

Higher Education & Workforce Development

Ensuring access to a great education so Washington prospers for generations to come

Promoting educational excellence

Statewide educational attainment goals / [HB 2626](#) – About 70 percent of the jobs in Washington will require some type of postsecondary educational credential – certificates or degrees – by 2018. This bill endorses the two goals for educational attainment adopted by the Washington Student Achievement Council – namely, that by 2023 all adults in Washington aged 25-44 will have a high school diploma or its equivalent, and that by the same date 70 percent of Washingtonians in that same age group will have a postsecondary certificate or degree. *(Delivered to Governor)*

Ensuring equal access

DREAM Act / [HB 1817](#)/[SB 6523](#) - This measure makes additional students eligible to receive the State Need Grant (SNG). To qualify, students must have attended their full senior year of high school in Washington and graduated or received the equivalent, lived in Washington for at least three years immediately prior to receiving the high school diploma or equivalent, lived in Washington continuously since high school graduation and until enrolling at a college or university, and pledge to seek citizenship at the earliest time the individual is eligible to do so. Students become eligible for SNG if they meet the above conditions except for the pledge to seek citizenship and if the student has been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival status by US Citizenship and Immigration Services. The bill also adds \$5 million toward the State Need Grant program, currently funded at \$302 million annually. *(Governor signed)*



Transparency for Students

Self-supporting, fee-based programs at four-year institutions of higher education / [HB 1669](#) – Public baccalaureate institutions must now take certain actions before converting degree programs from being partly state-supported to being financed entirely through student tuition and fees. Prospective students must be notified of estimated tuition and fees, student governments and students enrolled in programs must be given at least 6 months notification prior to conversion, and students already enrolled in a program slated for conversion must be given an opportunity to remain in a state-supported program structure for a consecutive amount of time up to four years. The institutions are also required to have a committee evaluate any proposed program conversion, and that committee must include students, faculty, and others. *(Delivered to Governor)*



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Keeping tuition affordable

Limiting differential tuition / [HB 1043](#) –This measure would have permanently revoked the authority of public colleges and universities in Washington to charge resident undergraduate students different tuition rates for different programs of study. Differential tuition is allowed for non-resident and graduate students. The authority to charge differential tuition for resident undergraduates was granted a few years ago, but was temporarily blocked through the budget. The prohibition in the budget remains in place through the rest of the 2013-15 biennium. Originally conceived as an option to cover the higher cost of certain priority degree programs such as engineering, it became clear differential tuition was a threat to the financial well-being of the GET

program, and it would deter students from pursuing high demand degrees that may also be costly to provide. *(Died in Senate)*

Reducing recidivism through education

Inmate postsecondary education degree programs / [HB 2486](#) –This bill would have eliminated a ban in current law that prohibits use of any state funds for inmates participating in postsecondary education degree programs. Currently inmates can participate in education programs for high school completion and job training certificate programs, but not degree programs. Research has shown that for every dollar the state invests in correctional education, there is a net benefit over \$19. WSIPP's cost/benefit analysis also found that state spending on correctional education carries a net benefit of \$21,390 per participant, of which \$5,875 goes directly to taxpayers. The savings produced by the education programs are due in part to the fact that one year of postsecondary education reduces recidivism rates by more than half, and that two years of postsecondary education reduces the incidence of crime among ex-inmates even further – from 34% to 10%. *(Died in Senate)*

Efficient use of Higher-Ed dollars

Creating efficiencies for institutions of higher education / [HB 2613](#) - Public 4-year colleges and universities can now revise specified administrative or operational practices in order to reduce costs. For example, the colleges will be allowed to pay staff every two weeks instead of twice per month, or to pro-rate salaries for faculty on 9-month contracts to be paid over 12 months. In addition, the number of capital construction projects that must go through a pre-design phase will be reduced by requiring this process for projects exceeding \$10 million, rather than the current threshold of \$5 million. This saves money by reducing amount that must be paid to consultants for additional project work and by reducing time for completion for projects. *(Delivered to Governor)*