# SENATE BILL REPORT
# SB 5543

As of February 5, 2025

**Title:** An act relating to equity in eligibility for the college bound scholarship.

**Brief Description:** Providing equity in eligibility for the college bound scholarship.

**Sponsors:** Senators Boehnke, Slatter, Hasegawa, Nobles, Ramos, Valdez and Wilson, C.; by request of State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

**Brief History:**
**Committee Activity:** Higher Education & Workforce Development: 2/06/25.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Expands eligibility for the College Bound Scholarship to include those who have received a high school equivalency certificate.

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**Staff:** Benjamin Omdal (786-7442)

**Background:** The College Bound Scholarship (CBS) provides recipients who attend two-year or four-year public institutions of higher education an award to cover the cost of tuition and fees, minus any state-funded grant, scholarship, or waiver assistance. Recipients attending public institutions also receive $500 for books and materials. The CBS awards for recipients at private institutions may be covered at public tuition rates.

To receive the CBS, a resident student must graduate from high school with at least a C grade point average, have no felony convictions, and have a family income that does not exceed 65 percent of the state median family income. There is no high school grade point average requirement for students to receive the CBS at a community or technical college. Recipients must maintain satisfactory academic progress, and may not receive the

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scholarship for more than four full-time years.

Dependent students and students who were dependent but adopted between the ages of 14 to 18 can satisfy the requirement to graduate from high school with at least a C grade point average by instead receiving a high school equivalency certificate.

A dependent student is a student who has been abandoned, is abused or neglected by a person legally responsible for the students care, has no parent, guardian, or custodian capable of adequately caring for the student, or is receiving extended foster care services.

**Summary of Bill:** Eligibility for the CBS is expanded to students who have received a high school equivalency certificate.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 29, 2025.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.