

Washington Council for High School College Relations

2014 Counselor Tour

Washington Student Achievement Council Staff



Agenda

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Who We Are

The Washington Student Achievement Council was created by the Legislature in 2012.

Our mission:

- We advance educational opportunities and attainment in Washington.

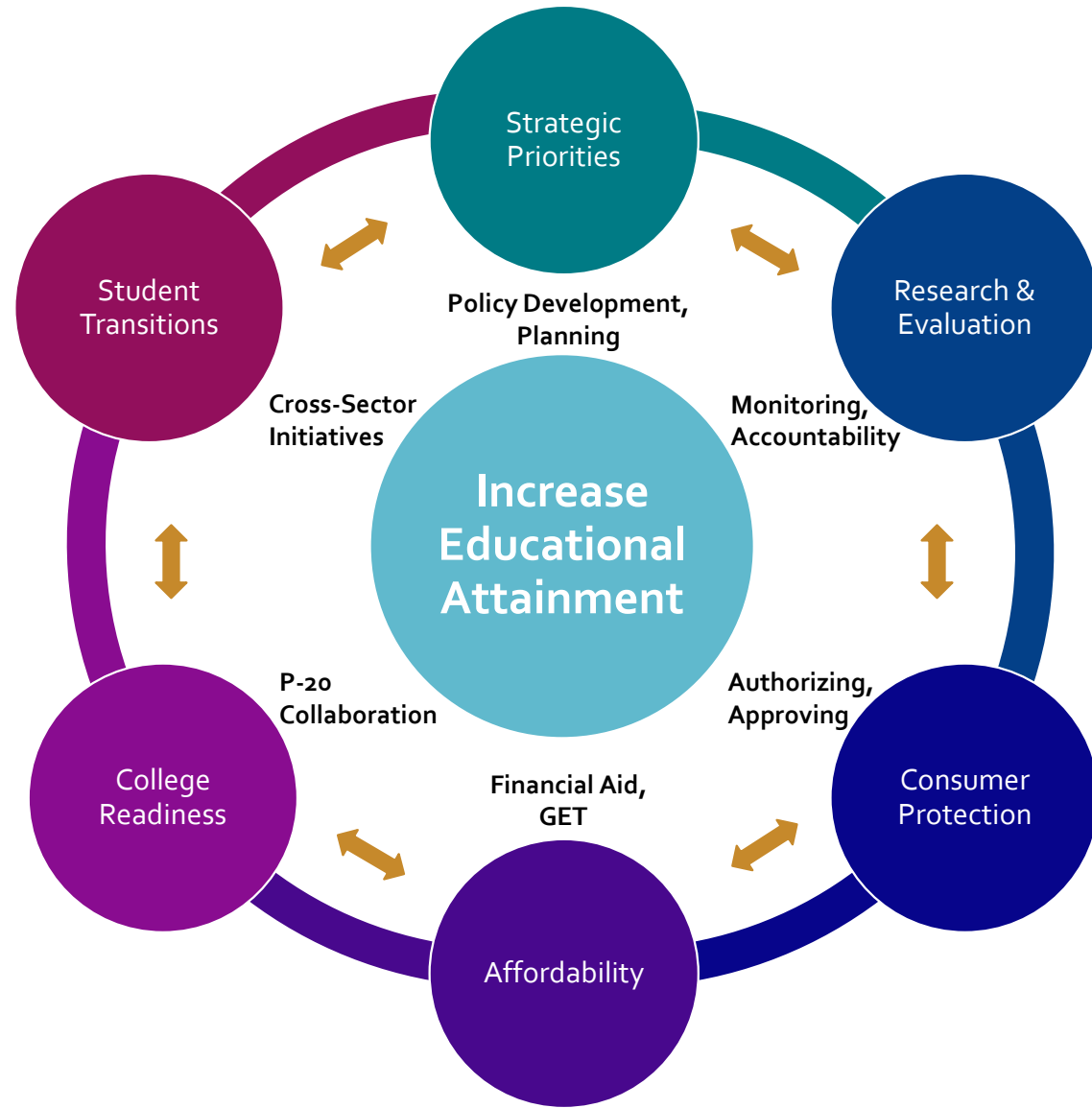
In pursuit of our mission, the Washington Student Achievement Council:

- 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.

Our vision:

- We inspire and foster excellence in educational attainment.

Our Work



By 2023:

