



State Financial Aid Program Information for High School Counselors **FA 101 Session**

Washington Financial Aid Association – Fall Conference 2015

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Washington Student Achievement Council, Student Financial Aid



Agenda

About the Council

Overview of State Aid Programs

State Need Grant

College Bound Scholarship

State Work Study

Passport to College Promise Scholarship

Resources

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About Us

Our Mission:

We advance educational opportunities and attainment in Washington. In pursuit of our mission, the Washington Student Achievement Council:

- Leads statewide strategic planning to improve educational coordination and transitions.
- Supports Washingtonians through the administration of financial aid, a college savings plan, and support services.
- Advocates for the economic, social, and civic benefits of postsecondary education.



Partners in Student Success

Strong partnerships are critical to the success of the agency and students statewide.





THE ROADMAP

A Plan to Increase Educational Attainment in Washington

By 2023:

100% of adults ages 25-44 in Washington will have a high school diploma or equivalent.

- 2013 level of attainment: 89%

At least 70% of Washington adults ages 25-44 will have a postsecondary credential.

- 2013 level of attainment: 50%



Opportunity Pathways

2015-16 Estimated Expenditures

	Fiscal Year 2015	Est. Students
State Need Grant	\$296 million	71,000
College Bound Scholarship ¹	\$31 million	15,000
State Work Study ²	\$12.5 million	4,500
Passport to College ³	\$1.3 million	400
American Indian Endowed Scholarship	\$14,000	12
Aerospace Loan	\$250,000	45
Alt Routes to Teaching	\$900,000	135
John R. Justice Loan Repayment	\$35,000	14
Health Professionals Loan Repayment ⁴	\$1 million	14
Total	\$343 million	

1. All CBS recipients also are SNG recipients
2. Includes \$5 million in employer matching funding
3. Includes support service funding
4. Provides match to federal program



FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS



College Bound Scholarship & State Need Grant

Since 1969, Washington State has assisted low-income residents with State Need Grant (SNG).

There are currently 68 colleges, universities, and other institutions participating in state aid programs.

The Legislature created the College Bound Scholarship (CBS) program in 2007.

73,000 students received CBS or SNG funding totaling \$335 million in 2014-15.

However, during the same time period, another 27,000 eligible students did not receive SNG funding.



College Bound Scholarship

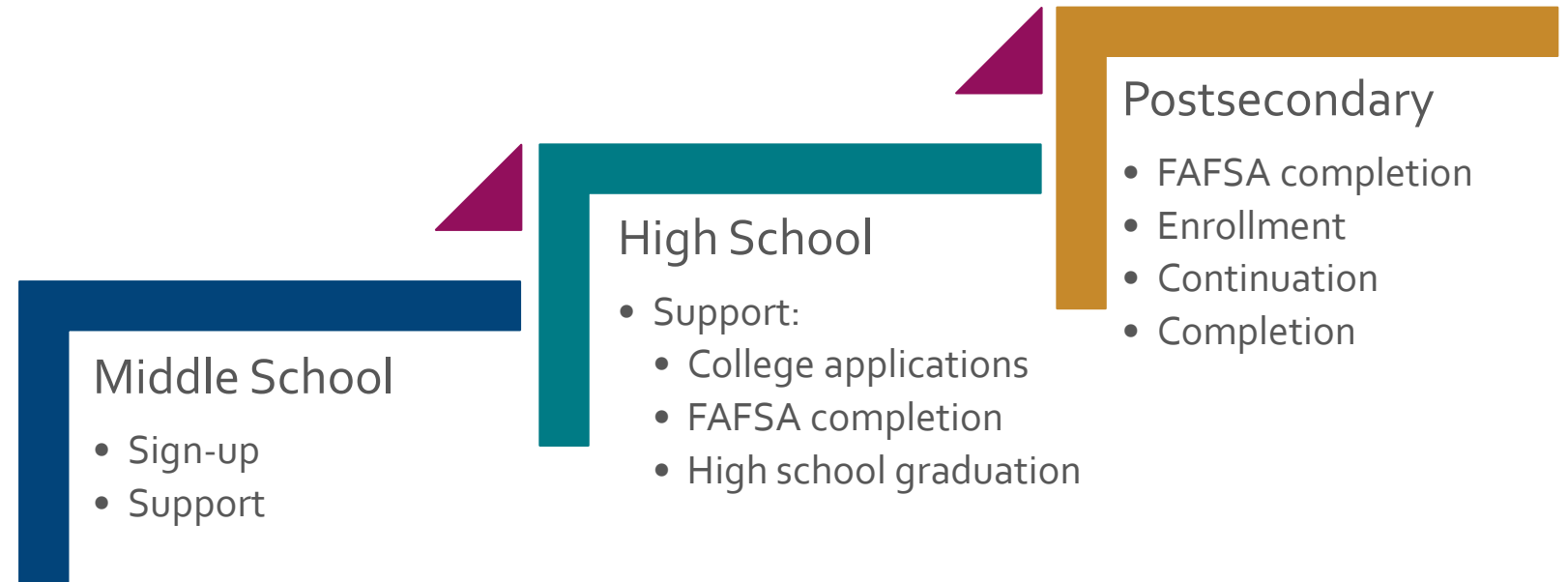
Provides an early promise of financial aid to middle school students from low-income families



