

Higher education

College Bound Scholarship Program

The 2015 Washington State Legislature directed WSIPP to complete an evaluation of the College Bound Scholarship Program, emphasizing degree completion rates at secondary and postsecondary levels. The study will include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Scholarship recipient grade point average and its relationship to positive outcomes;
- Variance in remediation needed and differentials in persistence between College Bound Scholarship recipients and their peers; and
- The impact of ineligibility for the College Bound Scholarship Program, for reasons such as moving into the state after middle school or change in family income.

The report is due to the legislature by December 1, 2018.

Danielle Fumia, (360) 664-9076

Open Educational Resources

The 2018 Washington State Legislature directed WSIPP to conduct a study on the cost of textbooks and course materials and the use of open educational resources at four-year institutions of higher education across the state. The study will address the types of required textbooks and other materials (including digital access codes and bundled items), and their average cost per student. WSIPP was directed to consider these materials and their costs as well as the use of open educational resources at each four-year institution and in specific degree programs or courses. The study will also include relevant information on best practices in the development and dissemination of open educational resources, to the extent possible.

The report is due to the legislature by December 1, 2019.

John Hansen, (360) 664-9085

Student Loan Bill of Rights

The 2018 Washington State Legislature directed WSIPP to conduct a study on student loan authorities that refinance existing federal and private undergraduate and graduate student loans from the proceeds of tax-exempt bonds. WSIPP's study will summarize guidance on the subject issued by the United States Treasury; consider the structures and characteristics of state-operated loan refinance programs in other states, including borrower requirements; and review the available literature on the impacts of borrow requirements of similar programs. WSIPP was also directed to estimate potential savings and costs to undergraduate and graduate borrowers from differences in interest rates of loans refinanced by the state as compared to similarly situated borrowers of federal direct loans and private loans; and consider the value of various repayment and forgiveness options that may be lost to borrowers of federal student education loans who choose to refinance.

The report is due to the legislature by December 31, 2018.

Madeline Barch, (360) 664-9070

Higher Education Funding Models

The 2018 Washington State Legislature directed WSIPP to review higher education funding models in ten states with higher education systems that are similar to Washington State. The review must include the method used to determine state funding levels for institutions of higher education; the proportion of state funding that comes from the state general fund (or equivalent accounts) for salary and benefit increases at institutions of higher education; the manner in which salary and benefit increases are determined at or on behalf of employees at institutions of higher education; and the total proportion of state funding that comes from the state general fund or that state's equivalent accounts for institutions of higher education.

The original deadline was November 1, 2018, however, WSIPP's Board of Directors approved an extension. The final report will be delivered to the legislature by June 30, 2019.

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Washington State Institute for Public Policy

The Washington State Legislature created the Washington State Institute for Public Policy in 1983. A Board of Directors—representing the legislature, the governor, and public universities—governs WSIPP and guides the development of all activities. WSIPP's mission is to carry out practical research, at legislative direction, on issues of importance to Washington State.