



2015 Joint Higher Education Legislative Agenda

Funding this agenda will increase overall degree production, STEM/high demand degree production, and access and success for students from underrepresented groups.

We have four common priorities for the 2015 legislative session:

1. REINVEST IN STUDENT FINANCIAL AID.

Washington's student aid programs are efficient, targeted, and successful. Financial aid for low- and middle-income students increases retention and reduces time to degree.

- ✓ **Fully fund the State Need Grant program based on the 2010 award level policy.** 33,557 eligible students at Washington colleges do not receive a State Need Grant award because the program is underfunded. We support the WSAC's 2015-17 request for \$48 million to begin to close the gap. A 2011 change in budget policy has significantly disadvantaged students at private non-profit colleges. We also support \$11.6 million to close that gap.
- ✓ **Fully fund the College Bound Scholarship program to support all eligible students.** The program is highly successful at increasing high school completion and college-going rates for low-income students. We support the WSAC's request of \$25 million to maintain our commitment to students.
- ✓ **Reinvest in the State Work Study program.** This program connects students with employers and work and leverages private dollars. It has been cut by two-thirds since 2008. We support the WSAC's 2015-17 recommendation of \$10 million to begin to rebuild the program.

Educational Goals

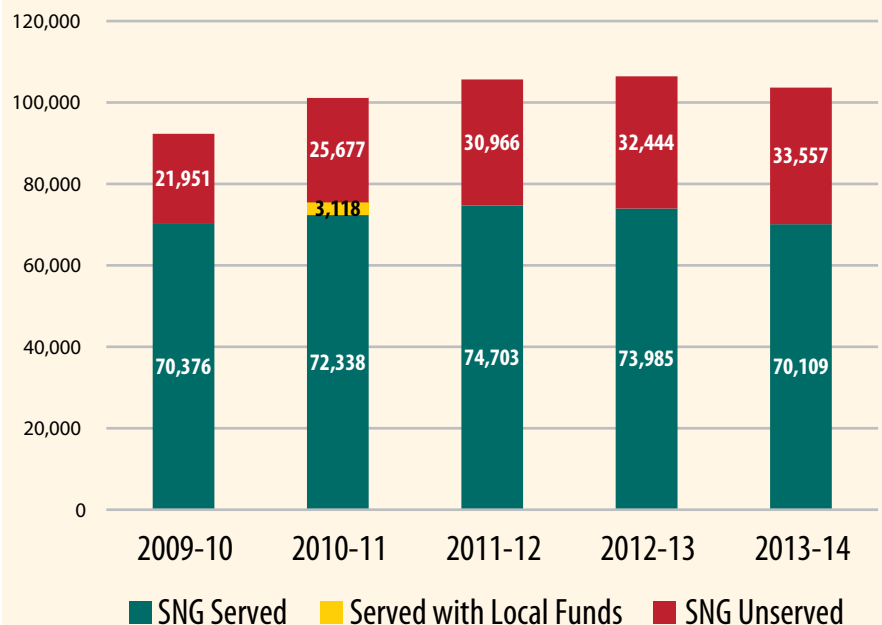
Washington is behind on the legislatively-recognized statewide goal that 70% of adults will have a postsecondary credential by 2023.



Currently less than 50% have achieved this goal

Source: Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC)

State Need Grant Eligible Students Over Five Years



Source: Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC)

