



Bolstering College Enrollment and Postsecondary Success *2024 Supplemental Operating Budget Decision Package*

Recommendation Summary

Washington’s public K–12 education system is charged with preparing each and every student for postsecondary success in alignment with their goals and interests. Currently, Washington’s high school graduates are not seeking the postsecondary credentialing at sufficient rates to take advantage of many high-paying career opportunities in the state. To fill the gap, many Washington employers recruit workers from other states and countries to meet their hiring needs. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) requests funding for data-driven strategies that both prepare students for postsecondary pathways and help them navigate onto those pathways as they transition out of the K–12 system.

Fiscal Details (Funding, FTEs, Revenue, Objects)

Operating Expenditures	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
General Fund State - 001	\$0	\$8,860,000	\$8,856,000	\$8,856,000
Total Expenditures	\$0	\$8,860,000	\$8,856,000	\$8,856,000
Biennial Totals	\$8,860,000		\$17,712,000	
Staffing	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
FTEs	0	0.35	0.35	0.35
Average Annual	0.18		0.35	
Revenue	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
General Fund State - 01	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Biennial Totals	\$0		\$0	
Object of Expenditure	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Obj. A	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Obj. B	\$0	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$17,000
Obj. C	\$0	\$6,453,000	\$6,453,000	\$6,453,000
Obj. E	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Obj. G	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Obj. J	\$0	\$4,000	\$0	\$0
Obj. N	\$0	\$2,351,000	\$2,351,000	\$2,351,000

Package Description

What is the problem, opportunity, or priority you are addressing with the request?

The vision of Washington's K–12 system is to prepare all students for postsecondary success, growing the engaged population and skilled workforce the state needs. Gaps exist, though, in the needs of Washington's employers for skilled workers and the number of K–12 graduates who are seeking credentials: Only 55% of high school graduates in Washington secure postsecondary credentials within eight years, while nearly 70% of jobs in the state require them. Washington's employers have relied on bringing in workers from other states and countries to fill this gap, which is a missed opportunity both for Washington's residents seeking gainful employment as well as for the state as a whole.

The gap between Washington students' training and the state's economic needs is larger when it comes to populations who face systemic racial and socioeconomic disparities. Of those aged 25–44, 22% of American Indian/Alaska Native residents, 25% of Hispanic/Latino residents, 26% of Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander residents, and 42% of Black/African American residents have postsecondary credentials. These gaps between credential need (70%) and attainment exacerbate systemic inequities faced by these groups, stalling Washington's progress toward eliminating racial and socioeconomic inequities for all residents.

What is your proposed solution?

To better prepare Washington's students to meet the needs of our state economy, and thereby drive economic success and civic engagement among lifelong Washingtonians, OSPI proposes focusing on mitigating two key stumbling blocks: 1) student readiness to engage in postsecondary education; and 2) support for students transitioning into postsecondary pathways.

The solution lies in focusing on both K–12 course intensity and student grade point average (GPA), coupled with supports for students and families navigating the complex pathways into postsecondary education. By collaborating with community-based organizations that have a proven track record of supporting these efforts, Washington can better serve its students and its economy by putting its own students on the path to meaningful and sustaining Washington jobs.

What are you purchasing and how does it solve the problem?

To assist school districts in ensuring more students are completing a rigorous course of study predictive of postsecondary readiness and success, this proposal requests \$8.9 million in state funds to support a variety of initiatives, strategies, and direct services to students aimed at increasing postsecondary credential attainment.

These funds will provide 79 schools with a yearly Educational Opportunity Audit (EOA). The EOA will provide schools and districts with technical support and assistance to improve student postsecondary readiness, as well as data analytics and tools to assist the schools/districts in understanding current course-taking patterns, identifying gaps in postsecondary readiness, and developing action plans to address deficiencies. In addition to the EOA, it provides further

technical assistance for schools to make progress on staffing efficiencies and innovative scheduling to bridge current opportunity gaps to rigorous coursework.

This proposal also expands school-based supports, strengthening family engagement and complementary community partnerships. It invests in robust family engagement services that increase knowledge and support for career and college readiness programming, as well as partnering with community organizations to extend college readiness support to families.

Thirdly, this proposal invests in the Rally for College (RFC) initiative serving students in 28 high schools statewide while providing extra supports to student groups that face systemic barriers to postsecondary education. Every student enrolled in a high school served by the College Success Foundation (CSF) has access to college and career services, resources, and the support of a skilled advisor to help them prepare and enroll in college immediately after high school graduation. Families in 12 of these high schools will be supported directly by a family engagement specialist.

