
SENATE BILL 5712

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators Lias and Saldaña

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding the Washington college grant and
2 establishing the Washington college promise program; amending RCW
3 28B.92.205; adding a new section to chapter 28B.92 RCW; adding a new
4 chapter to Title 28B RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.92.205 and 2022 c 297 s 949 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 In addition to other eligibility requirements outlined in this
9 chapter, students who demonstrate financial need are eligible to
10 receive the Washington college grant. Financial need is as follows:

11 (1) ~~((Until academic year 2020-21, students with family incomes~~
12 ~~between zero and fifty percent of the state median family income,~~
13 ~~adjusted for family size, shall receive the maximum Washington~~
14 ~~college grant as defined in RCW 28B.92.030. Grants for students with~~
15 ~~incomes between fifty-one and seventy percent of the state median~~
16 ~~family income, adjusted for family size, shall be prorated at the~~
17 ~~following percentages of the maximum Washington college grant amount:~~

18 ~~(a) Seventy percent for students with family incomes between~~
19 ~~fifty-one and fifty-five percent of the state median family income;~~

20 ~~(b) Sixty-five percent for students with family incomes between~~
21 ~~fifty-six and sixty percent of the state median family income;~~

1 ~~(c) Sixty percent for students with family incomes between sixty-~~
2 ~~one and sixty-five percent of the state median family income; and~~

3 ~~(d) Fifty percent for students with family incomes between sixty-~~
4 ~~six and seventy percent of the state median family income.~~

5 ~~(2))~~ Beginning with academic year ~~((2020-21, except during the~~
6 ~~2022-23 academic year))~~ 2023-24, students with family incomes between
7 zero and ~~((fifty-five))~~ 75 percent of the state median family income,
8 adjusted for family size, shall receive the maximum Washington
9 college grant as defined in RCW 28B.92.030. ~~((During the 2022-23~~
10 ~~academic year, students with family incomes between zero and 60~~
11 ~~percent of the state median family income, adjusted for family size,~~
12 ~~shall receive the maximum Washington college grant.))~~ Grants for
13 students with incomes between ~~((fifty-six))~~ 76 and ~~((one hundred))~~
14 100 percent of the state median family income, adjusted for family
15 size, shall be prorated at the following percentages of the maximum
16 Washington college grant amount:

17 (a) ~~((Seventy))~~ 50 percent for students with family incomes
18 between ~~((fifty-six))~~ 76 and ~~((sixty))~~ 80 percent of the state median
19 family income~~((, except during the 2022-23 academic year))~~;

20 (b) ~~((Sixty))~~ 25 percent for students with family incomes between
21 ~~((sixty-one))~~ 81 and ~~((sixty-five))~~ 90 percent of the state median
22 family income; and

23 (c) ~~((Fifty))~~ 10 percent for students with family incomes between
24 ~~((sixty-six))~~ 91 and ~~((seventy))~~ 100 percent of the state median
25 family income~~((;~~

26 ~~(d) Twenty-four and one-half percent for students with family~~
27 ~~incomes between seventy-one and seventy-five percent of the state~~
28 ~~median family income; and~~

29 ~~(e) Ten percent for students with family incomes between seventy-~~
30 ~~six and one hundred percent of the state median family income)).~~

31 (2) Beginning with academic year 2024-25, students with family
32 incomes between zero and 100 percent of the state median family
33 income, adjusted for family size, shall receive the maximum
34 Washington college grant as defined in RCW 28B.92.030. Grants for
35 students with incomes between 100 and 150 percent of the state median
36 family income, adjusted for family size, shall be prorated at the
37 following percentages of the maximum Washington college grant amount:

38 (a) 50 percent for students with family incomes between 101 and
39 125 percent of the state median family income; and

1 (b) 25 percent for students with family incomes between 126 and
2 150 percent of the state median family income.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.92
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) As part of the Washington college grant program, all
6 Washington college grant recipients who qualify for the maximum
7 Washington college grant are entitled to also receive an annual
8 bridge grant.

9 (2) The office shall award bridge grants to eligible students
10 beginning with the 2022-23 academic year.

