

2023 Legislative Update Postsecondary Attainment

One month into legislative session, dozens of bills related to increasing postsecondary attainment have been introduced. General themes this session include:

- Fund the costs of dual credit programs.
- Support students as they navigate the transition from high school to college and career pathways.
- Target certain career pathways to respond to industry growth and demand.
- Address postsecondary students' basic needs like housing and mental healthcare.

Enrollment

Increase access to dual credit

- Cover the costs for College in the High School.
- Cover the costs for other dual credit costs (Running Start, etc.) and make summer Running Start permanent.
- Require K-12 to share information on dual credit options with students.

Support high school students' college and career pathways

- Explore a statewide digital platform for High School and Beyond Plan.
- Create an office of Career Connect Washington at WSAC.
- Require K-12 to share student record with higher education.

Affordability

Enhance Washington College Grant

- Align WCG time limit with federal financial aid time limit.
- Add WCG material and book stipend award of up to \$1,200.

Increase access to College Bound Scholarship

- Remove 2.0 high school GPA requirement for CBS students attending CTCs.

Student Supports

Addressing basic needs for food, housing, childcare, mental healthcare

- Expand mental health pilot program to CTCs.
- Establish a basic needs state work group and a free meal pilot program.
- Make Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness (SSEH) program permanent and add tribal college.
- Offer planning grants to develop subsidized housing partnerships for CTCs.
- Require institutional task forces to develop local strategic plans to address basic needs insecurity.

Completion

None at this time.