

Intercollege Relations Commission

2014 Fall Update

Washington Student Achievement Council



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.

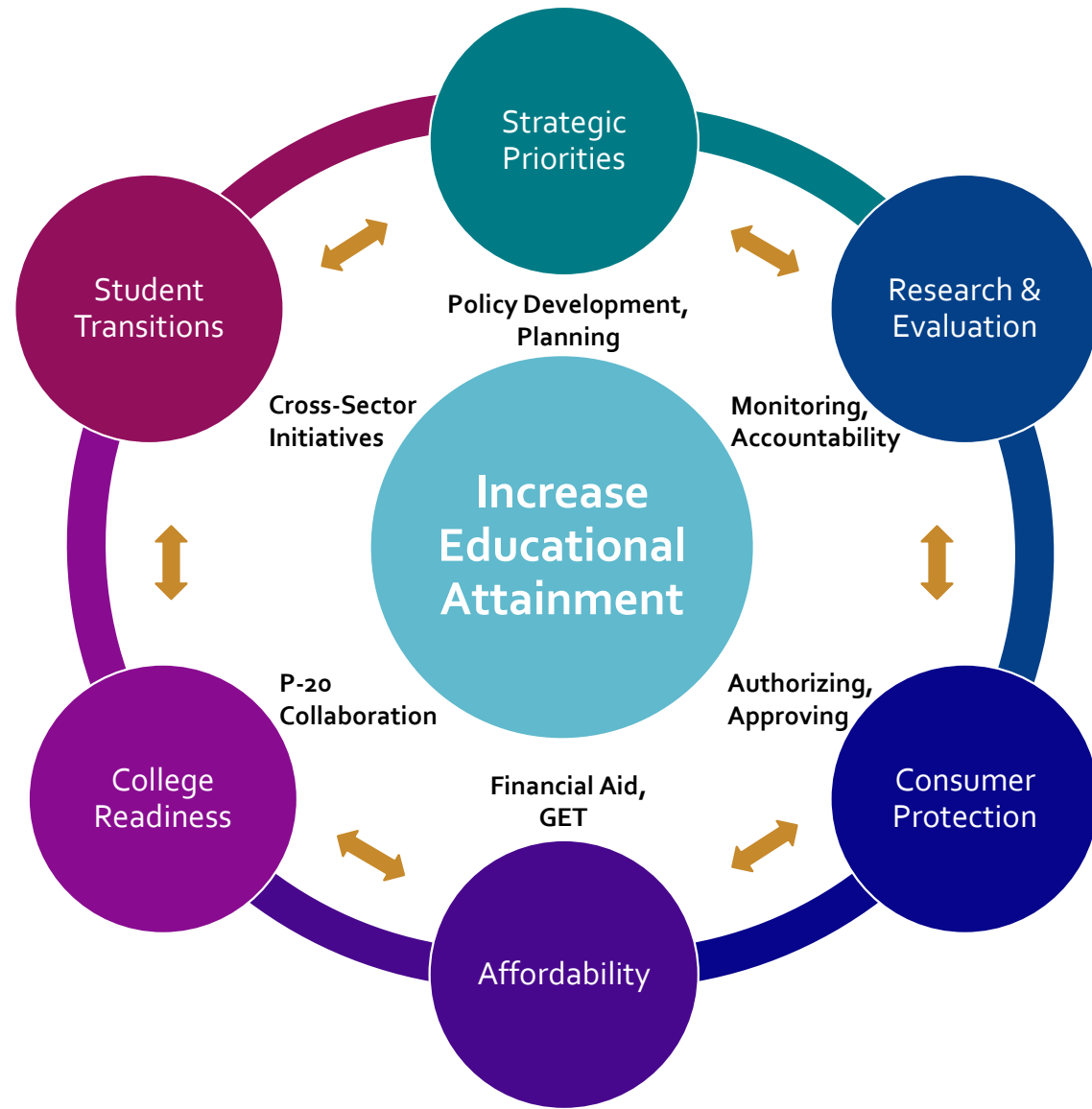
In pursuit of our mission, the Washington Student Achievement Council:

- Leads statewide strategic planning to improve educational coordination and transitions – Roadmap
- Supports Washingtonians through the administration of financial aid, GET, 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

