

WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL

2015 LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

2015-17 BIENNIUM OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS ([ESSB 6052](#))

Resident undergraduate tuition reduced at all public institutions. Tuition-setting authority for resident undergraduates at public baccalaureate institutions returned to the Legislature, following tuition reductions in the 2015-17 biennium.

- Community and Technical Colleges: Reduced 5 percent in 2015-16.
- UW and WSU: Reduced below 2014 levels by 5 percent in 2015-16 and 10 percent in 2016-17.
- CWU, EWU, WWU and The Evergreen State College: Reduced below 2014 levels 5 percent in 2015-16 and 15 percent in 2016-17.

Funding for higher education institutions - \$158.1 million to backfill institutions for lost tuition revenue. **\$110 million** provided for compensation to faculty and staff.

Targeted education and higher education investments – to expand STEM, computer science, aerospace, allied health, among others.

Medical education

- **\$2.5 million** to WSU to begin work on accreditation of new medical school in Spokane.
- **\$8 million** to UW for expanded primary care residencies.
- **\$9 million** to UW to continue WWAMI medical education program.

College Bound Scholarship

- Maintains the commitment to fund projected enrollments of College Bound Scholarship students. Students attending private four-year institutions will receive grants tied to 2014-15 tuition at public institutions.
- College Bound outreach funding - **\$2.708 million** is provided to OSPI to contract with the College Success Foundation to provide outreach to students concerning eligibility for the College Bound Scholarship.

State Need Grant - SNG Awards for public institutions reduced consistent with tuition reductions. SNG savings total nearly **\$42 million**. No new funding to support eligible unserved SNG students. SNG awards held flat for students at private institutions.

Other financial aid

- **\$41 million** for the Opportunity Scholarship program, a public-private partnership, to match expected private donations.
- **\$7.65 million** provided for the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (reinstatement of a program administered by WSAC).

Higher education support services - \$4.5 million provided to CWU, EWU and TESC (\$1.5M each) for “Student Success and Advising Programs” that improve degree completion.

Transitions to college

- **\$625,000** is provided to OSPI to partner with the College Board (that administers the SAT) to carry out support activities to increase the numbers of high-achieving, low-income students progressing to public baccalaureate and private baccalaureate institutions in Washington.
- **\$98,000** is provided to WSAC to design and implement customized information to high-achieving (as determined by school districts), low income high school students.
- **\$5.9 million** is provided to OSPI to support community involvement officers that recruit, train, and match community volunteer mentors with students selected as achievers for the Washington Achievers scholarship program and the Washington Higher Education Readiness program.

Dual credit - \$6.621 million provided to expand dual credit options and support policy changes in [E2SHB 1546](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION

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BILLS PASSED IN 2015

Affordability, tuition, and postsecondary education funding

2ESSB 5954—Reducing tuition. (Braun)

SB 5638—Changing state need grant eligibility provisions. (Hasegawa)

2SSB 5851—Concerning recommendations of the college bound scholarship program work group. (Frockt)

ESHB 1570—Creating flexibility for the educator retooling conditional scholarship program. (Gregory)

SSB 5534—Creating the certified public accounting scholarship program. (Bailey)

SB 5746—Including Everett Community College as an aerospace training or educational program. (Bailey)

SSB 5328—Disseminating financial aid information. (Kohl-Welles)

Student success

E2SHB 1546—Concerning dual credit opportunities provided by Washington state's public institutions of higher education. (Reykdal)

SB 5122—Concerning precollege placement measures. (Kohl-Welles)

SSB 5679—Concerning transition services for special education students. (McAuliffe)

2SHB 2063—Creating a work group to design a qualified achieving a better life experience program. (Kilduff)

SHB 1138—Creating a task force on mental health and suicide prevention in higher education. (Orwall)

Postsecondary education efficiencies

HB 1961—Decodifying, expiring, and making nonsubstantive changes to community and technical college provisions. (Zeiger)

Expanding academic programs

SHB 1813—Expanding computer science education. (Hansen)

E2SHB 1485—Concerning family medicine residencies in health professional shortage areas. (Haler)

SHB 1559—Concerning higher education programs at WSU and UW. (Riccelli)

Veterans' education

ESSB 5355—Modifying the definition of resident student to comply with...the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014. (Bailey)

HB 1706—Authorizing waivers of building fees and services and activities fees for certain military service members. (Stanford)

SHB 1052—Requiring institutions of higher education to make an early registration process available to spouses and domestic partners of active members of the military. (Hayes)

Sexual violence

SSB 5719—Creating a task force on campus sexual violence prevention. (Bailey)

SSB 5518—Creating procedures to address campus sexual violence. (Kohl-Welles)

K-12 initiatives

SB 6145—Delaying for two years the high school graduation requirement of meeting the state standard on the high school science assessment. (Fraser)

EHB 2266—Deferring implementation of class size reduction and school employee staffing formula changes. (Sullivan)

SSB 5433—Requiring Washington's tribal history, culture, and government to be taught in the common schools. (Litzow)

SSB 5202—Regarding the financial education public-private partnership. (Mullet)

Early education

2E2SHB 1491—Improving quality in the early care and education system. (Kagi)