
Postsecondary Education & Workforce Committee

HB 2458

Brief Description: Expanding access to the Washington college grant to students enrolled in eligible postsecondary nondegree credential programs.

Sponsors: Representatives Entenman, Reeves, Ryu, Zahn, Parshley, Thai, Doglio, Pollet and Hill; by request of State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

<p>Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expands Washington College Grant program eligibility to certain postsecondary nondegree credential programs.
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Hearing Date: 1/28/26

Staff: Saranda Ross (786-7068).

Background:

Washington College Grant. The Washington College Grant (WCG) is the state's largest financial aid program and provides grants to low-income students to pursue postsecondary education. The WCG is an entitlement program administered by the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) with guaranteed grants for students who qualify. To qualify, a student must:

- demonstrate financial need;
- be a state resident;
- be enrolled at a Washington institution of higher education or be enrolled in an approved, registered apprenticeship program;
- file a financial aid application; and
- not already have a bachelor's degree or higher.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

An eligible student may receive the WCG for six years or up to 150 percent of the published length of the student's program. Part-time students receive prorated awards.

State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (College Board) is a nine-member, Governor-appointed board that has general supervision and control over Washington's system of 34 public community and technical colleges. Among other duties, the College Board is charged with:

- preparing a budget for the system of community and technical colleges;
- ensuring that each of the state's 30 college districts offers comprehensive educational, training, and service programs to meet the needs of communities and students; and
- preparing a comprehensive master plan for the development of community and technical college education and training.

Summary of Bill:

Beginning in the 2027-28 academic year, Washington College Grant eligibility is expanded to eligible students enrolled in eligible postsecondary nondegree credential programs, as determined by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges in consultation with the Washington Student Achievement Council and established in rule.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 20, 2026.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.