Year-round RFC services for students and families will include one-on-one advising, workshops and help sessions, guest speakers and panel presentations, community building activities, campus visits, workplace field trip, and college/career resources. To build awareness and create access to these services, advisors and family engagement specialists will conduct outreach to reach broad and targeted groups including presentations, communication campaigns, social media, tabling, and individualized contact. In addition to 53 advisors and 7 family engagement specialists, RFC will employ 10 support staff who design, research, and evaluate programs to study and share learning, ensure quality of services, and promote achievement of performance objectives.

After one full year of implementation, supported through temporary federal funding, Rally for College has met or exceeded key impact and outcome targets including:

- Seniors from the Class of 2022 who participated in CSF's summer transition program achieved a 61% college direct-enrollment rate (compared to a state average of 50% for all students). This rate is significant, considering the majority of CSF students are people of color, low-income, and/or first-generation.
- CSF has greatly increased the number of high school students served from 4,000 to 32,000 over the last two years. Data from the 2022–23 school year indicates that the majority of students served fall within CSF's mission population which include those who are people of color, low-income, and/or first generation.
- Among students who completed a RFC survey, 94% rated RFC activities as "good" or "very good." In addition, 70–85% of student respondents indicated that workshops provided them with new knowledge, skills, and resources required to take steps toward college.

Lastly, this proposal funds a 0.25 full-time equivalent (FTE) program supervisor and a 0.10 FTE administrative assistant at OSPI to manage grants and contracts and provide technical support to districts and community-based organizations engaging in this work.

What alternatives did you explore and why was this option chosen?

This kind of initiative succeeds when the individuals and organizations providing services to students and families know and are a part of the communities to which those students and families belong. It is not the intended purpose of a centralized state agency like OSPI to provide these kinds of direct services and supports, nor is it possible within the agency's existing structure and resources. What OSPI can do, however, is identify and coordinate support for community-based organizations that have proven to be effective in improving college and career readiness among Washington students, which is what this proposal does.

Performance Measures

Performance outcomes:

Funding this proposal will result in more Washington high school graduates seeking the postsecondary credentials needed to compete for high-paying Washington jobs. This trend will drive prosperity for Washington families and encourage both employers and employees to look within Washington to meet their workforce needs.

Assumptions and Calculations

Expansion or alteration of a current program or service:

N/A

Detailed assumptions and calculations:

- OSPI proposes to contract with Rally for College to serve approximately 14,000 students in 28 high schools. The estimated cost to contract with this vendor is \$5,700,000 per year, beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2025.
- OSPI proposes to provide grants to school districts for Educational Opportunity Audit work, which is estimated to benefit 79 schools. The projected cost for this grant program is \$2,351,000 per year, beginning in FY 2025.
- OSPI proposes to issue a contract with an intermediary to make awards to 10 community-based organizations. The contractor would be responsible for recruiting, identifying, making awards, and providing technical assistance to grantees. The estimated cost for this contract is \$753,000 per year, beginning in FY 2025.

Workforce assumptions:

OSPI is requesting a 0.25 FTE program supervisor and a 0.10 FTE administrative assistant to manage grants and contracts and provide technical support to school districts and community-based organizations. The estimated cost to hire the program supervisor is \$43,000 in FY 2025 and \$40,000 annually thereafter. The estimated cost to hire the administrative assistant is \$13,000 in FY 2025 and \$12,000 annually thereafter.

How our Proposal Impacts Equity in the State

At the forefront of every program, policy, and decision, OSPI actively focuses on ensuring all students have access to the instruction and support they need to succeed in our schools. This proposal acknowledges and dedicates additional resources and support for Washington student

groups least likely in our current landscape to attain postsecondary credentials, particularly students of color, American Indian and Alaska Native students, and highly mobile students including migrant students, those in foster care, and those experiencing homelessness. These student groups face unique systemic barriers that perpetuate larger systemic inequities that persist along racial and socioeconomic lines.

Strategic and Performance Outcomes

Strategic framework:

Career and college readiness are signifiers of both a world class education and a prosperous economy, two key goals of the Governor's Results Washington platform.

This proposal supports the heart of OSPI's mission and vision to prepare all students for postsecondary success and civic engagement, with an emphasis on *all students*. It helps drive Superintendent Reykdal's Strategic Goal #1, that all students have equitable access to strong foundations, and Strategic Goal #2, providing every student with rigorous, learner-centered academic options in their community.

Other Collateral Connections

Intergovernmental:

None.

Stakeholder response:

This proposal will find support among numerous community-based organizations that provide direct supports to students including the College Success Foundation and Always Be Learning (ABL), the Washington Student Achievement Council, institutes of higher education, industry groups, individual employers, students, and families.

Legal or administrative mandates:

None.

Changes from current law:

None.

State workforce impacts:

None.

State facilities impacts:

None.

Puget Sound recovery:

N/A