In middle school, eligible students pledge to:

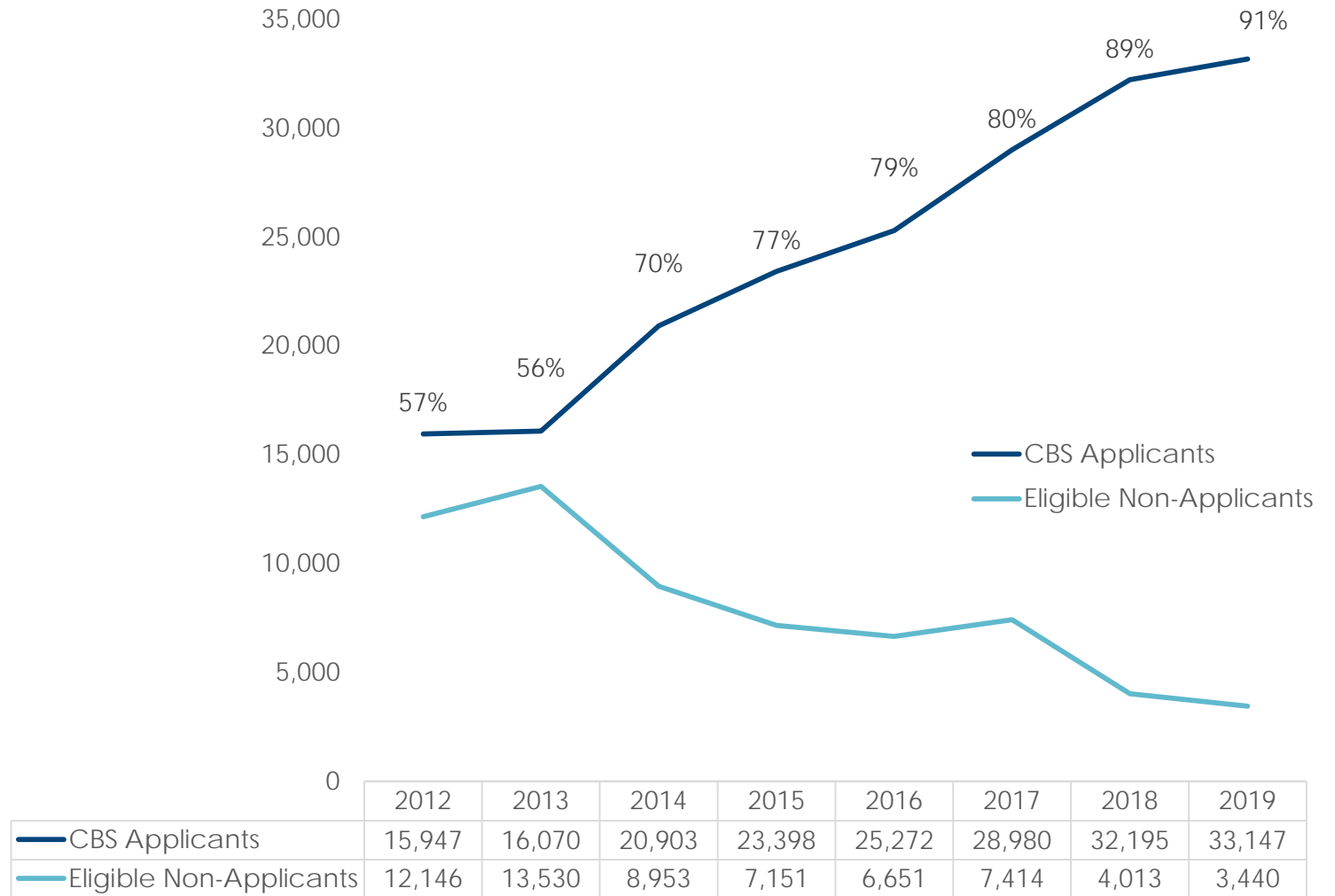
- Graduate with a cumulative high school GPA of 2.0.
- Be a good citizen and not be convicted of a felony.
- Apply for financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) during senior year of high school.

CBS Data & Support Span K20



More students are applying for the College Bound Scholarship in middle school each year.

