

## College Bound Scholarship

### Background

Governor Christine Gregoire's *Washington Learns* report recommended scholarships and support for low-income students to increase educational attainment and prepare more citizens for family-wage jobs and careers.

In response to that charge, the 2007 Legislature established the College Bound Scholarship (Senate Bill 5098). The governor and Legislature allocated \$7.4 million to pay for the first two years of the program, beginning in 2012.

The scholarship also is aligned with the state's *2008 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education*, which calls for stepped up efforts to make college more affordable and accessible as a way of raising educational attainment.

Washington currently ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> nationally in the percentage of low-income students participating in post-secondary education. Within 10 years, these students will represent 33 percent of the high school graduating class. Without intervention, 72 percent of the 28,000 seventh graders in low-income families are unlikely to even aspire to college, let alone enroll.

### Eligibility

The scholarship is aimed at helping seventh- and eighth-grade students in low-income families plan for and afford a college education. It is guaranteed for all students who apply during their seventh or eighth grade year and continue to meet all eligibility criteria until they graduate from high school.

This year's eighth-grade students must apply by June 1, 2008. This year's 7<sup>th</sup> graders have until June 1, 2009 to apply. Currently, an estimated 56,000 students are eligible to apply for the scholarship.

### Requirements

To receive the scholarship, students must:

- Submit a College Bound application/pledge during their seventh- or eighth-grade year;
- Graduate from a Washington high school or home school and apply for admission at an eligible Washington college or university;
- Maintain a cumulative 2.0 grade point average;
- Meet the family income requirements at the time of graduation (65 percent or less than the state's median family income);
- Not be convicted of a felony throughout middle and high school; and
- Be a Washington resident.

Foster youth are automatically eligible to apply.

## College Bound Scholarship Income Eligibility

<i>If</i> the number of people in your family is:	<i>Then</i> your 2006 family income must be equal to or less than:
2	\$25,400
3	\$31,800
4	\$38,300
5	\$44,700
6	\$51,100
7	\$57,600
8	\$64,000
Add for each additional person	<b>\$6,500</b>

### Funding

The 2007 Legislature allocated \$7.4 million for the program, which will pay for the first two years of college for this year's eighth graders, and the first year of college for this year's seventh graders.

The legislation directs that the funds be invested in the state's Guaranteed Education Tuition program (GET) and held in trust by the HECB.

An estimated 4,200 College Bound students are expected to fulfill all requirements and receive the initial scholarship in 2012.

## Using the College Bound Scholarship

The amount of the scholarship will be based on tuition rates at Washington public colleges and universities, and can be used at any approved college or university in the state – including private two- and four-year schools and many approved independent colleges and universities and private career schools.

The College Bound Scholarship will cover the amount of tuition and fees (plus \$500 for books) that is not covered by other state financial aid awards.

The scholarship is intended to fill the gap between the State Need Grant and the actual cost of college, while also offering a measure of certainty for younger students who would otherwise fear they won't be able to afford college.

The student can receive up to four years of funding, but must use the scholarship within five years of high school graduation.

Scholarship recipients are not guaranteed admission to a particular school, and must still apply and be accepted into college.

### To Apply

Students can apply online at: [www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound), or request paper applications using the contact information below. Applications are also available at middle schools. Eighth graders MUST apply by June 1, 2008. Seventh graders have until June 1, 2009 to apply.

**For more information call: 1-888-535-0747,  
or Email: [collegebound@hecb.wa.gov](mailto:collegebound@hecb.wa.gov)**