

WA Achievers Scholarship

Statutory and/or Budget Language

\$4,940,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$4,940,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 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 low-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.

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 supports and mentor students to identify and reduce barriers to college for low-income and underserved students.

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

Criteria for Receiving Services and/or Grants

The performance standards for the 2023-24 school year include:

- In high schools with a HERO program, at least forty percent (40%) of 9th grade students participate in at least one Rally for College (RFC) college knowledge, career awareness, or student success activity.
- In high schools with a HERO program, at least forty percent (40%) of 10th grade students participate in at least one RFC college knowledge or career awareness activity.
- In high schools with an Achievers program, at least forty percent (40%) of 11th grade students participate in at least one RFC college planning activity.
- In high schools with an Achievers program, at least forty percent (40%) of 12th grade students participate in at least one RFC college planning or high school to-college transition activity.

Beneficiaries in the 2023-24 School Year

Number of School Districts	11
Number of Schools	28
Number of Students	24,284
Number of Educators	N/A
Other	N/A

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2024	\$4,940,000	\$4,940,000
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

Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2024	28
2023	28
2022	28
2021	28

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

N/A

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	2,208
9 th	Career	1,130
9 th	Success	2,218
10 th	College	3,218
10 th	Career	1,928
11 th	College	6,446
12 th	College	6,909
12 th	HS to College Transition	227*
Totals		24,284

*This number is much lower because many of the “first” time students are accounted for in the 12th college row.

Major Challenges Faced by the Program

Financial Aid was an immensely challenging item to complete for students during this FA cycle due to the release of the new FAFSA/WASFA form, the frequent workarounds and updates.

Future Opportunities

Continue to use a mix of strategies to connect with groups of students that face barriers to college enrollment, such as low-income and first-generation. Another focus area is preventing “summer melt.” A common problem most prevalent among low-income students that have been accepted and enrolled in college but do not end up attending due to lack of financial resources, missed deadlines or lack of support. CSF will continue to provide critical support to navigate the complex processes and forms associated with college enrollment.

Other Relevant Information

N/A

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

[Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2024 Fiscal Year.](#)

Program Contact Information

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