CBS Applications by High School Graduation Year

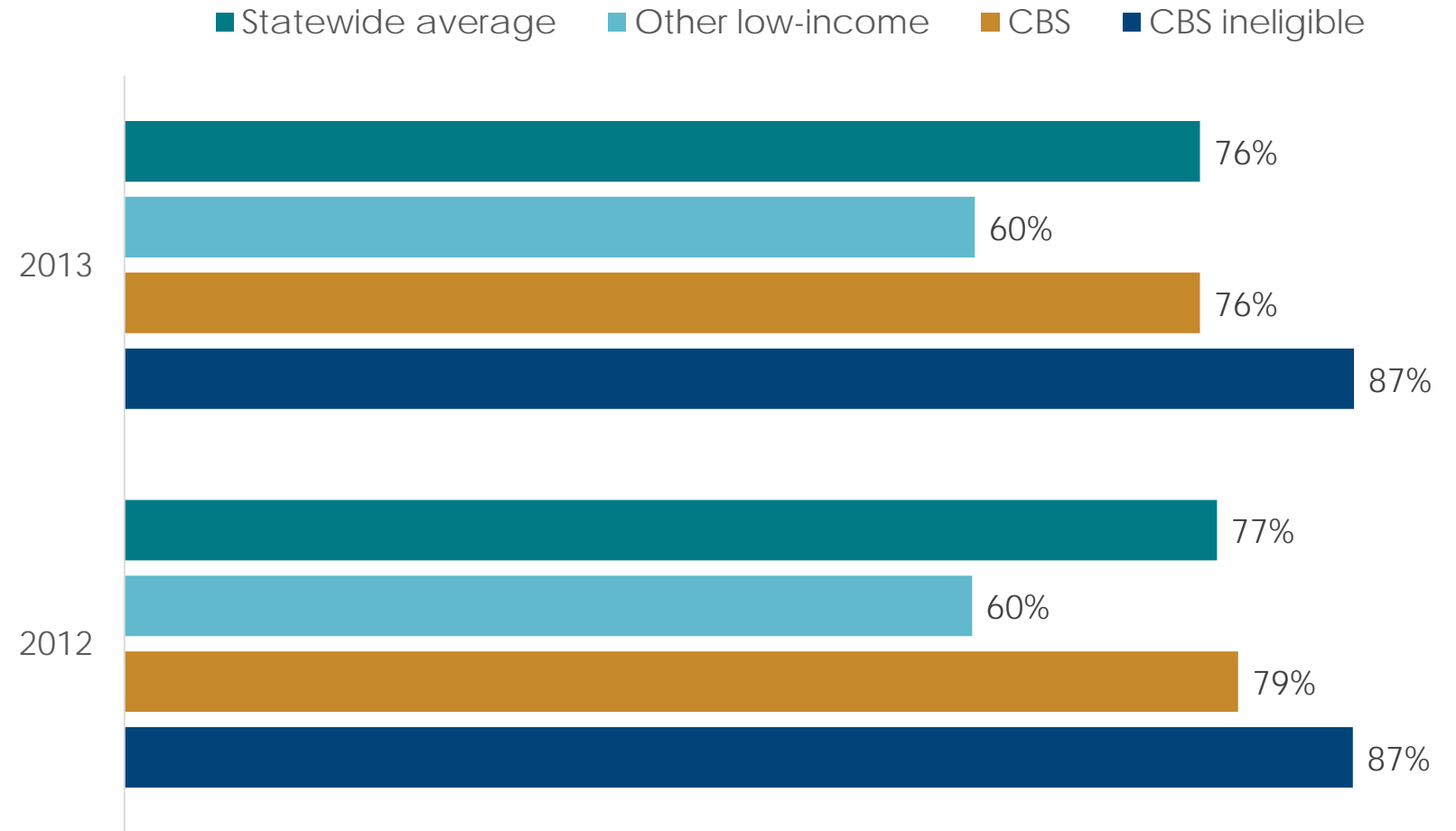




College Bound students are graduating high school at about the statewide rate.

CBS graduation rates were 19 and 15 percentage points higher than their low-income peers for the first two cohorts.

Four-Year Graduation Rates



Source: OSPI staff analysis of WSAC CBS Applicant Data



State Need Grant (SNG)

- State's largest financial aid program.
- Over 70,100 recipients in 2014-15.
- Over 27,000 left unserved; enrollments outpaced funding.
- 68 institutions participate in State Need Grant.

State Need Grant Program Administration

- Program design is “decentralized.”
- Institutions select and award students following state parameters.
- In 2015-16, the Legislature requires that all students who qualify for College Bound Scholarships receive full SNG awards.
- WSAC distributes funds, monitors eligibility, and provides training.

SNG Application, Awarding, and Distribution Processes

- Student
 - Completes a FAFSA (or WASFA)
- School
 - Reviews MFI, household size, and financial need
 - Reviews student eligibility (FAFSA and WSAC Portal)
 - Awards
 - Requests funds from WSAC (schools receive an annual allocation)

SNG Student Eligibility

- Family income cap set at 70% of median family income. (\$58,500 for family of four in 2014-15.)
- Resident undergraduate attending one of 68 participating institutions.
- Meets academic progress and other requirements:
 - Completes the credits at the award level with minimum GPA.
 - Does not owe repayment to any aid program.
- Maximum five years of award.
 - 125% of program length.
 - May not receive second associate degree.

