



Preliminary report

Sunset Review: Dual Enrollment Scholarship Pilot Program

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Legislative Auditor's Conclusion

Over five years, colleges provided scholarships to over 13,000 recipients.

Pilot sites awarded 64% of available funds, leaving \$1.3 million unspent.

WSAC offers limited guidance and oversight.

Presentation overview

- Dual enrollment scholarship
- Financial barriers
- Access to post-secondary education
- Oversight
- Sunset questions

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Scholarship for low-income Running Start students

Aims to reduce financial barriers for low-income students and increase their access to postsecondary education (RCW 28B.76.730).

May pay for:

- Textbook costs
- Mandatory fees
- Course fees or laboratory fees
- Apprenticeship materials

Students must meet three criteria to be eligible

1. Qualify for free or reduced-price lunch
2. Enroll in Running Start at a pilot site
3. Have at least a 2.0 GPA

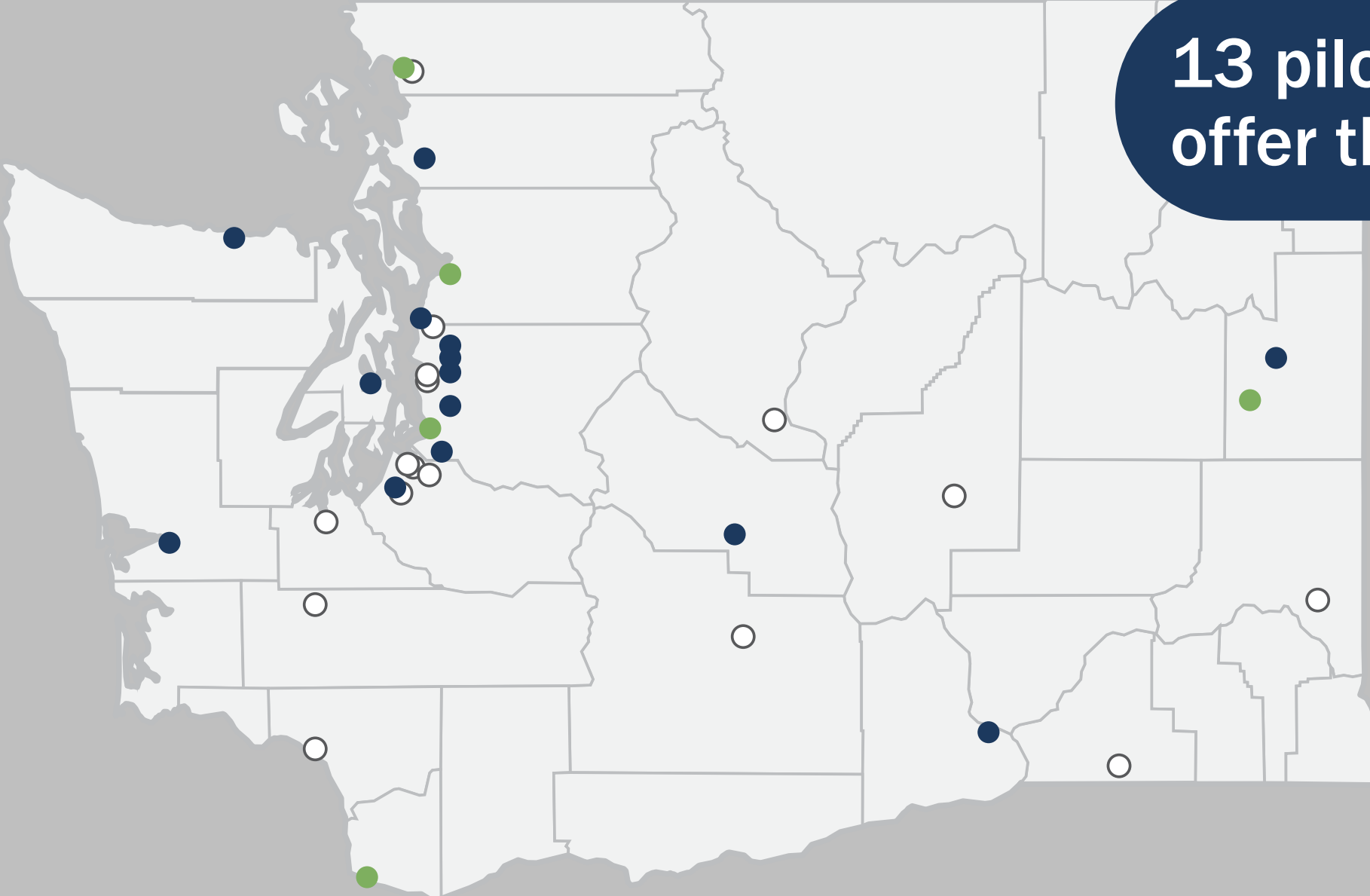







The scholarship program will end in 2025 unless reauthorized

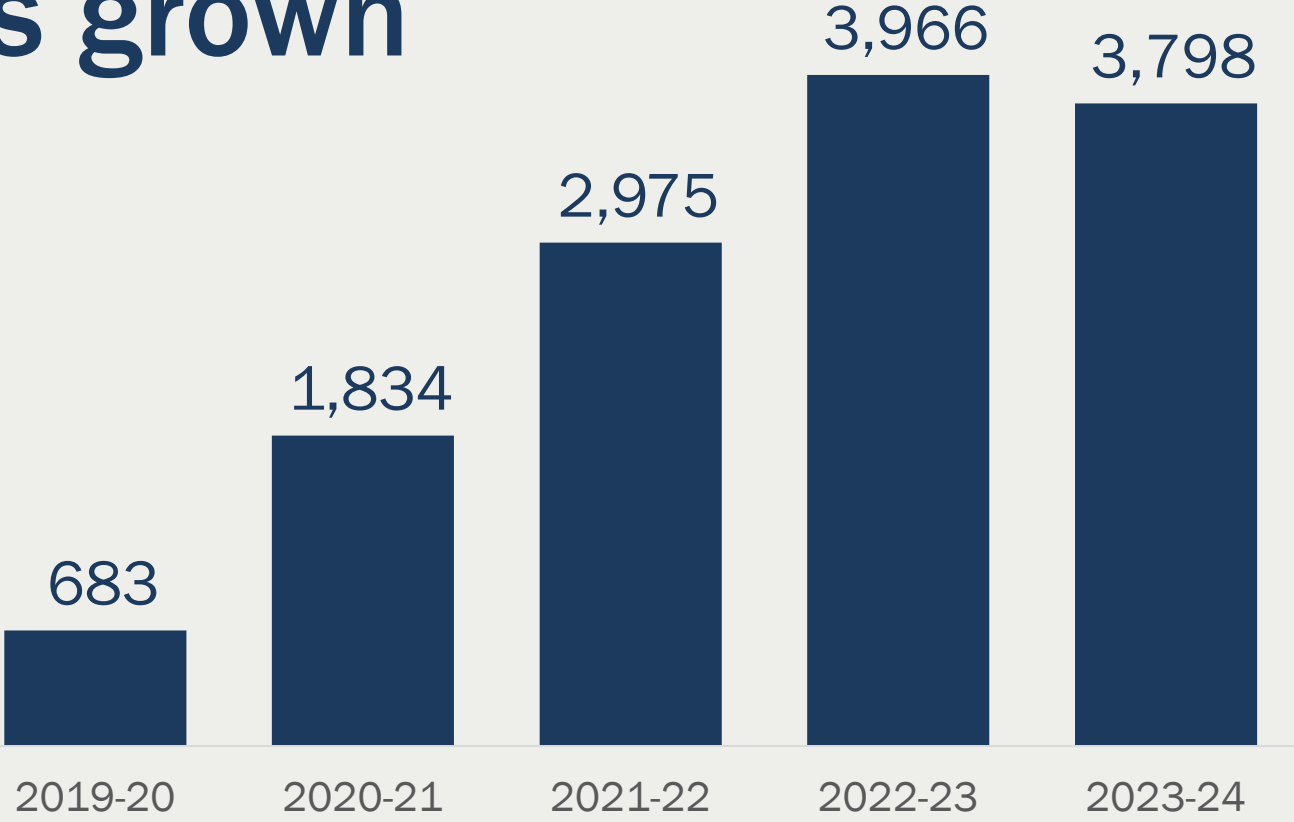
Sunset Act, Ch. 41.131 RCW

13 pilot sites currently offer the scholarship



-  **Current pilot sites**
-  **Former pilot sites**
-  **Never participated**

Number of scholarship recipients has grown



Total recipients*
13,256

Pilot sites 3 9 9 9 13

*Students who received the scholarship in more than one quarter are counted each time they received it.