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

- Current level of attainment: 89%

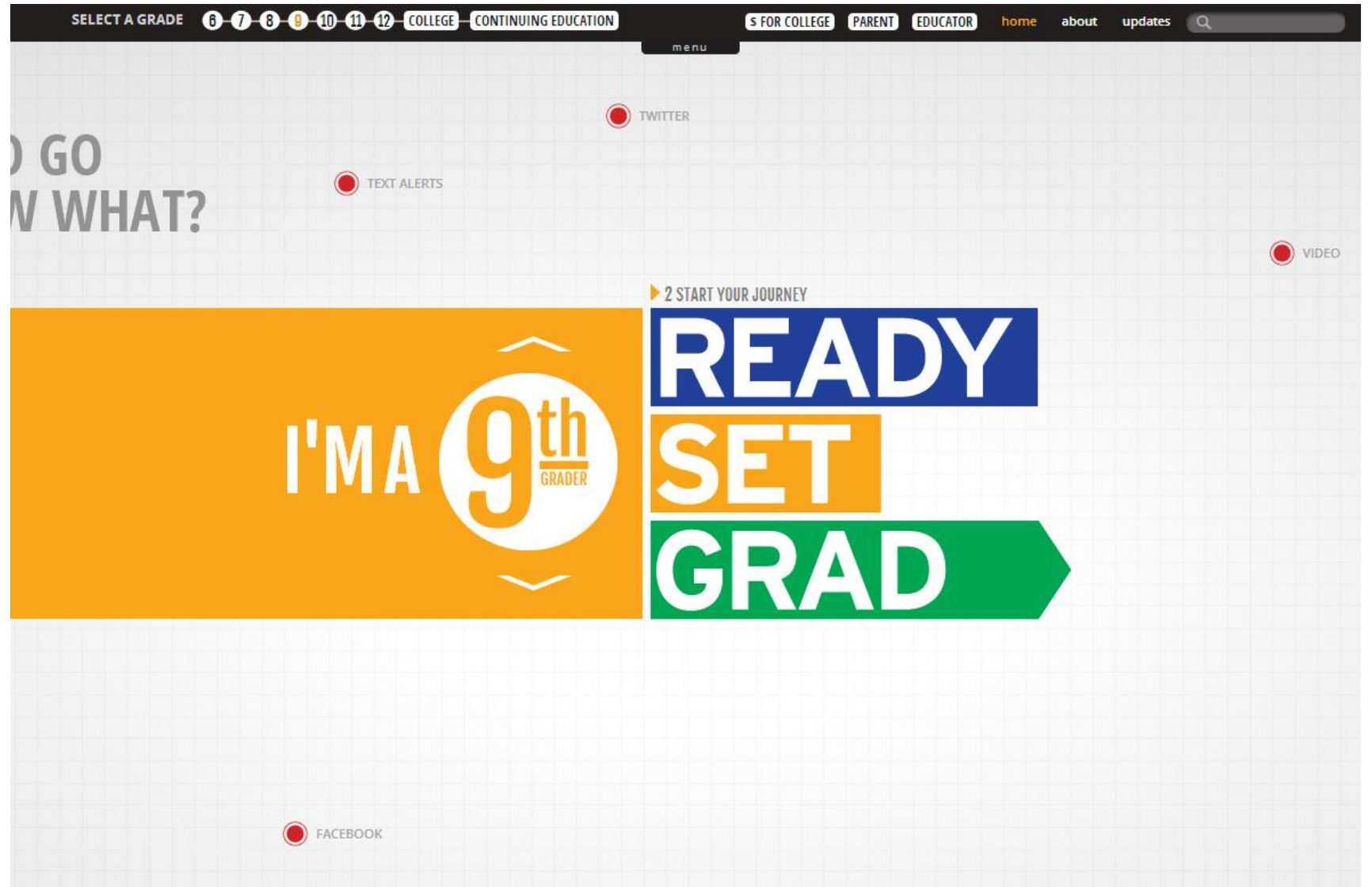
At least 70% of Washington adults ages 25-44 will have a postsecondary credential.

- Current level of attainment: 50%

Ready Set Grad

WSAC's student, family,
and educator-focused
website.

WWW.READYSETGRAD.ORG



Ready Set Grad

Recent Updates

Accessibility

- Installation of Google Translate.
- Americans with Disabilities Act compliance updates.

Dual-Credit Look-up

- Feature to look-up and compare AP, IB, and Cambridge scores needed for credit at specific universities. (Coming soon!)

Financial Aid

- Expansion of financial aid content, including College Bound resources, WASFA application, and 12th Year Campaign information.

Financial Aid Landscape

It is true...

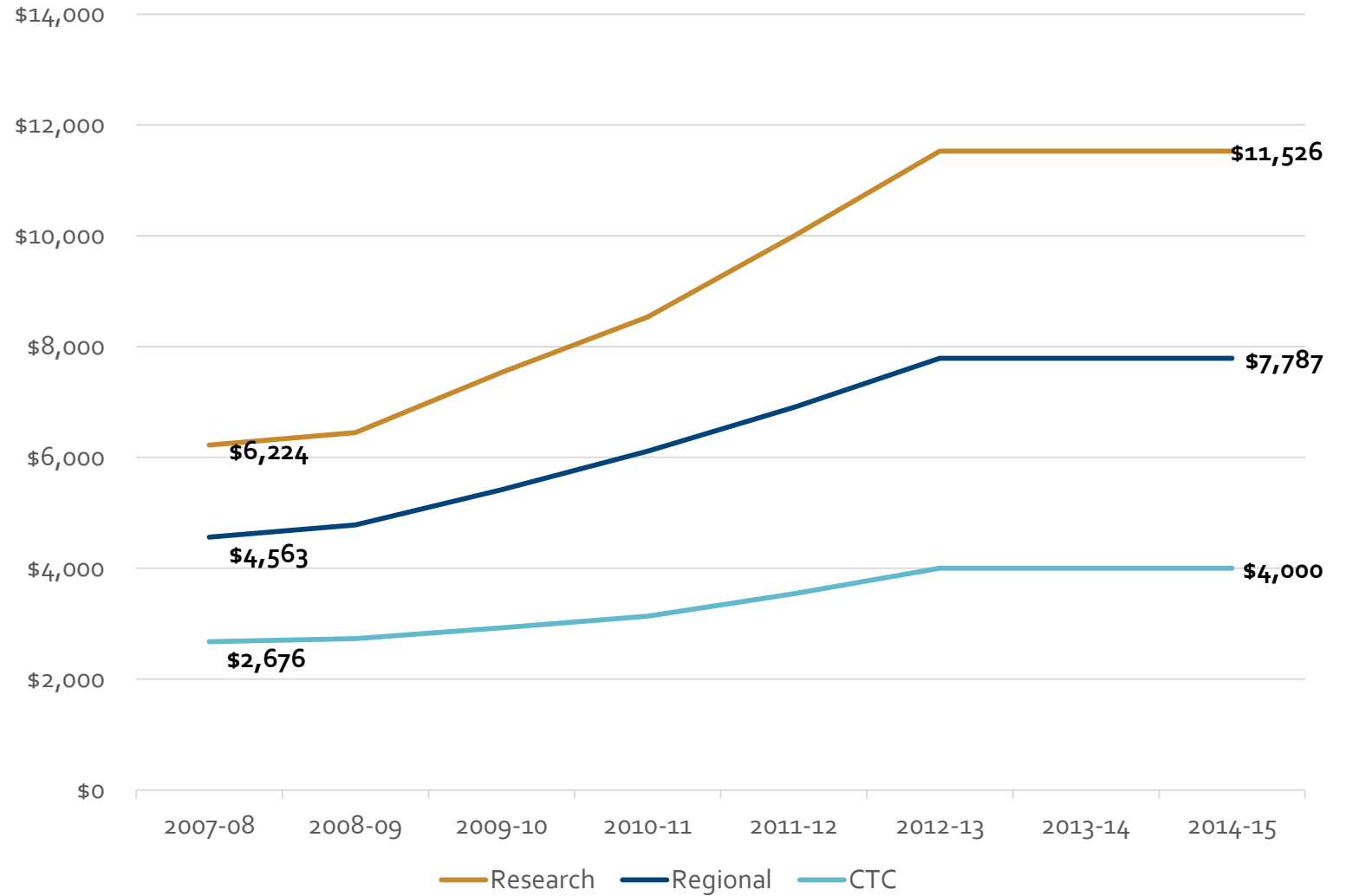
- Tuition has significantly increased.
- Enrollments are at their highest.
- Many students are financially needy. Record numbers of FAFSAs filed in 2013-14—exceeding 500,000.
- Average loan amounts are increasing.