Median Family Income (MFI)

An income standard is used for SNG eligibility using a chart outlining “median family income” ranges

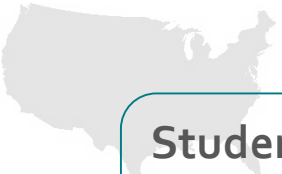
Maximum Family Income Eligibility Chart for SNG for 2015-16 Year (70% MFI Level)

Family Size	Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) + Nontaxable Income
1	\$30,500
2	\$39,500
3	\$49,000
4	\$58,500
5	\$67,500
6	\$77,000
7	\$78,500
8	\$80,500
9	\$82,000
10	\$84,000



Applying for State Aid: Complete a FAFSA or WASFA

- Each college determines financial aid eligibility based on awarding policies (SNG and CBS awards may vary by college).
- State funding is limited. Students should apply as early as possible after January 1.



Students who are eligible for federal student aid submit a FAFSA to be considered for federal, state, and institutional aid.

- Apply online at [FAFSA.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov)



Students who are not eligible for federal student aid submit a WASFA to be considered for state and institutional aid.

- Apply online at ReadySetGrad.org/WASFA



State Financial Aid for DREAMers

As of 2014, State Need Grant funding was available to non-citizens who meet the residency requirements established in HB 1079:

Have a Washington high school diploma or a GED®

Be a Washington resident for three years prior to, and continuously since, earning the high school diploma or equivalent.

Sign a written promise to apply to become a permanent resident of the United States, when eligible.

As of 2015, State Need Grant and the College Bound Scholarship are available to students who have DACA status:

Must meet the same residency requirements as U.S. Citizen (typically parents living in the state for one year prior to college).

Must provide DACA documentation.

Eligibility for College Bound Scholarship still restricted to those who successfully applied in 7th or 8th grade.



Options for DREAMers

DREAMers:

- Come from all backgrounds and life circumstances.
- Majority are youth brought to United States by parents at an early age.
- Living in United States without immigration papers; sometimes referred to as “undocumented.”



Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

- Federal status granted by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- Must meet qualifications and pay an application fee.
- Provides employment authorization.



Washington House Bill 1079

- Passed in 2003 allowing in-state tuition for DREAMers who meet non-citizen [residency requirements](#).

