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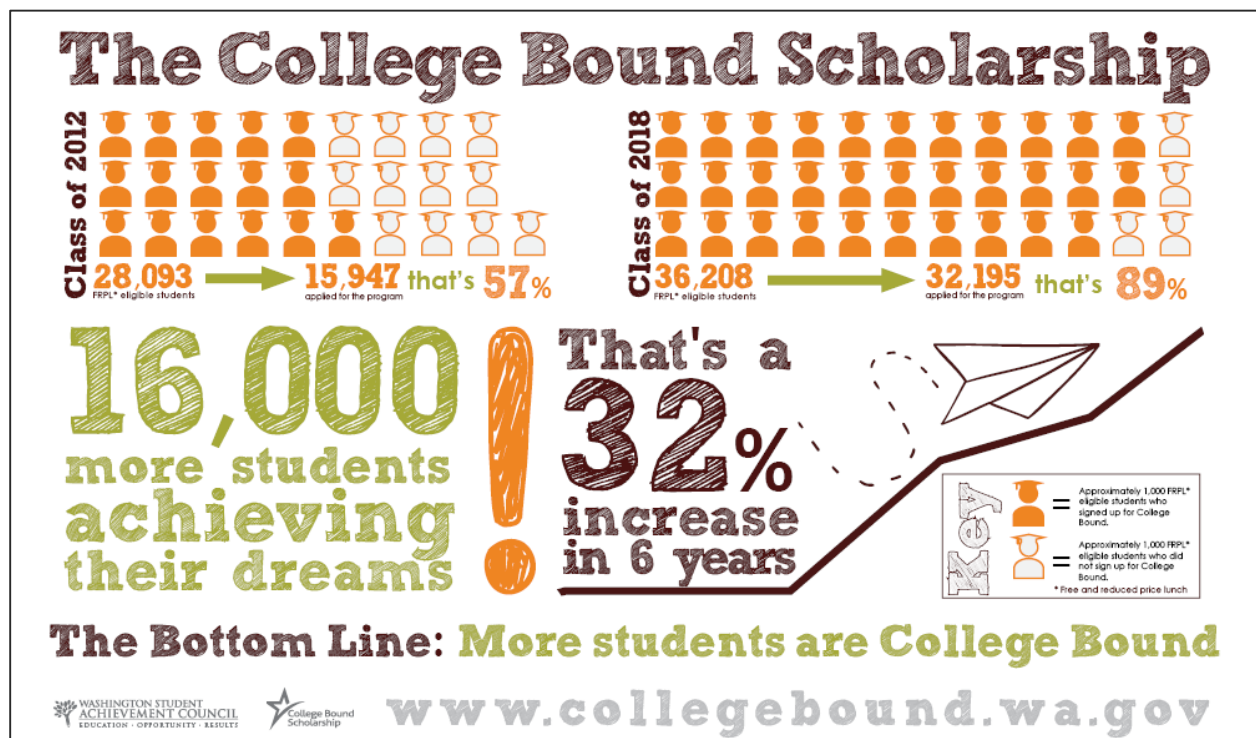
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 6, 2014

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College Bound Scholarship cohort largest ever

Olympia — Over 32,000 eighth graders signed up for the College Bound Scholarship (CBS) program by the June 30 deadline. The graduating class of 2018 includes the largest CBS cohort since students began signing up for the scholarship in 2007, even though the number of students eligible for free and reduced price lunch dropped slightly from last year.



The CBS program has come a long way since it began in 2007, growing both in size of cohorts and the rate of eligible students participating in the program. In 2008, 57 percent of eligible students signed up for the scholarship. Fast forward to 2014, and 89 percent of eligible students signed up to receive the scholarship when they graduate from high school.

These increases are the result of strong outreach efforts by school districts and partnering organizations. Notably, 69 school districts saw 100 percent of their eligible students sign up for the scholarship.

The CBS program provides financial assistance to low-income students who want to achieve the dream of a college education. Students sign up in middle school, no later than June 30 of their 8th grade year, to receive an early commitment of state funding. The scholarship, in combination with other state aid, covers tuition (at public college rates).

Cohort	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Expected Grad Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Eligible Students	28,093	28,600	29,856	30,549	31,923	36,394	36,208
Academic Year 07-08	8	7					
Complete	9,062	6,199					
Academic Year 08-09	9	8	7				
Complete	6,885	9,871	11,139				
Academic Year 09-10			8	7			
Complete			9,764	12,356			
Academic Year 10-11				8	7		
Complete				11,042	13,269		
Academic Year 11-12					8	7	
Complete					12,003	15,696	
Academic Year 12-13						8	7
Complete						13,284	18,344
Academic Year 13-14							8
Applied							13,851
% of Total Eligible	57%	56%	70%	77%	79%	80%	89%
Total Sign-up by Cohort Year	15,947	16,070	20,903	23,398	25,272	28,980	32,195

For more information about the College Bound Scholarship program, visit our [website](#).

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About the Washington Student Achievement Council: Established as a new cabinet-level state agency on July 1, 2012, the council provides strategic planning, oversight and advocacy to support increased student success and higher levels of educational attainment in Washington. The council proposes improvements and innovations to meet the evolving needs of students, employers and the educational community. In recognition of the economic, social and civic benefits of public education, the council advocates for increased financial support and civic commitment to ensure a thriving Washington.

The nine-member council includes five citizens (including a current student) and one representative from each of Washington's four major educational sectors. Find us online at www.wsac.wa.gov, on Twitter [@WSACouncil](https://twitter.com/WSACouncil), and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WSACouncil.