Yet in Washington...

- Over a billion dollars in aid was distributed to resident undergraduates last year.
- Washington is a top state in need-based aid.
- Tuition increases were frozen for two years.
- Each year, increasing number of families are using GET to help pay education costs.

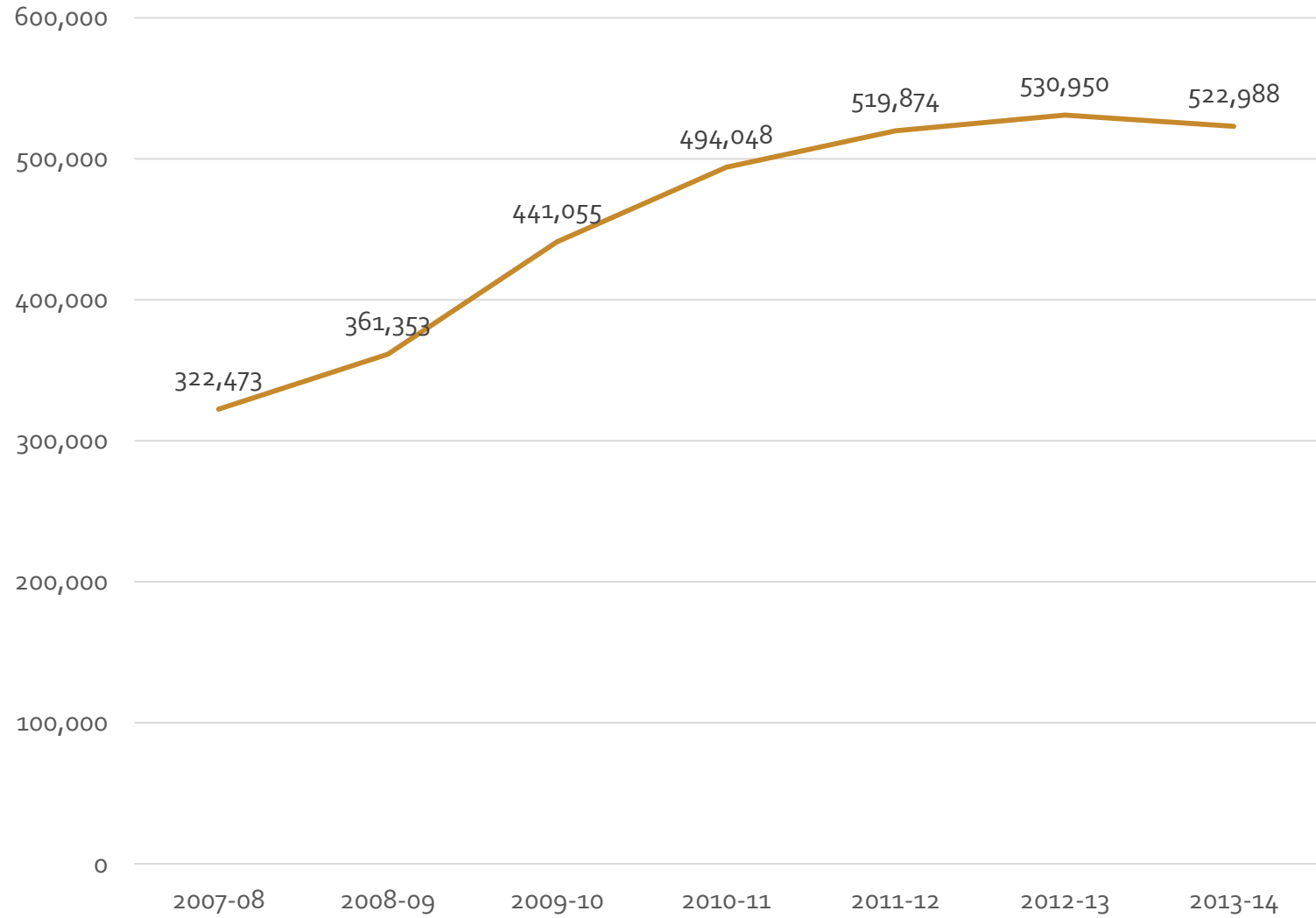
Public Tuition Nearly Doubles in Five Years

Legislature holds tuition flat for 2013-14 and 2014-15.