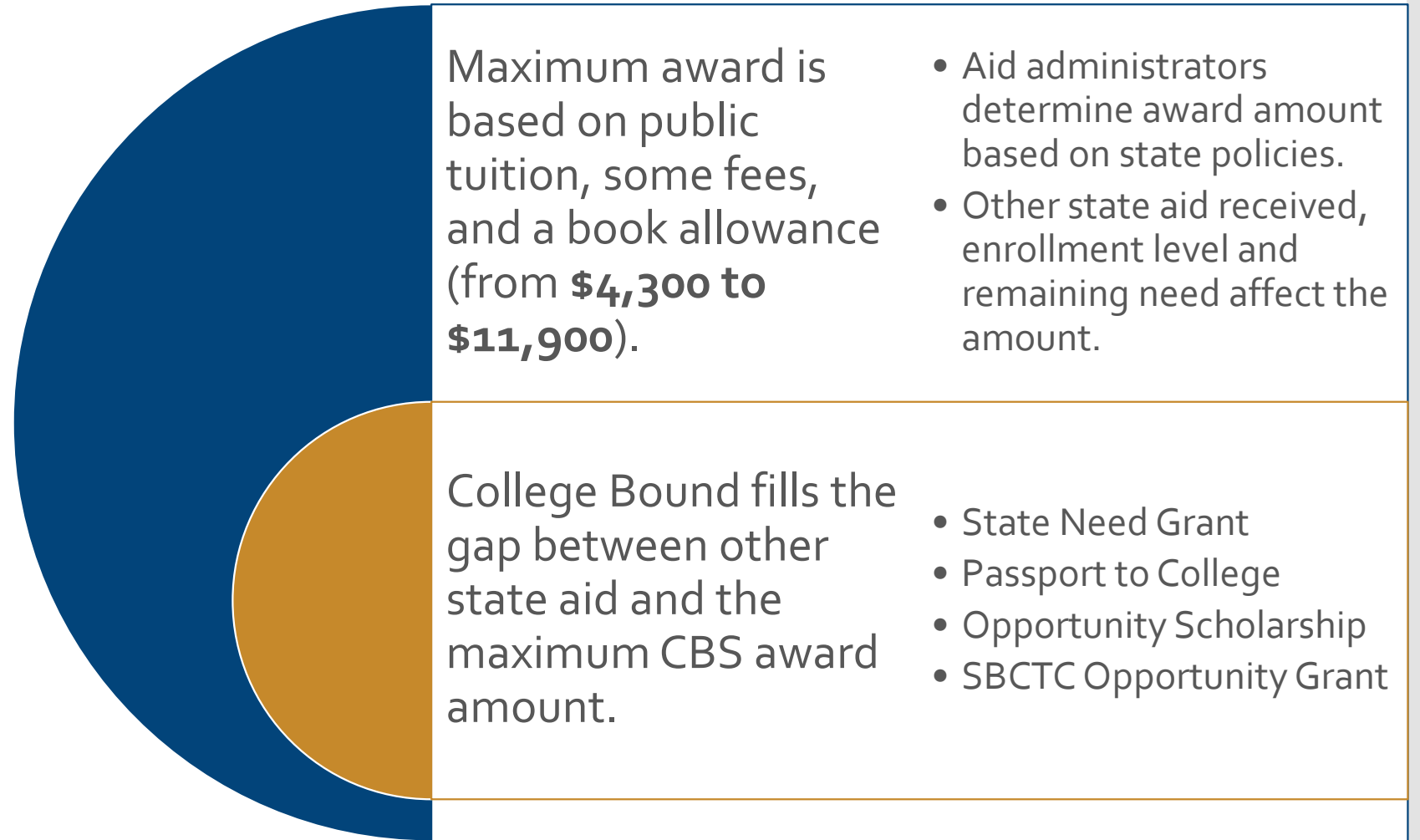
Applying for WASFA

- Students who met residency requirements should complete a Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) *instead* of a FAFSA.
- The WASFA can be found at ReadySetGrad.org/WASFA.
- Students can currently use the site for the 2015-16 application. Beginning in January, the 2016-17 application will be available.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL readyssetgrad.org/wasfa. The page features a navigation bar with "SELECT A GRADE" and a dropdown menu showing "COLLEGE" and "CONTINUE". The main content area is titled "\$ FOR COLLEGE" and includes a "READY SET GRAD" logo. The page is divided into sections for "TEXT ALERTS", "EMAIL SIGN UP", and "FACEBOOK". The primary content is titled "WASHINGTON APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID (WASFA)" and "State Financial Aid For DREAMers". It explains that a new state law has expanded eligibility for the Washington State Need Grant to low-income, non-citizen students who meet the program's eligibility requirements and satisfy the residency criteria below. The criteria listed are: having graduated from a Washington high school or obtained a GED (or will do so before beginning college), having lived in Washington for three years prior to, and continuously since, earning the high school diploma or equivalent, and signing an affidavit (written promise) to file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States when eligible to apply. A "How to Apply" section states that to apply for the State Need Grant, low-income, non-citizen students unable to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) due to immigration status may instead complete the free Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA). A note clarifies that eligibility for the State Need Grant does not guarantee an award, as the grant is awarded on a funds-available basis. The sooner you complete an application, the better chance you have for consideration of limited State Need Grant funds. A "Start A New WASFA" button is prominently displayed at the bottom of the page, along with a link for returning applicants to login.