WSAC has limited data about race and ethnicity of scholarship recipients

35% of scholarship recipients
did not state their race or ethnicity

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Scholarship helps pay for fees, textbooks, and materials

Category	Amount spent	Percent
Textbooks	\$158,545	43%
Mandatory fees	\$104,314	28%
Course & laboratory fees	\$88,058	24%
Apprenticeship materials	\$12,333	3%
Other/unknown	\$3,780	1%
Total	\$367,030	100%

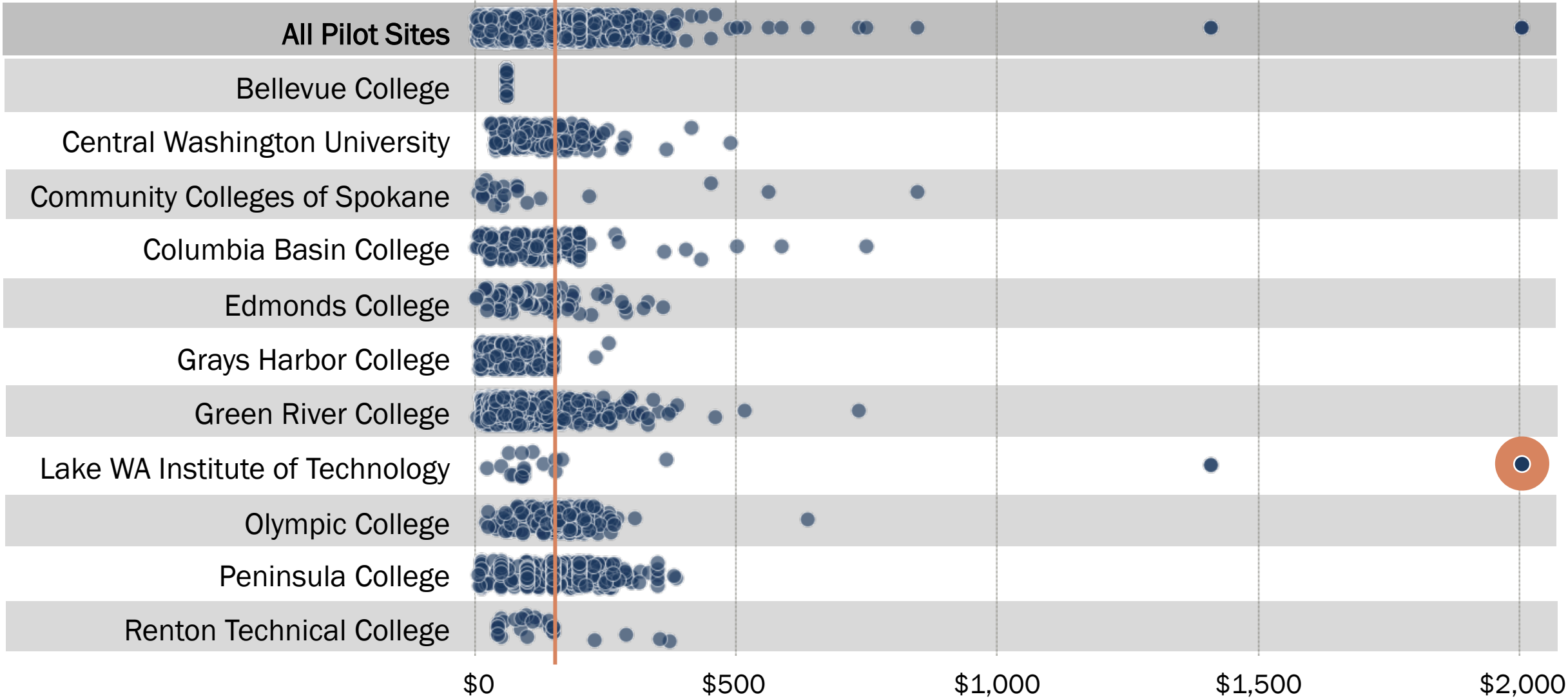
Sum of percents does not equal 100% due to rounding