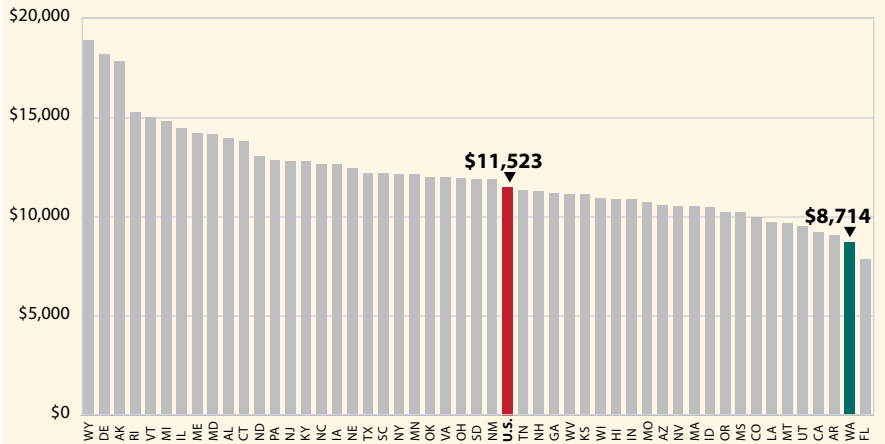
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2. SUSTAIN A HIGH-QUALITY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT. This includes maintenance-level funding, competitive faculty and staff compensation, and maintenance and operations of our infrastructure. We support fully funding our public higher education system.

- ✓ **Fully fund maintenance-level budgets for public colleges and universities.** This is the nuts and bolts of keeping our lights on and paying for inflationary cost increases. A budget reduction would impair our operations and our ability to meet state needs.
- ✓ **Adequately compensate faculty and staff.** The high quality of our colleges and universities is made possible by attracting and retaining talented faculty and staff. Our institutions exist in a highly competitive marketplace with other colleges and universities around the world and, in some cases, the private sector.
- ✓ **Maintenance and operations of our infrastructure.** These funded services include routine and preventive maintenance work required to keep the buildings, utilities, and grounds in an acceptable and safe operating condition for our students and staff. Deferring maintenance and operations will lead to increased costs in the long-term.

Washington Ranks 49th In Per Student Funding

(Constant Adjusted 2013 Funding)



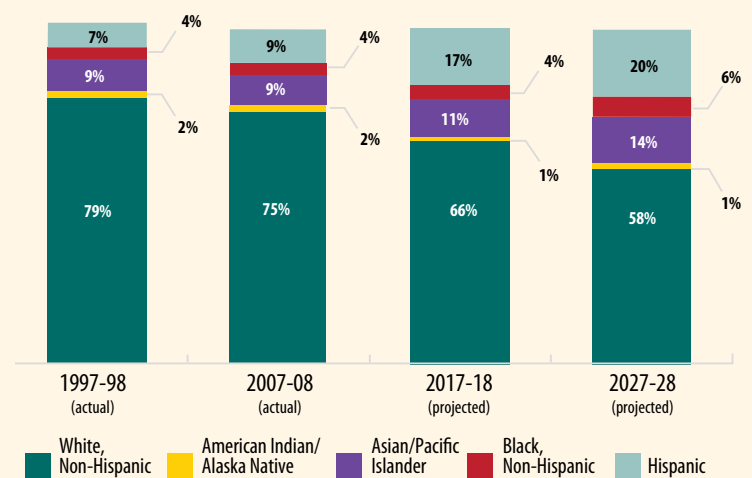
Includes educational appropriations and net tuition excluding net tuition revenue used for capital debt service. Adjustment factors, to arrive at constant dollar figures include Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), Enrollment Mix Index, and Higher Education Cost Adjustment. COLA is not in the measure of inflation over time.

Source: State Higher Education Executive Officers, State Higher Education Finance, 2014

3. INCREASE SUPPORT FOR STEM/HIGH DEMAND PROGRAMS TO MEET WORKFORCE NEEDS. 70% of Washington jobs in 2020 will require some postsecondary education, and there are currently 25,000 unfilled jobs in Washington as a result of the job skills gap (growing to 50,000 by 2017) - 80% in high-skill STEM and health care roles. Our state ranks first in the nation in the concentration of STEM jobs. Many of our proposed initiatives help fill this gap.

4. INVEST IN SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS. Although the number of high school graduates is projected to remain relatively flat over the next ten years, the number and proportion of those graduates who continue to higher education must increase to meet the WSAC's education goals. And the makeup of tomorrow's student population will include far more first-generation and non-traditional students. The percentage of high school graduates from diverse populations is projected to grow significantly. All of these changes will require greater investments in student support such as mentoring, advising, and counseling. We support full funding for these programs.

Washington Public High School Graduates



Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, Knocking on the college door (2012)