Financial Aid Packaging

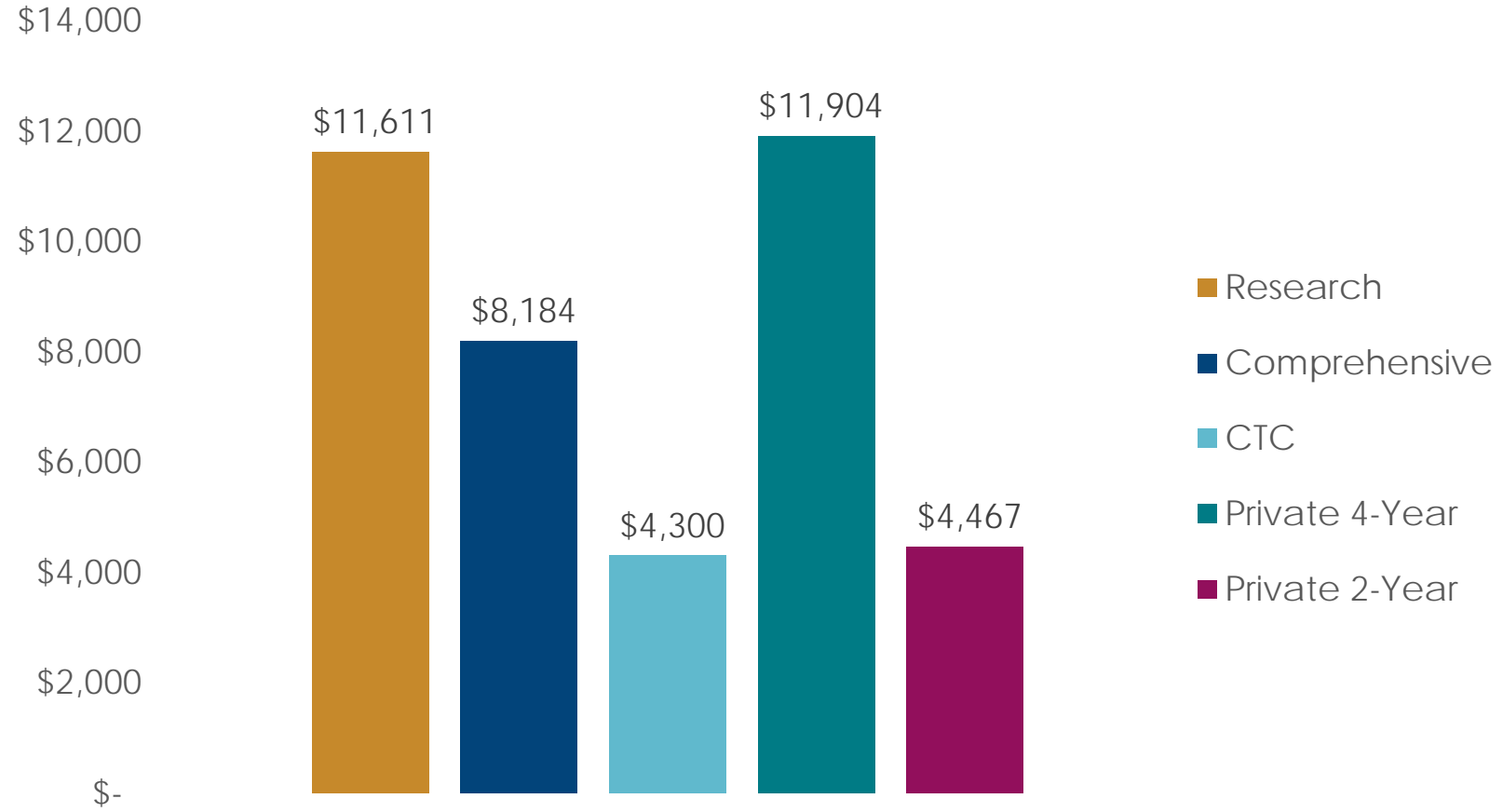
CBS award amounts vary.





State Dollars for 2015-16 College Bound Students

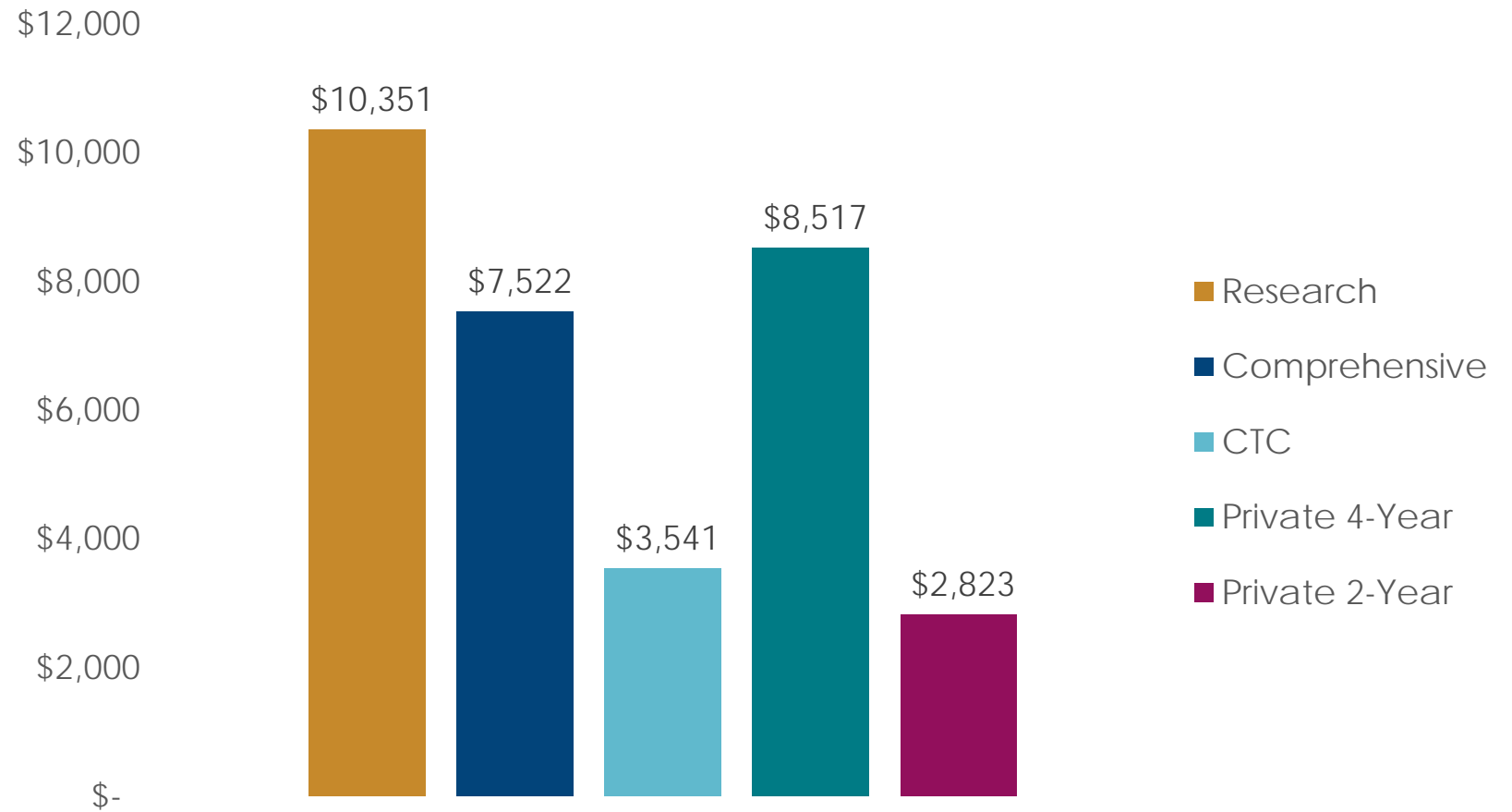
Maximum Award Amounts for CBS Students to Receive from ALL State Sources for Those Attending Full-Time for a Full Academic Year



