



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

WA Achievers Scholarship

1. **Purpose:**

Funding is provided for the Washington State Achievers Scholarship (Achievers) and Washington Higher Education Readiness Program (HERO). These programs are managed through a contract with College Success Foundation (CSF) which support and mentor students to identify and reduce barriers to college for low-income and underserved students.

2. **Description of services provided:**

This contract is used by CSF to fund two student support programs providing college advising and readiness services to high school students.

1. **Higher Education Readiness Opportunity (HERO) program:** HERO provides support and guidance that 9th and 10th grade students need to successfully navigate the transition from middle school to high school, manage the academic rigor of high school and become college ready.
2. **Achievers Scholars:** The Achievers Scholars Program provides 11th and 12th grade students with college planning support and tools to successfully navigate the college admissions process. In addition, College Preparatory Advisors recruit and train community members to serve as volunteer mentors for students.

Number of College Success Foundation (CSF) Programs: A total of 60 high school programs statewide (17 HERO Programs and 31 Achievers Programs). Each program is staffed with a full-time advisor.

***Note:** a few schools with higher enrollments/need have more than one HERO and/or Achievers program.

School and District Locations: Programs are offered in 28 high schools in 11 school districts. These districts are Auburn, Bremerton, Highline, Kent, Marysville, Mount Vernon, Port Angeles, Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma, and Yakima.

Student Services for CSF Students: HERO and Achievers programs provide the following services and supports to students:

- One-to-one college advising
- Workshops and meetings on college and career topics
- College exploration experiences
- Career awareness activities
- Academic monitoring and support



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3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

The performance standards for the 2021-2023 school year include:

- In high schools with a HERO program, at least thirty percent (30%) of 9th and 10th grade students participate in at least one college knowledge activity;
- In high schools with a HERO program, at least thirty percent (30%) of 9th and 10th grade students participate in at least one career awareness activity;
- In high schools with an Achievers program, at least thirty percent (30%) of 11th and 12th grade students will participate in at least one college planning activity;
- In high schools with an Achievers program, at least forty percent (40%) of a school's graduating seniors participate in at least one high school-to-college transition activity;
- In high schools with an Achievers program, at least sixty percent (60%) of graduating seniors who respond to the post-activity survey report that the high school-to-college transition activity was helpful to their college planning;
- In high schools receiving parent engagement services, at least twenty percent (20%) of a school's parents participate in at least one parent engagement activity.

Beneficiaries in the 2022-23 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	11
Number of Schools:	28
Number of Students:	30,122
Number of Educators:	0
Other: Parents	2,103

4. **Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?**

☒ No

5. **State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2023	\$4,940,000	\$4,901,952
2022	\$4,940,000	\$4,940,000
2021	\$4,940,000	\$4,940,000
2020	\$4,940,000	\$4,940,000
2019	\$3,940,000	\$3,940,000



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6. Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:

Fiscal Year	Number of Schools
FY23	28
FY22	28
FY21	28

7. Programmatic changes since inception (if any):

The program has shifted in the past biennium from a cohort model, serving only a small group of students in a building, to a targeted universal model, which provides supports to all students, with a focus of communications and programming to students and families traditionally underserved in college access programming.

8. Program evaluation or evaluation of major findings:

Number of students participating in college, career and/or transition activities each grade:

Grade	Topic	# of Unique Student Participants
9 th	College	4,203
9 th	Career	3,850
10 th	College	3,817
10 th	Career	3,458
11 th	College	5,187
12 th	College	6,058
12 th	High School-to-College	3,549
Totals		30,122

Parent Participants:

Audience	Activity Type	# of Unique Parent Participants
Parent	College	2,103



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Performance Standards:

- In high schools with a HERO program, at least 30% of 9th and 10th grade students participate in at least one college knowledge activity.

Actual:

- 13,967 9th and 10th grade students enrolled in a college knowledge activity.
- 8,020 number of unique 9th and 10th grade students who attended at least one college activity.
- 57% of unique 9th and 10th grade students who attended at least one career awareness activity.
- In high schools with a HERO program, at least 30% of 9th and 10th grade students participate in at least career awareness activity.

Actual:

- 13,967 9th and 10th grade students enrolled in a career awareness activity.
- 7,308 number of unique 9th and 10th grade students who attended at least one career awareness activity.
- 52% of unique 9th and 10th grade students who attended at least one career awareness activity.
- In high schools with an Achievers program, at least 30% of 11th and 12th grade students will participate in at least one college planning activity.

Actual

- 19,919 11th and 12th grade students enrolled in a college planning activity.
- 11,245 number of unique 11th and 12th grade students who attended at least one college planning activity.
- 56% of unique 11th and 12th grade students who attended at least one career awareness activity.
- In high schools with an Achievers program, at least 40% of a school's graduating seniors will participate in at least one high school-to-college transition activity.

Actual:

- 10,027 of 12th grade students enrolled in a college planning activity.
- 3,549 number of unique 12th grade students who attended at least one college transition activity.
- 35% of unique 11th and 12th grade students who attended at least one career awareness activity.
- In high schools with an Achievers program, seniors that completed the post-activity survey, 87.5% reported that the high school-to-college transition activity was helpful to their college planning.



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9. **Major challenges faced by the program:**

The program continues to develop relationships to maximize effectiveness of universal programming. With enhanced COVID relief funding, family and community programming was enhanced to fully engage students. Unfortunately, this funding has expired and the program is committed to find ways to continue this vital programming as part of the ongoing service offerings.

10. **Future opportunities:**

Due to lack of COVID relief funding, CSF Achievers will no longer have a parent and community engagement component to their program. Though parent and community engagement was labor intensive to develop and sustain necessary relationships to see consistent participation, the payoff was positive for student engagement in college access programming.

11. **Statutory and/or budget language:**

\$4,940,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and \$4,940,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for the Washington state achievers scholarship and Washington higher education readiness program. The funds shall be used to: Support community involvement officers that recruit, train, and match community volunteer mentors with students selected as achievers scholars; and to identify and reduce barriers to college for low21 income and underserved middle and high school students. The office may require the recipient of these funds to report the impacts of the recipient's efforts in alignment with the measures of the Washington school improvement framework.

12. **Other relevant information:**

None

13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

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14. **Program Contact Information:**

Name:	Francesca Matias
Title:	Youth Engagement Program Supervisor
Phone:	(360) 584-0262
Email:	francesca.matias@k12.wa.us