Is a resident student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a)
10 through (e);

11 (ii) Demonstrates academic need; and

12 (iii) Is one of the following:

13 (A) A first-generation college student meaning neither parent or
14 guardian has a four-year college degree;

15 (B) Has a family income at or below 150 percent of the federal
16 poverty level as adjusted for family size and determined annually by
17 the federal department of health and human services; or

18 (C) Has a documented disability.

19 (b) "Institutions of higher education" has the same meaning as in
20 RCW 28B.10.016.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Section 1 of this act constitutes a new
22 chapter in Title 28B RCW.

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