* Award amounts vary by school.

2015-16 SNG Maximum Award Amounts

Maximum Award Amounts for SNG Students Attending Full-Time *and Not Receiving CBS Funding*



* Award amounts vary by school.



State Work Study (SWS) Program

- 56 [participating](#) institutions
- Partnership with more than 1,000 Washington employers
 - Partial wage reimbursements of up to 70%
- Students work up to 19 hours per week
- Need-based program
- While awards vary, students generally earn between \$2,000 and \$5,000 per year.

SWS Benefits

- SWS helps undergraduate and graduate students pay part of their college costs now, rather than deferring those costs in the form of added debt post-graduation.
- The program serves low-income and middle-income students and is one of the only sources of need-based aid for graduate students.
- Research indicates that students who work 10–19 hours per week tend to persist in their degree programs at higher rates than other financially needy students.
- Students develop valuable career skills and job connections. Many gain experience in fields directly related to their studies.

Passport to College Scholarship

- Legislation enabled data-sharing between state agencies to identify youth eligible for the program
- Serves about 400 students each year
- Must be a dependent of Washington State
- Students activate award by attending college by age 22
- The scholarship may be used at any eligible college in Washington



Passport to College Scholarship

Passport is state-funded and administered by the Council

- Youth must provide consent through FAFSA, Common Application, or Passport Consent Form

Three primary components:

1. SETuP pre-college support for youth ages 14–18
2. Scholarship for up to five years (currently \$4,500)
3. Incentive grants provided to colleges and universities offering intensive support services through campus Viable Plan





Scholarship Search

www.theWashBoard.org matches Washington students to scholarships from institutions, local businesses and rotaries, and philanthropists.

Smarter > Scholarship Matches

Looking for scholarships? theWashBoard.org makes it simple. We **connect** Washington students of all types with Washington scholarship providers....for FREE.

Whether you'll be attending in state or out, you save time by entering your profile once and letting us find the scholarship opportunities that fit. theWashBoard.org is spam-free and will never sell your information.

[Check us out in this video](#)

Sign In or Register Today!

E-mail Address

Password

> Sign In

[Forgot your password?](#)



For Seekers



Create a profile and let us do the rest. We will match you with scholarships you are most likely to qualify for and applying online is easy.

News & Announcements

College Goal Sunday events help students understand and complete the FAFSA.

[Learn More](#)

For Providers



Post your scholarship to reach a larger group of students. We make reviewing and evaluating applications easy. Find the next recipients of

WashBoard in a Nutshell

theWashboard.org:

Offered \$41.2 million in scholarships last year

Matches scholarships to interests and goals

Web-based; can be used in school, libraries, or at home; contains no ads or SPAM

Is a free resource for Washington students or residents attending college outside of Washington

Scholarships are diverse and support a variety of students, not just high school seniors.

