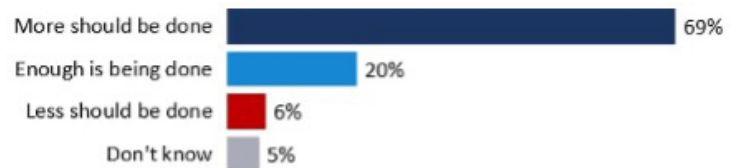


Together, Washington’s public higher education institutions want to remove barriers to college, support basic needs and mental health for students, smooth the path from a two-year to a four-year degree, and ensure we have skilled educators and staff delivering high-quality education that serves Washington’s workforce needs.

Washington voters overwhelmingly believe more should be done to increase the share of students with education beyond high school. Only 60.3% of all Washingtonians ages 25-44 in 2021 had a credential beyond high school¹ and only 40% of the graduating class that year is projected to complete a credential by age 26.² Credentials include a degree, apprenticeship, or certificate. A recent survey found that Washington voters overwhelmingly back the goal of increasing educational attainment.³

The chart to the right indicates respondents’ answer to the question, “In your opinion, should more be done to increase the share of students with education beyond high school, should less be done, or is enough being done?”



College just got more affordable in Washington

Ask: Continue statewide efforts to increase awareness and encourage postsecondary credential attainment.

The Legislature has made the Washington College Grant one of the best financial aid programs in the country. However, focus groups show that students count themselves out of higher education because they believe they cannot afford it. Increasing outreach programs to help students and their families understand the generous resources available will help them enroll in college and successfully graduate.

Caring for the Whole Student

Ask: Expand staffing for critical student support functions.

For students to persist, colleges and universities must continue to expand mental health and basic needs services. Programs focused on counseling and navigating basic needs services need to be created or expanded with full funding from the Legislature. WSAC recently released a report⁴ that shows basic needs supports keep students enrolled.

Finding and Keeping Our High-Quality Educators and Staff

Ask: Fully-fund compensation in the next biennial budget.

To provide the outreach, instruction, and supports students need, our institutions need to attract and retain quality faculty and staff. While progress has been made in recent sessions, there is more work to be done to provide faculty and staff with fully funded, competitive compensation.

1 Washington Student Achievement Council, [2024 Strategic Action Plan](#)

2, 3 Partnership for Learning, [partnership4learning.org](#)

4 Washington Student Achievement Council, [Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness Pilot Project Report](#)