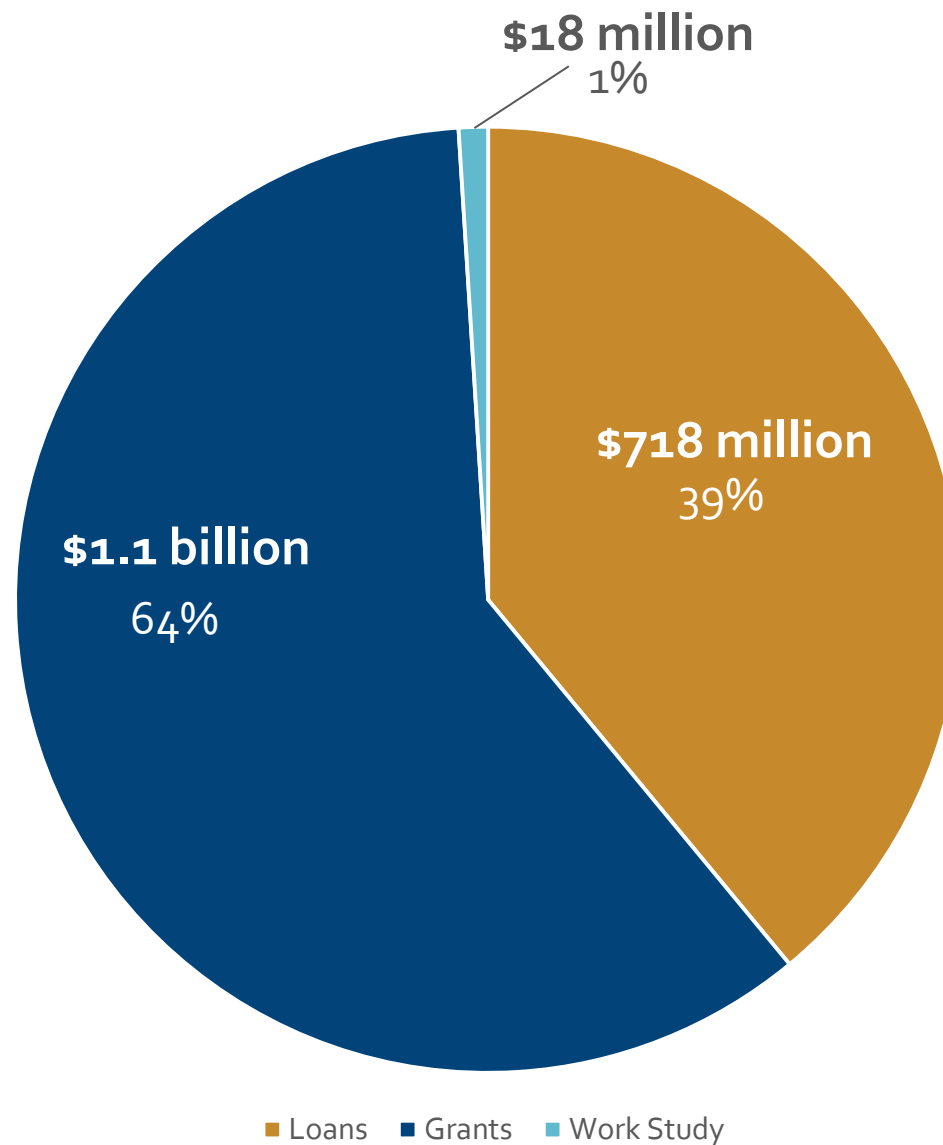
Note: Tuition (operating and building fees) and Student & Activities fees. Additional fees are required.

FAFSA Filings



Aid Distribution

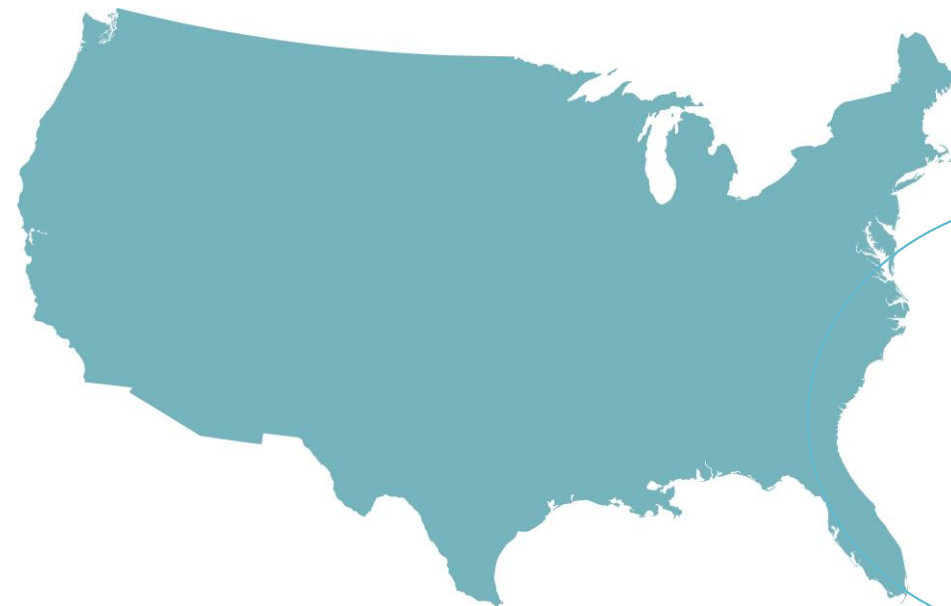
Undergraduate students in Washington received **1.8 billion dollars** in need-based aid.



