
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2458

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By House Postsecondary Education & Workforce (originally sponsored by Representatives Entenman, Reeves, Ryu, Zahn, Parshley, Thai, Doglio, Pollet, and Hill; by request of State Board for Community and Technical Colleges)

READ FIRST TIME 02/04/26.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding access to the Washington college
2 grant to students enrolled in eligible postsecondary nondegree
3 credential programs; reenacting and amending RCW 28B.92.200; creating
4 a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.92.200 and 2024 c 323 s 1 and 2024 c 116 s 1 are
7 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

8 (1) The Washington college grant program is created to provide a
9 statewide free college program for eligible participants and greater
10 access to postsecondary education for Washington residents. The
11 Washington college grant program is intended to increase the number
12 of high school graduates and adults that can attain a postsecondary
13 credential and provide them with the qualifications needed to compete
14 for job opportunities in Washington.

15 (2) The office shall implement and administer the Washington
16 college grant program and is authorized to establish rules necessary
17 for implementation of the program.

18 (3) The legislature shall appropriate funding for the Washington
19 college grant program. Allocations must be made on the basis of
20 estimated eligible participants enrolled in eligible institutions of
21 higher education or apprenticeship programs. All eligible students

1 are entitled to a Washington college grant beginning in academic year
2 2020-21.

3 (4) The office shall award Washington college grants to all
4 eligible students beginning in academic year 2020-21.

5 (5) To be eligible for the Washington college grant, students
6 must meet the following requirements:

7 (a) (i) Demonstrate financial need under RCW 28B.92.205;

8 (ii) Receive one or more of the following types of public
9 assistance:

10 (A) Aged, blind, or disabled assistance benefits under chapter
11 74.62 RCW;

12 (B) Essential needs and housing support program benefits under
13 RCW 43.185C.220; or

14 (C) Pregnant women assistance program financial grants under RCW
15 74.62.030; (~~(D)~~)

16 (iii) Be a Washington high school student in the 10th, 11th, or
17 12th grade whose parent or legal guardian is receiving one or more of
18 the types of public assistance listed in (a) (ii) of this subsection
19 and have received a certificate confirming eligibility from the
20 office in accordance with RCW 28B.92.225; or

21 (iv) Beginning in the 2025-26 academic year, be a Washington high
22 school student in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade who is a member of an
23 assistance unit receiving benefits under the Washington basic food
24 program in chapter 74.04 RCW or the Washington food assistance
25 program established under RCW 74.08A.120;

26 (b) (i) Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment for at least three
27 quarter credits or the equivalent semester credits at an institution
28 of higher education in Washington as defined in RCW 28B.92.030;
29 (~~(ii)~~)

30 (ii) Be enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program approved
31 under chapter 49.04 RCW; or

32 (iii) Beginning in the 2027-28 academic year, be enrolled in an
33 eligible postsecondary nondegree credential program as determined by
34 the state board for community and technical colleges in consultation
35 with the student achievement council and established in rule;

36 (c) Be a resident student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a)
37 through (e);

38 (d) File an annual application for financial aid as approved by
39 the office; and

1 (e) Must not have earned a baccalaureate degree or higher from a
2 postsecondary institution.

3 (6) Washington college grant eligibility may not extend beyond
4 six years or 150 percent of the published length of the program in
5 which the student is enrolled or the credit or clock-hour equivalent.

6 (7) Institutional aid administrators shall determine whether a
7 student eligible for the Washington college grant in a given academic
8 year may remain eligible for the ensuing year if the student's family
9 income increases by no more than three percent.

10 (8) Qualifications for receipt and renewal include maintaining
11 satisfactory academic progress toward completion of an eligible
12 program as determined by the office and established in rule.

13 (9) Should a recipient terminate his or her enrollment for any
14 reason during the academic year, the unused portion of the grant
15 shall be returned to the state educational grant fund by the
16 institution of higher education according to the institution of
17 higher education's policy for issuing refunds, except as provided in
18 RCW 28B.92.070.

19 (10) An eligible student enrolled on a part-time basis shall
20 receive a prorated portion of the Washington college grant for any
21 academic period in which he or she is enrolled on a part-time basis.

22 (11) The Washington college grant is intended to be used to meet
23 the costs of postsecondary education for students with financial
24 need. The student shall be awarded all need-based financial aid for
25 which the student qualifies as determined by the institution.

26 (12) Students and participating institutions of higher education
27 shall comply with all the rules adopted by the council for the
28 administration of this chapter.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The student achievement council shall
30 collaborate with the state board for community and technical colleges
31 to propose a maximum Washington college grant award amount for
32 students attending postsecondary nondegree credential programs
33 approved under this act. The student achievement council shall report
34 its proposal to the appropriate committees of the legislature in
35 accordance with RCW 43.01.036 by December 1, 2026.

36 (2) This section expires January 31, 2027.

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