Only 33% require a GPA higher than 3.0

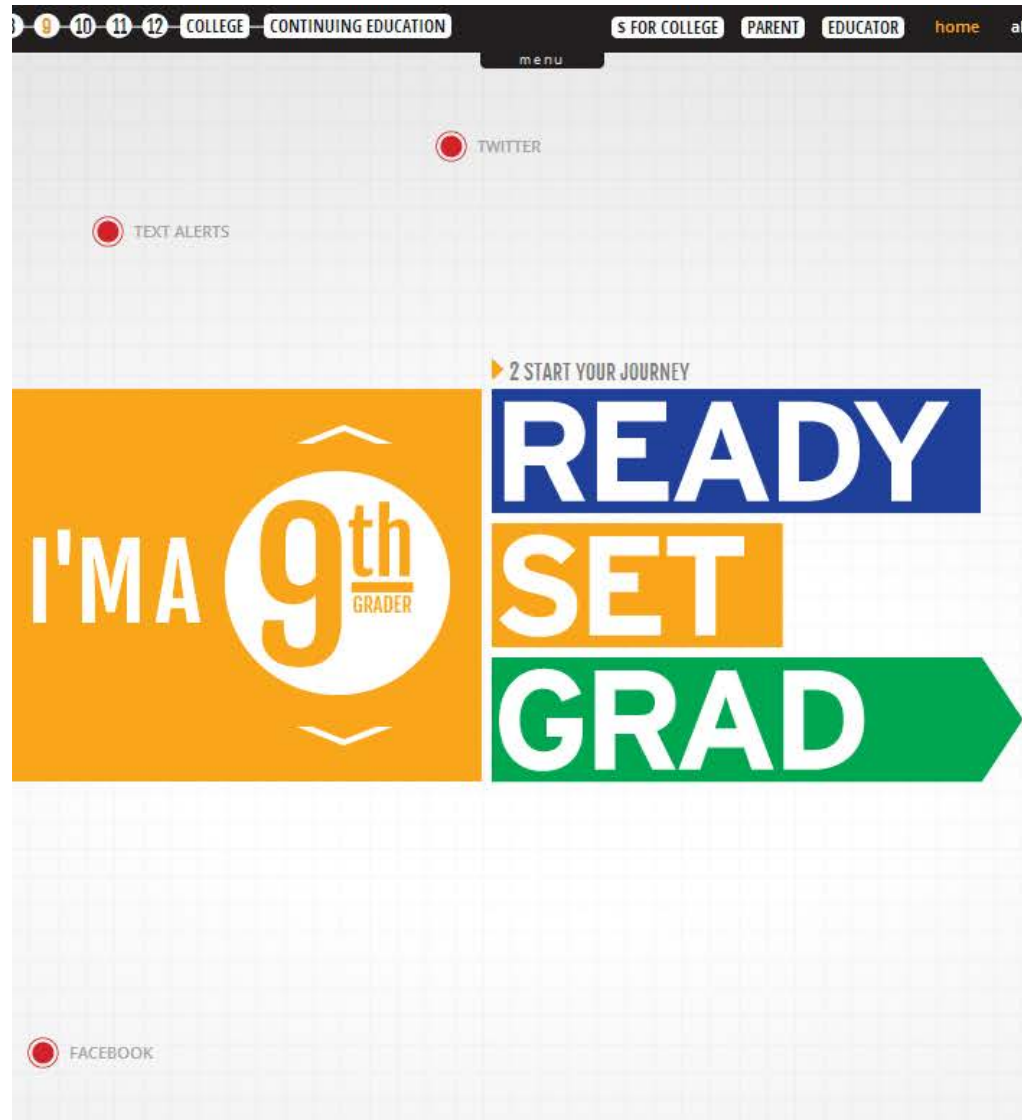
62% of listings are not based on financial need

81% do not require the FAFSA

27% of scholarships listed are renewable

High School Counselors!

Make ReadySetGrad.org your stop for the most up-to-date student, family, and K-12 educator-focused information.



- Financial Aid 101
- College Bound Scholarship
- 12th Year Campaign
- WASFA
- Grade-level appropriate college- and career-readiness information
- College search and application resources
- Minimum College Admission Standards
- Scholarship information

Financial Aid Resources for Educators

Go to: ReadySetGrad.org

> Click on: [Educator Tab](#)

> Click on: [Resources](#)

- [Accessing Your College Bound Scholarship](#)
- [WASFA Flyer](#)
- [5 Financial Aid Myths](#)
- [College Bound Senior Year Checklist](#)
- [FAFSA Completion Initiative infographic](#)
- [12th Year Campaign Event Site interest form](#)
- [College Bound promotional materials order form](#)
- [Financial Aid 101 slidedeck for students](#)

College Readiness Resources for Educators

Go to: ReadySetGrad.org

> Click on: [Educator Tab](#)

> Click on: [Resources](#)

- [Minimum College Admission Standards Overview](#)
- [Dual Credit Overview](#)
- [Smarter Balanced Test Scores Overview](#)
- [Graduation Requirements vs. Minimum College Admission Standards vs. NCAA Requirements chart](#)
- [Overview of HB 1546: Dual Credit Policy Changes](#)
- [Bridge to College Courses Overview \(from OSPI\)](#)
- [Smarter Balanced infographic \(from ReadyWA\)](#)

Tools and Resources for Financial Aid Administrators

<http://www.wsac.wa.gov/FAA-resources>

Includes:

- Program Manuals – produced annually for Financial Aid Administrators in the colleges and universities
- SFA Partner – quarterly updates for program administration

Contact Information

Program	Contact
State Financial Aid Questions	finaid@wsac.wa.gov

Find us online:

www.wsac.wa.gov

www.readysetgrad.org

www.thewashboard.org

www.get.wa.gov

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