



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.*

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

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

- Academic monitoring and support

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 2021-22 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	11
Number of Schools:	28
Number of Students:	38,504
Number of Educators:	0
Other:	766 - Parents

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 0

Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 0

FY22 Funding:	State Appropriation:	\$4,940,000
	Federal Appropriation:	\$0
	Other Fund Sources:	\$0
	TOTAL (FY22)	\$4,940,000

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

No

5. **State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
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
2018	\$3,940,000	\$3,940,000

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

Fiscal Year	Number of Schools
FY20	32
FY19	27
FY18	27
FY17	27

7. **Programmatic changes since inception (if any):**

In late January 2022, the 42 HERO and Achievers cohort model was phased out and replaced with a new initiative called Rally for College (RFC). A key element of this initiative was a shift from a cohort model to a school-wide approach allowing more students to access college and career services in 28 high schools. CSF also expanded the number of programs by adding 11 new student programs as well as parent engagement services for 12 schools.

This initiative is focused on contributing to all students' progress towards the universal goal of college enrollment directly following high school graduation using tailored supports to meet the needs of those from underserved communities.

8. **Evaluations of program/major findings:**

During the RFC implementation, advisors delivered 310 high school-to-college activities to a total of 5,772 graduating seniors with plans to enroll in a 2-year and 4-year college.

Based on survey responses from 282 graduating seniors, 83% of seniors agreed with the statement that 'information provided at a high school-to-college activity was helpful to their college planning.

During RFC implementation, CSF advisors:

- Delivered 232 college readiness activities to a total of 10,097 ninth and tenth grade students.

- Delivered 574 college readiness activities to a total of 18,188 eleventh and twelfth grade students.

9. Major challenges faced by the program:

In some schools at various times of the school year, COVID protocols prevented CSF advisors from fully implementing program services since community partners like CSF were prohibited in the building and there were restrictions on in-person group meetings, field trips and after school activities. Other barriers that were difficult to anticipate in the post-pandemic environment included limited access to meeting spaces large enough to allow for social distancing and a lack of bus transportation due driver shortages.

10. Future opportunities:

OSPI will seek to continue these supports and grow access to the caring adults CSF employs and connects to some of our most vulnerable students.

11. Statutory and/or budget language:

ESSB 5693, Sec. 522(10)(a) - \$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 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

12. Other relevant information:

N/A

13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:

See [OSPI's grantee list](#).

14. Program Contact Information:

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