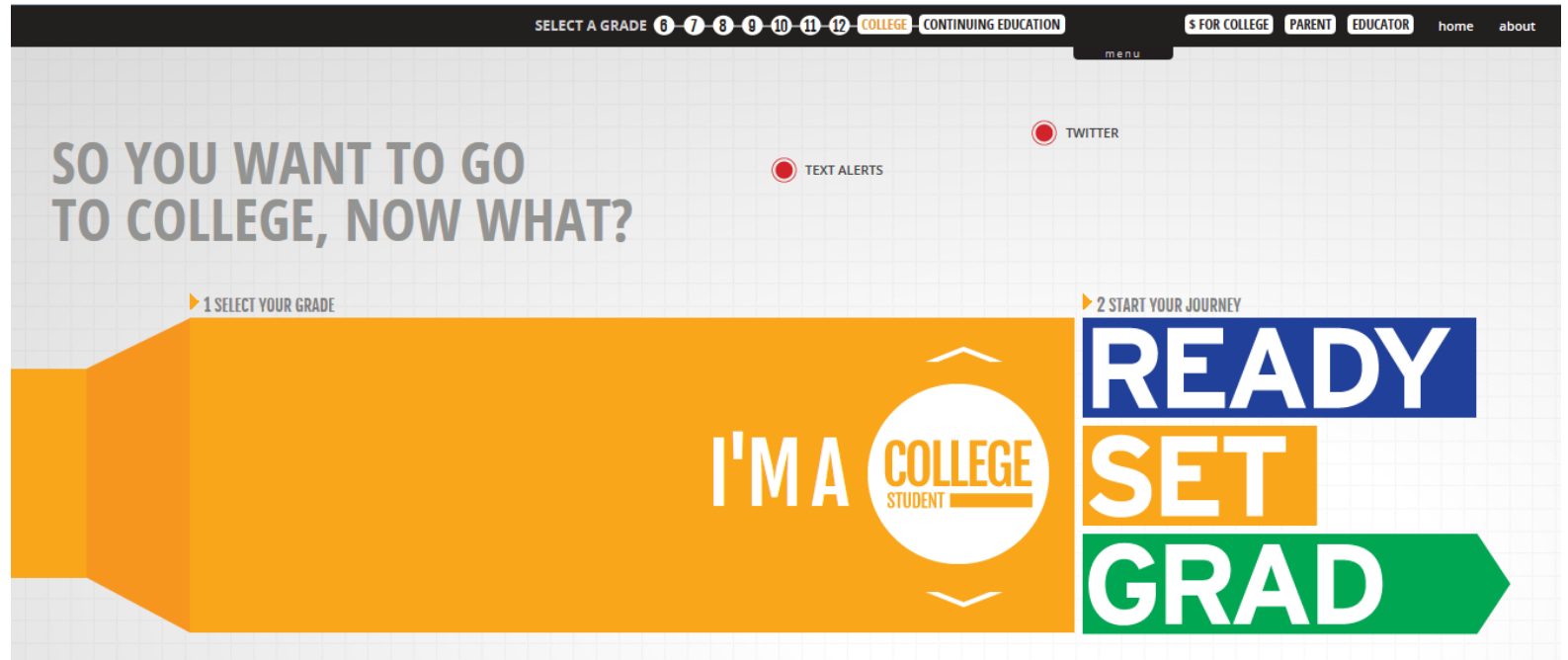
WSAC's student, family, and educator-focused website.

READYSETGRAD.ORG

Recent Updates 

Policy focused website:

WSAC.WA.GOV



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...