Washington Student Achievement Council. 2012-13 Unit Record Report. [WA resident undergraduate need-based recipients].

Washington Ranks #1 in Funding

Need-based aid per
undergraduate FTE



State Need Grant

- State's largest financial aid program.
- Nearly 74,000 recipients in 2012-13.
- Over 32,000 left unserved; enrollments outpaced funding.
- 69 institutions participate in the State Need Grant.

College Bound Scholarship

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



In middle school, eligible students pledged 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) your senior year of high school.

Reminders and Key Messages for Students

College Bound combines with other state aid.

Covers the average tuition (at comparable public colleges), some fees, and a small book allowance.

Students must remain income eligible.

Income eligibility will be verified using the information on the FAFSA when the student applies for college.

Reminders and Key Messages for Students

Students may use the scholarship to earn a certificate or degree.

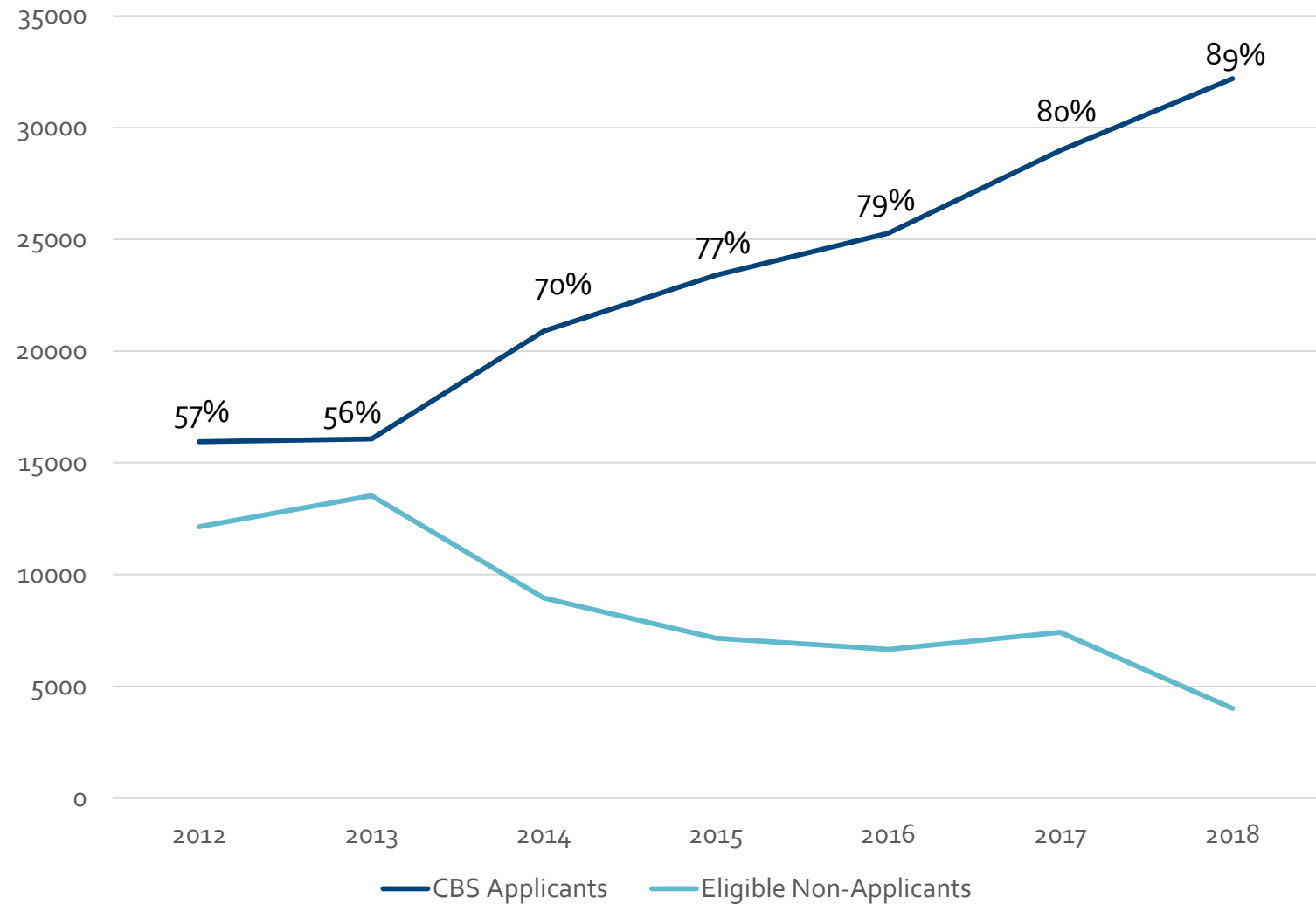
Must be used for an approved program at one of Washington's eligible institutions (www.collegebound.wa.gov)

Students must maintain SAP.

Once in college, students must follow the college's Satisfactory Academic Performance (SAP) guidelines to retain the scholarship.