11 (a) For Washington college grant recipients who receive a maximum
12 award, but who are not recipients of the college bound scholarship
13 program under chapter 28B.118 RCW, the bridge grant shall be \$1,000,
14 prorated per term.

15 (b) For Washington college grant recipients who receive a maximum
16 award, but who are also recipients of the college bound scholarship
17 program under chapter 28B.118 RCW, the bridge grant shall be \$500,
18 prorated per term.

19 (3) To receive the full bridge grant for which the student
20 qualifies, the student needs to be enrolled in an institution of
21 higher education on at least a half-time basis. Students enrolled
22 less than half-time shall receive a prorated bridge grant.

23 (4) The bridge grant shall be applied to a student's financial
24 aid package after all other gift aid has been awarded to the student.

25 (5) As used in this section, "bridge grant" means an annual
26 stipend provided in addition to the Washington college grant to
27 provide supplementary financial support to low-income students to
28 cover higher education expenses beyond tuition and fees, such as
29 books, lab fees, supplies, technology, transportation, housing, and
30 child care.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The Washington college promise program
32 is hereby created.

33 (2) Beginning with the 2025-26 school year the student
34 achievement council shall administer the Washington college promise
35 program for resident students seeking an associate's degree,
36 certificate, or apprenticeship from a community or technical college
37 under the terms and conditions in this section.

1 (3) To be eligible for the Washington college promise program, a
2 student must:

3 (a) Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment for at least three
4 quarter credits or the equivalent semester credits at a community or
5 technical college as defined in chapter 28B.50 RCW;

6 (b) Be a resident student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a)
7 through (e);

8 (c) File an annual application for financial aid as approved by
9 the office; and

10 (d) Not have earned an associate degree or higher from a
11 postsecondary institution.

12 (4) Once a student has earned 45 credits, the student must
13 maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 to remain eligible
14 for the Washington college promise program.

15 (5) Washington college promise program eligibility shall not
16 extend beyond 120 credits or four calendar years since the student
17 first began receiving benefits under this chapter.

18 (6) An eligible degree or certificate program is limited to:

19 (a) An associate degree;

20 (b) Academic programs with credits that can fully transfer via
21 articulation agreement toward a baccalaureate degree or
22 postbaccalaureate degree at an institution of higher education;

23 (c) Professional and technical programs that lead to a recognized
24 postsecondary credential;

25 (d) Apprenticeship programs established pursuant to RCW 49.04.010
26 and conducted in association with any community or technical college.

27 (7)(a) The office shall award grants to students who meet
28 criteria in (b) of this subsection for an amount up to the cost of
29 tuition and fees as defined in RCW 28B.15.020, services and
30 activities fees as defined in RCW 28B.15.041, and a cost of
31 attendance stipend minus all other gift aid. The calculation in this
32 subsection (7)(a) shall not result in the reduction of gift aid.

33 (b) Up to \$1,500 for books and other related higher education
34 expenses must be provided as a stipend to students. If a student
35 eligible for the stipend under this subsection (7)(b) is enrolled
36 less than full time, the student must receive a prorated portion of
37 the stipend based on the number of credits in which the student is
38 enrolled.

39 (8) By December 1, 2027, and annually by December 1st thereafter,
40 the state board for community and technical colleges shall report to

1 the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the legislature on
2 the following impacts of the program:

3 (a) Student enrollment in the eligible degree or certificate
4 programs defined in subsection (6) of this section;

5 (b) Student completion rates of credits, certificates, and
6 degrees;

7 (c) The cost of implementation, including the cost per student;

8 (d) Additional resources used to meet student needs, such as
9 counseling, precollege courses, child care, or transportation; and

10 (e) The number of students receiving wraparound services, the
11 number of schools providing wraparound services, and the resources
12 needed to provide wraparound services.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If any county or municipal corporation
14 establishes or has established a college promise program through
15 ordinance or initiative that provides tuition, scholarships, or other
16 assistance to students in the community and technical colleges, the
17 resources provided under section 3 of this act may be used to replace
18 or to supplement the aid provided by the county or municipal
19 corporation in accordance with rules established for this purpose by
20 the Washington student achievement council.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 3 and 4 of this act constitute a
22 new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Section 3 of this act takes effect January
24 1, 2024.

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