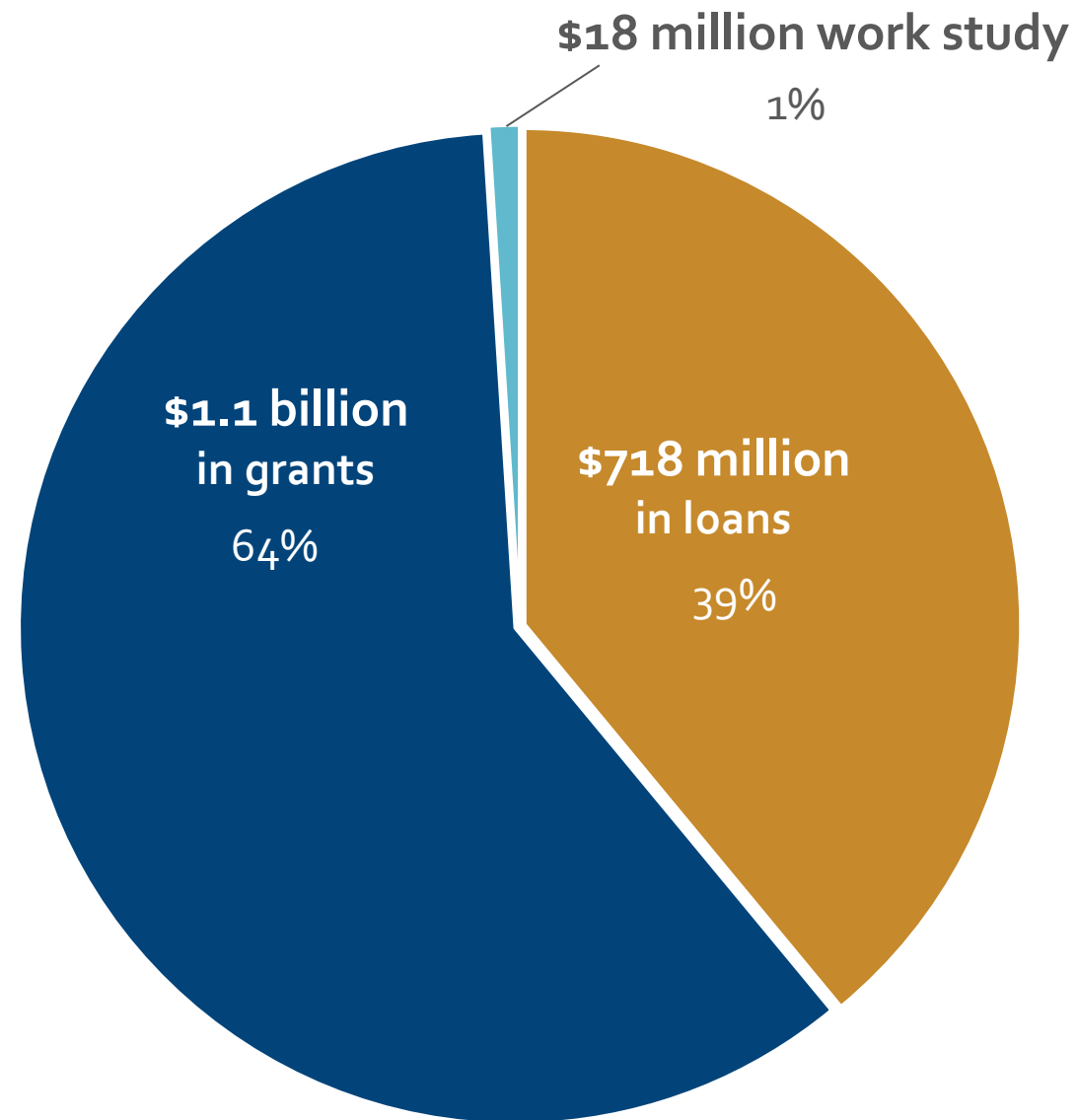
- Tuition has significantly increased.
- Many students are financially needy. Record numbers of FAFSAs filed in 2013-14—exceeding 500,000.
- Average loan amounts are increasing.

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.