More Students are Signing-up for College Bound

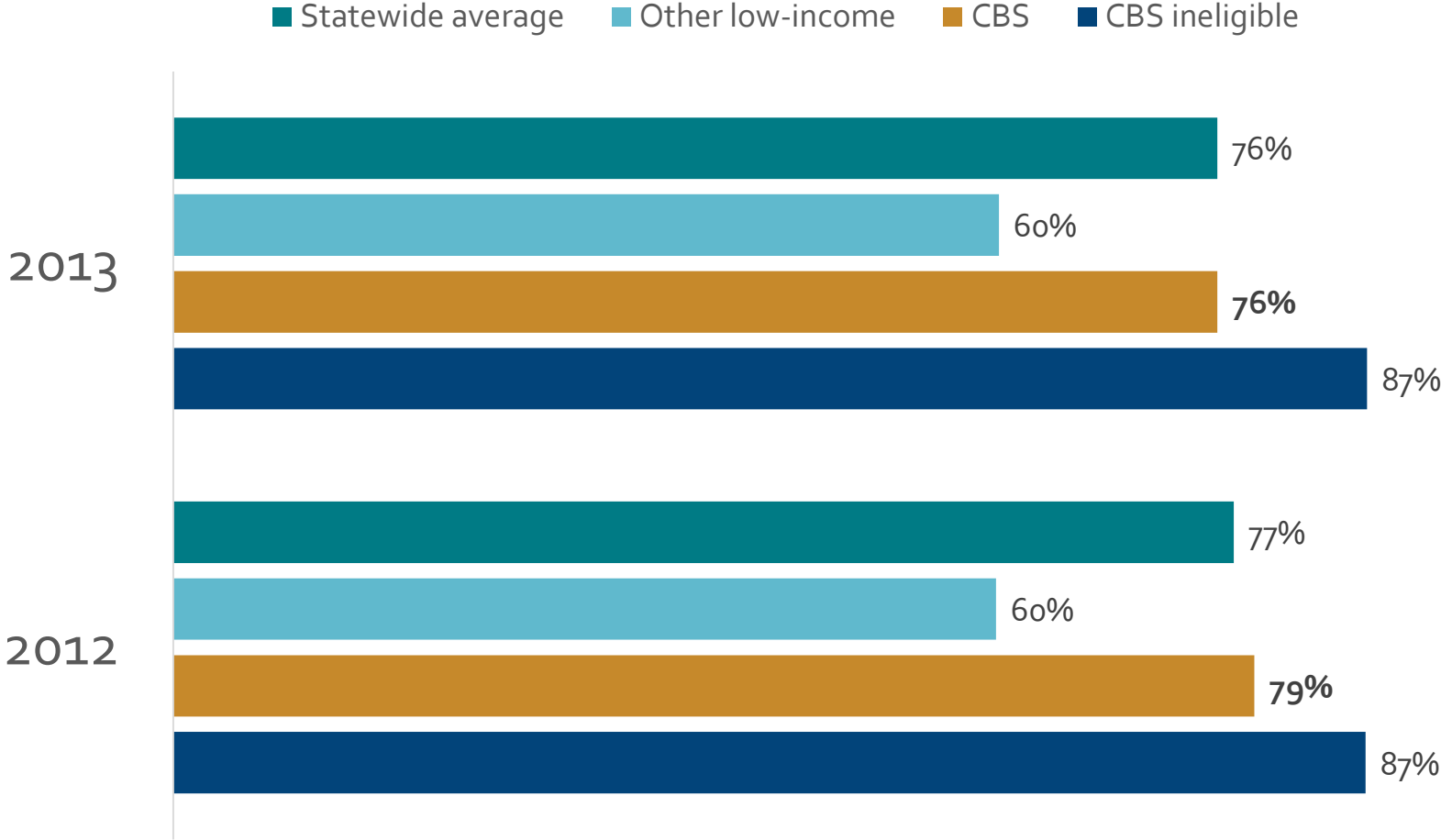
The sign-up rate has risen 23 percentage points in five years.



College Bound students are graduating 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.

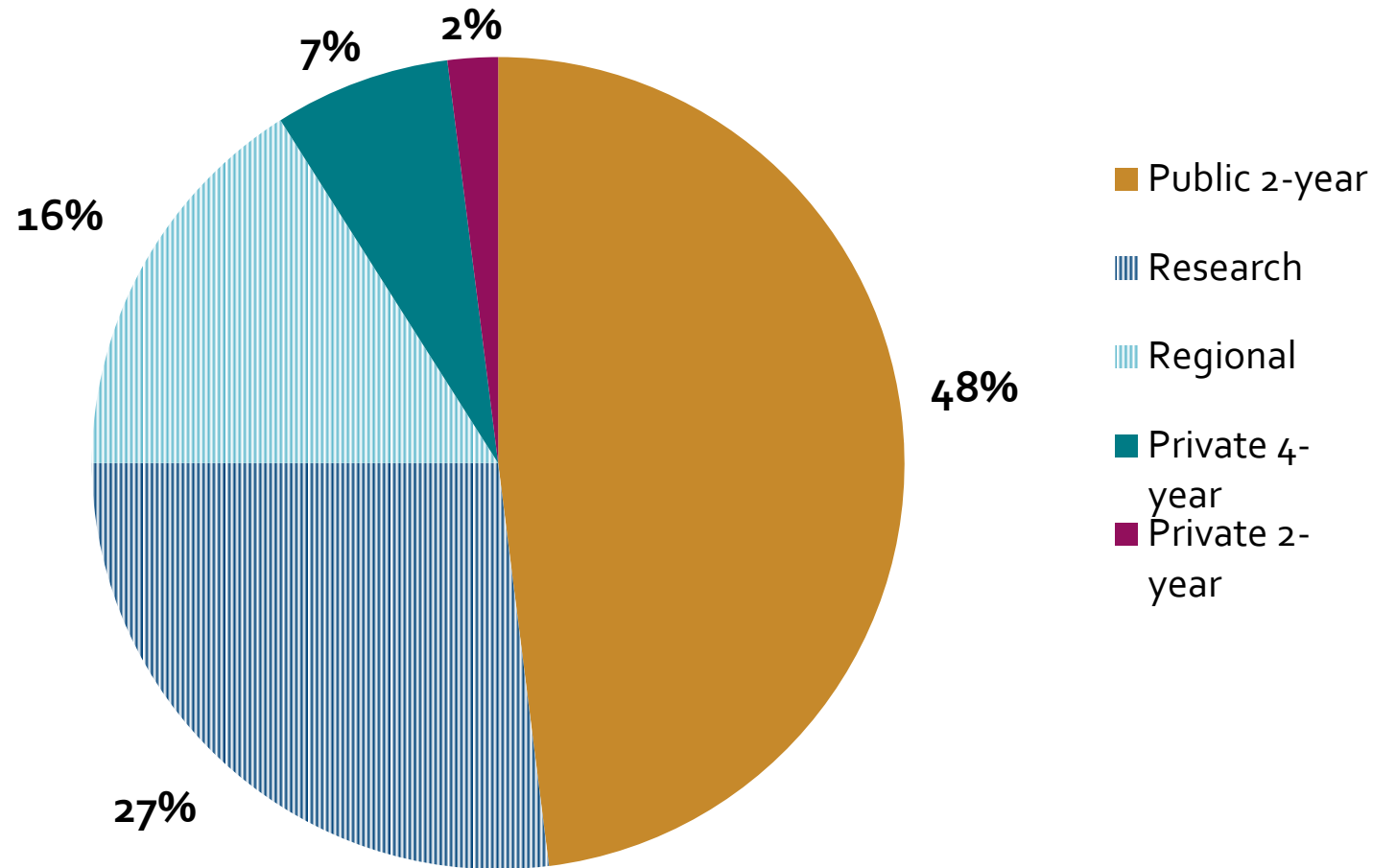
Four-Year Graduation Rates



Source: OSPI staff analysis of WSAC CBS Applicant Data.

More scholarship recipients are attending four-year institutions than anticipated.

2013-14 Recipients



Source: WSAC May Interim Report, 2013-14 (May 2014). CBS recipients.

WASFA for “DREAMers”

Expanded eligibility for State Need Grant to non-citizens who meet residency requirements:

- Have graduated from a Washington high school or obtained a GED® (or will do so before beginning college).
- Have lived in Washington for three years prior to, and continuously since, earning the high school diploma or equivalent.
- Sign an affidavit (written promise) to file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States when eligible to apply.

Provided an additional \$5 million to State Need Grant.

- Funding incorporated into overall appropriation and is not an earmark for this population.

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 14-15 application. Beginning in January the 15-16 application will be available.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL readyssetgrad.org/wasfa. The page features a navigation bar with a grade selector (0-12) and a 'COLLEGE CONTINUE' button. The main content area is titled '\$ FOR COLLEGE' and includes a 'READY SET GRAD' logo. The primary heading is 'WASHINGTON APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID (WASFA) State Financial Aid For DREAMers'. A text alert icon is visible. The page 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 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, and that completing the application sooner provides a better chance for consideration of limited State Need Grant funds. A 'Start A New WASFA' button is prominently displayed, along with a link for returning applicants to login. A footer note offers help for completing the WASFA by directing users to scroll down to the Application Resource section for instructional documents.

WASFA Student Messaging

The WASFA application process is similar to the FAFSA.

- Complete WASFA instead of FAFSA.
- Complete any additional financial aid forms required by your college.
- Remember to also apply for college admission.
- Apply for WASFA as soon as possible.
- State Need Grant is not a guarantee.

WASFA only applies to State Need Grant.

- College Bound Scholarship recipients must meet College Bound citizenship requirements.
- College Bound scholars who are undocumented must complete the WASFA but are not eligible to receive College Bound Scholarship.

12th Year Campaign



By combining the College Application Campaign and College Goal Washington into the 12th Year Campaign, we:

- Link the college application and financial aid processes.
- Contribute to the state's goal of ensuring 70% of adults have a postsecondary credential.

College Application Campaign

National initiative to increase the number of first-generation and low-income students pursuing a postsecondary education.

October 13 - November 14, 2014

- Washington's College Application Campaign provides resources for planning and executing successful Application Campaign events.
- Customizable tools include:
 - Site Coordinator Handbook
 - Volunteer Coordinator Handbook
 - Student Handouts
 - Lesson Plans
 - College Knowledge Games and Activities
- To participate, contact Anna Batie at annab@wsac.wa.gov.

College Goal Washington

Part of a national program that helps students and families complete the FAFSA.

January and February 2015

- Free, on-site program that helps students and families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA).
- In 2014, Washington was first in the nation for number of College Goal events held and number of students filing the FAFSA at events.
- To participate, contact Anna Batie at annab@wsac.wa.gov.

FAFSA Completion Initiative

Allows FAFSA
completion intervention
at the school level.

Completing FAFSA is a
strong indicator of
students pursuing
postsecondary
education.

US ED launches
FAFSA Completion
Project nationwide;
endorsed by White
House.

WSAC to share
completion data with
districts, schools, and
other approved
entities including
federal TRiO and
GEAR UP programs.

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!

> 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 \$44 million in scholarships last year.

Matches scholarships to interests and goals.

Web-based; can be used in school, libraries, or at home and 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 34% require a GPA higher than 3.0.

57% of listings are not based on financial need.

80% do not require the FAFSA .

23% of scholarships listed are renewable.

Minimum College Admissions Standards

www.wsac.wa.gov/college-admissions

Minimums set by WSAC for four-year public institutions. Standards above this will vary by institution.