Aid Distribution

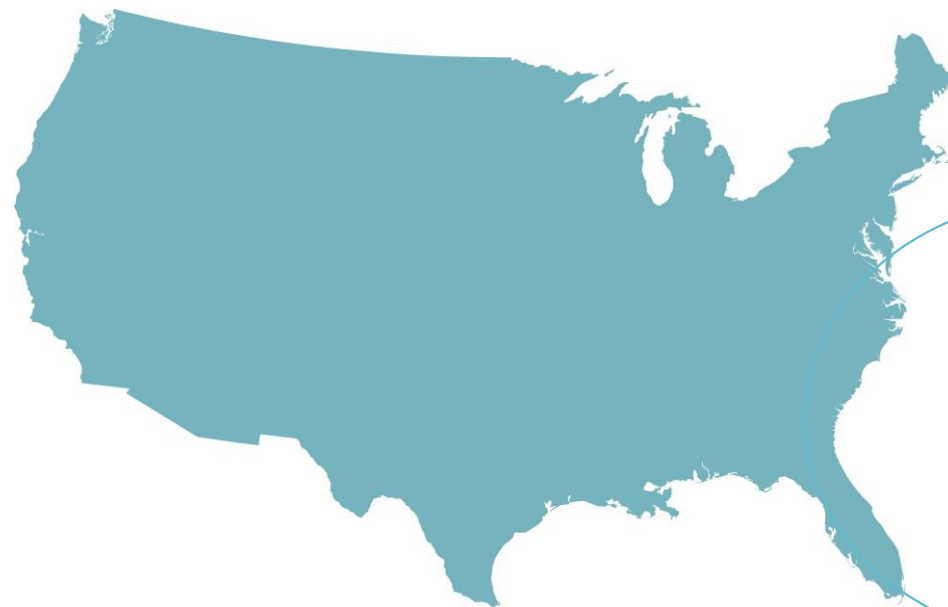
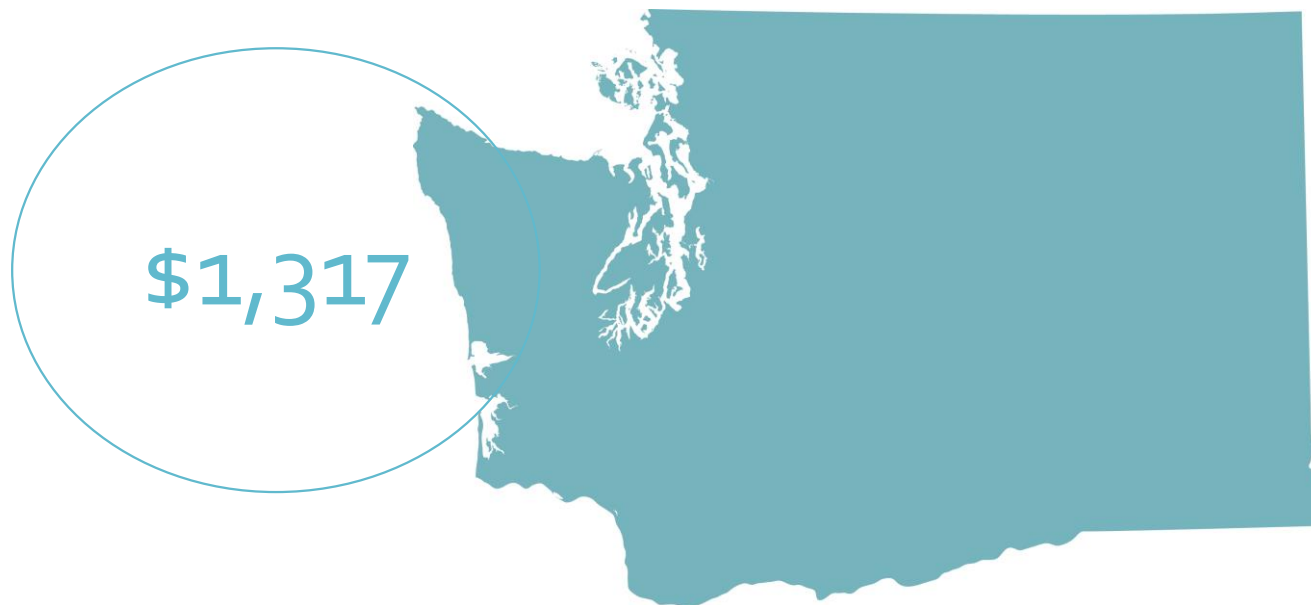
Undergraduate students in Washington received **1.8 billion dollars** in need-based aid.



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



WASFA for “DREAMers”

New this year

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 2014-15 application. Beginning in January the 2015-16 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' 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 prominent orange button labeled 'Start A New WASFA' is located at the bottom of the main content area. A footer note indicates that returning applicants may login [here](#) and provides instructions to scroll down to the Application Resource section for help.

What is New

Strategic Action Plan

<http://www.wsac.wa.gov/2014-meetings>

October 8, Tacoma

- **Maintenance Level**
 - College Bound Scholarship - Maintain commitment to Students - increase investment
 - Continue to invest in public higher education – keep momentum
- **Policy Recommendations**
 - Commit to fully fund the State Need Grant Program
 - Expand the reach of Dual Credit Options
 - Support underrepresented students – leverage the state’s investment through coordination of support service programs
 - Reinvest in State Work Study – expand to 3,000 additional students
 - Develop affordability framework – policy driven investment to make higher education more affordable

Current Projects

- **Residency**
 - Revising Rules (WAC)
 - Aligning new Veterans section with Federal Law – section 702 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014
 - Data Collection for DREAMers – 1079 – Report
- **Transfer**
 - Report due January 15, 2015
 - New Associate Degree Nursing DTA/MRP 2014
 - Associate of Fine Arts Workgroup convening October 24
 - Transfer Liaison – no issues (many others!)
- **Prior Learning Assessment**
 - Report to legislature due December 30, 2014
 - Data request going out now
 - Send paragraph of what your campus is doing
 - Statewide Conference – November 21 – Clover Park

Contact Information

Transfer, Transfer Liaison, Residency,
Prior Learning Assessment

Jim West
JimW@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

@Ready_Set_Grad

On Facebook:

www.facebook.com/WSACouncil

www.facebook.com/ReadySetGrad

Office Hours: *Where educational policy complements practice.*

www.wsac.wa.gov/office-hours

Our new blog aims to bridge the gap between Washington's educational policy and practice discourse.