CADRs: College Academic Distribution Requirements (high school courses)

2.0 Minimum Grade Point Average

Official SAT/ACT scores sent directly to the college or university.

Washington's CADRs

4 credits

- English: Including 3 credits of college preparatory composition or literature.

3 credits

- Mathematics: Algebra I, geometry, and Algebra II (intermediate algebra), or Integrated Math I, II, and III. (Pre-calculus level meets 3 credits plus senior year req.). Must include Senior Year Math-Based Quantitative Course (may be met through completion of higher level math prior to senior year or AP Computer Science).
- Social Science: History or other social science.

2 credits

- Science: Laboratory science.
- World Languages: Must be earned in the same World Language, Native American language, or American Sign Language

1 credit

- Arts: Fine, visual, or performing arts, or one additional credit in other CADR academic subject.

Smarter Balanced Assessment

In effect for the graduating classes of 2016-18, then reviewed and adjusted if necessary based on student performance data.

All 34 community and technical colleges and the state's six public four-year institutions have agreed to use the Smarter Balanced (SBAC) 11th Grade Assessment in postsecondary placement.

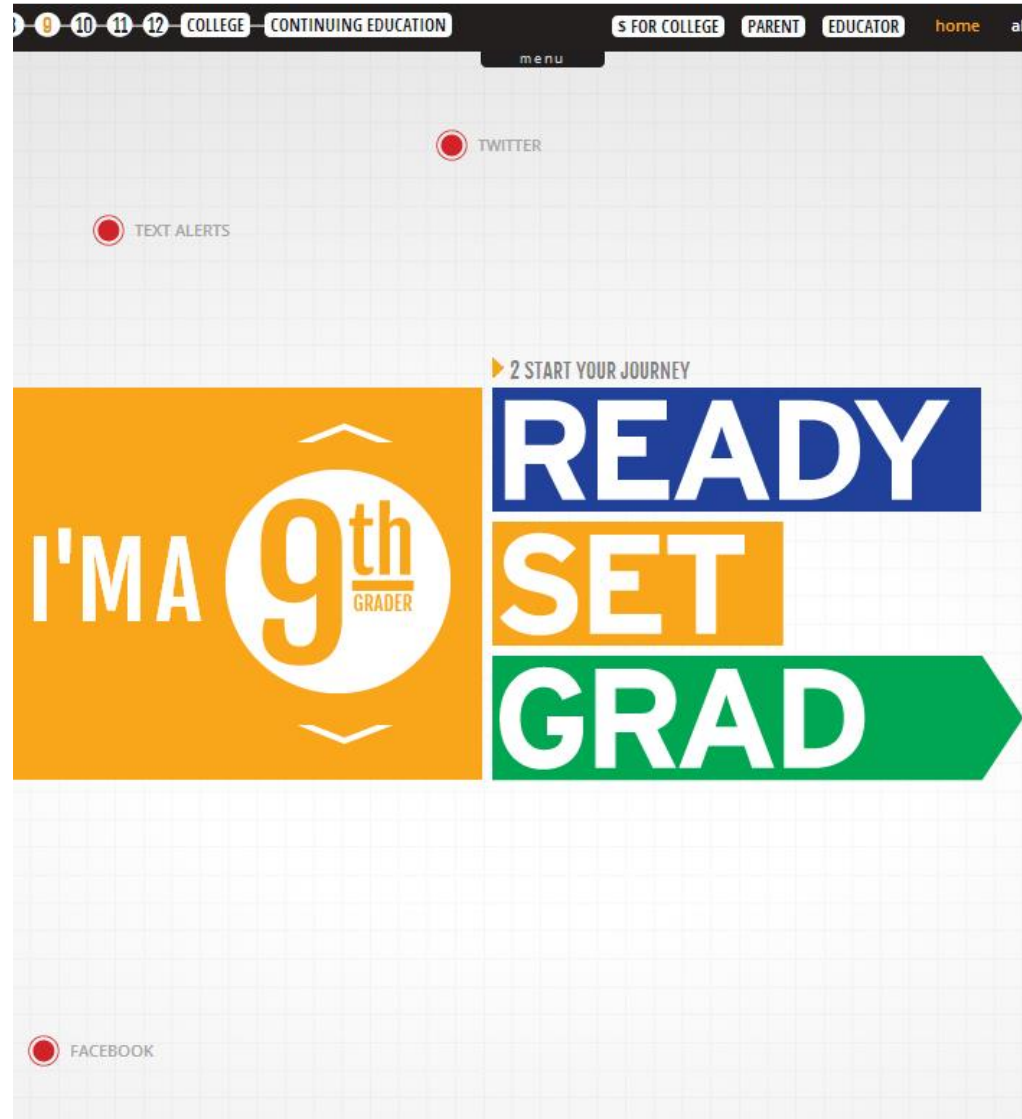
For students enrolling directly after high school graduation, SBAC 11th grade scores of a 3 or a 4:

- Offer the opportunity to place into college-level courses without remediation or additional placement testing.
- Apply to placement considerations at public two- and four-year institutions in Washington.

Details at <http://www.wsac.wa.gov/college-readiness>

Key Takeaway

Make ReadySetGrad.org your first 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 Admissions Standards
- Scholarship information

Contact Information

Program	Contact
12 th Year Campaign	Anna Batie at annab@wsac.wa.gov
Admissions (Minimum College Admissions Standards and CADRs)	Noreen Light at noreenl@wsac.wa.gov
College Bound Scholarship	collegebound@wsac.wa.gov
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

On Twitter:

@WSACouncil and @Ready_Set_Grad

On Facebook:

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