Invoices for 2023-24 as of August 15, 2024

Scholarship varies by student & college

● one scholarship

75% below \$140



WSAC and colleges have not awarded all scholarship funds

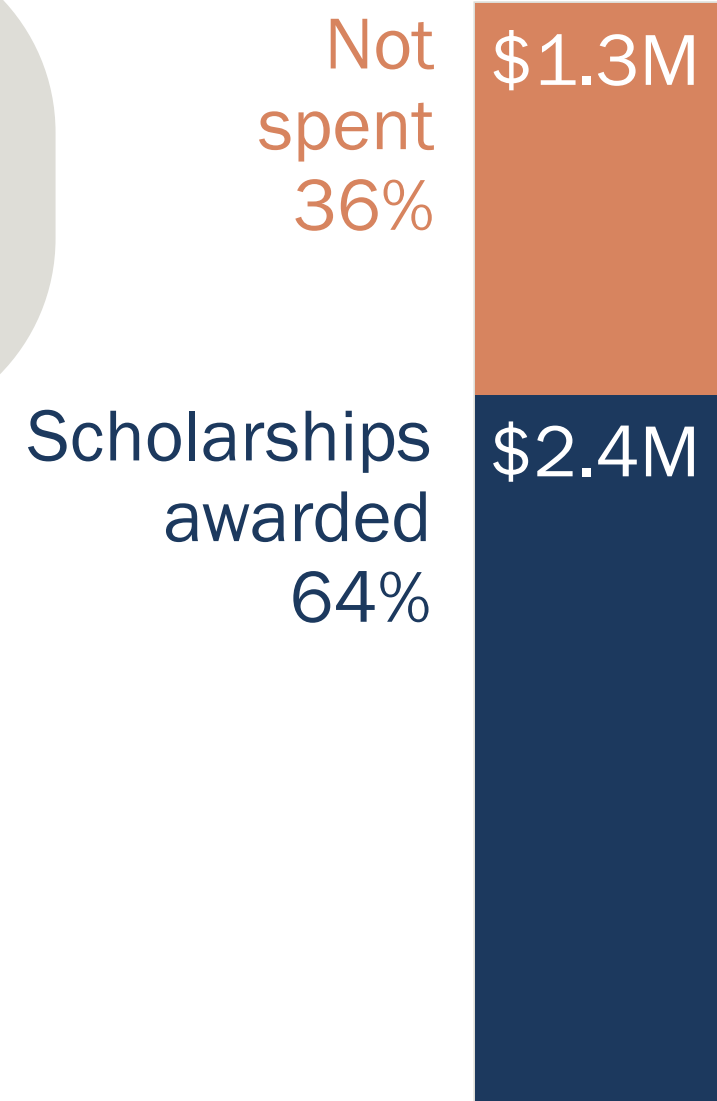
Legislature appropriated:

YEAR 1

\$850,000

YEAR 2 – CURRENT

\$750,000 per year



Students may still have additional costs

Transportation



Technology or internet access



Food



Pre-college and support courses



Textbook costs greater than \$10/credit

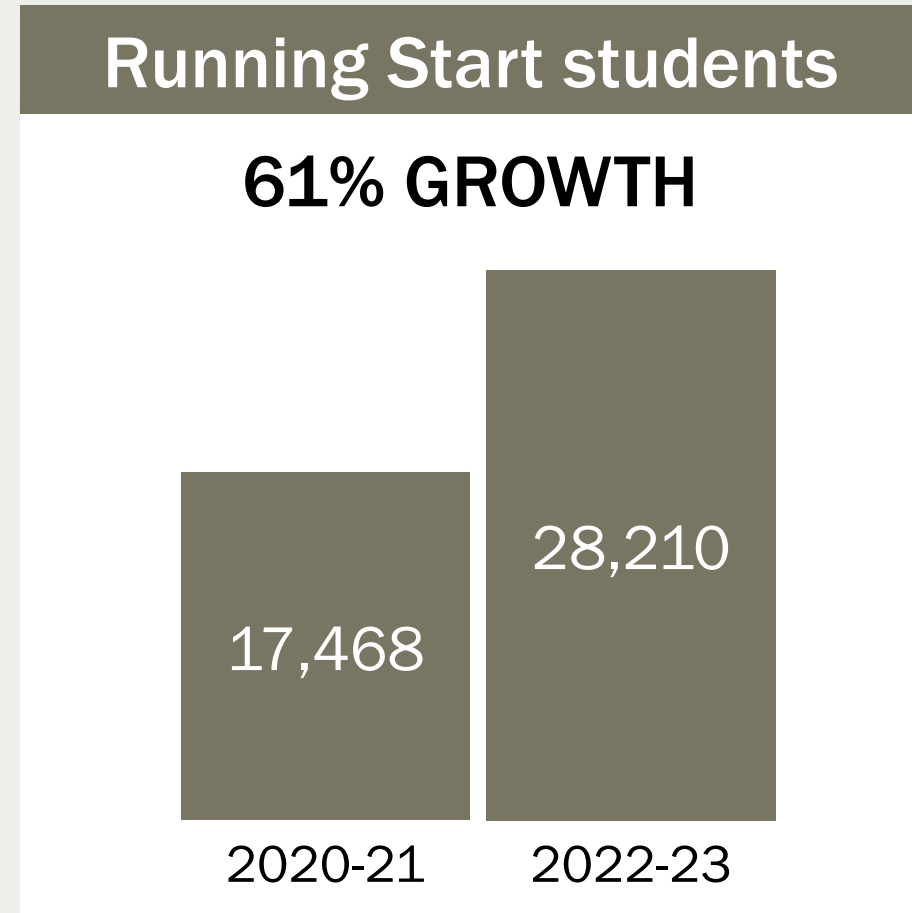
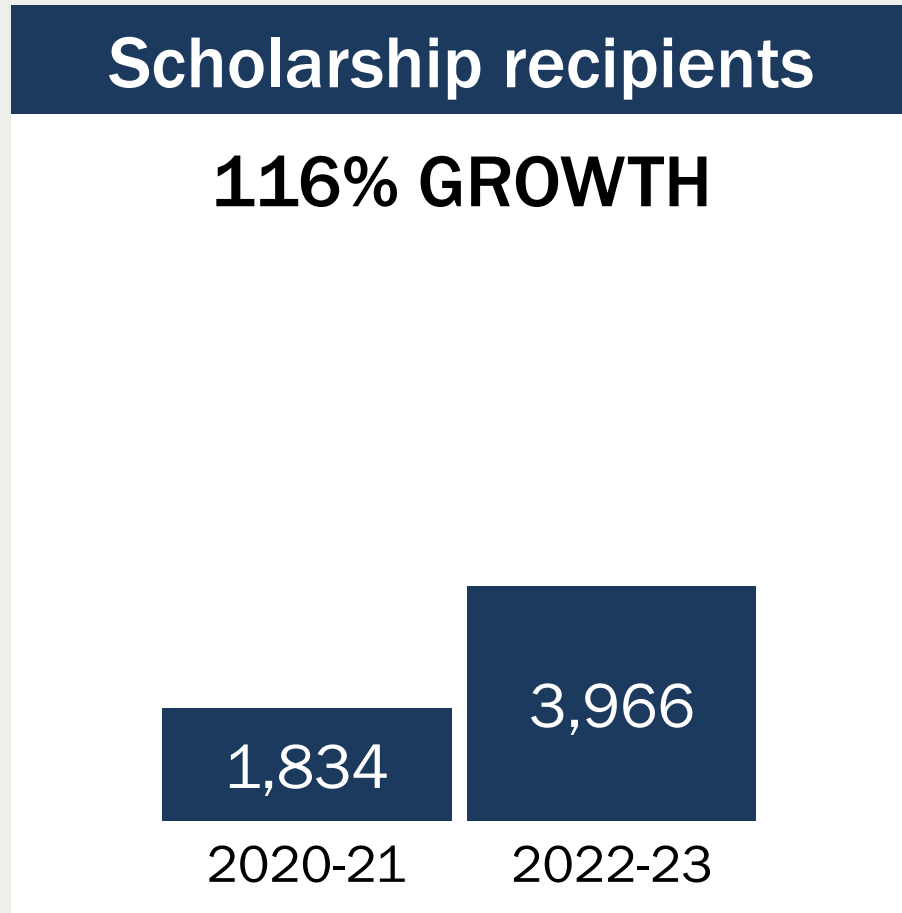


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Enrollment in Running Start has increased

Data is insufficient to determine scholarship's effect on access



Students may not learn about the scholarship before they decide to enroll

MAY

STUDENTS

Begin enrolling for fall

AUG

WSAC

Tells pilot sites how much they can award in fall quarter

SEPT

PILOT SITES

Award scholarships

STUDENTS

Learn about scholarship & award.
Start classes

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WSAC's billing procedures do not ensure expenses meet statutory requirements

Invoices lack information

- Examples: expenditure category, credits taken

Invoices contain ineligible expenses

- Paid at least \$7,500 of ineligible textbook expenses
- Paid \$104,000 in mandatory fees that may not be eligible

Pilot sites use different ways to determine eligibility and allowable expenditures

ELIGIBILITY: GPA calculation

- A. Cumulative high school GPA
- or
- B. GPA at college

ELIGIBILITY: Free or reduced-price lunch

- A. Household income
- or
- B. Eligible students in school district

ALLOWABILITY: Apprenticeship materials and digital educational materials

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Sunset Questions

1 Complied with legislative intent?

- Has reduced financial barriers.
- 36% of funds were unspent.
- Unclear effect on access and enrollment.

2 Administered efficiently and economically, with adequate cost controls in place?

- WSAC spends an average of \$33,000 per year to administer the program.
- WSAC's oversight is insufficient to ensure consistency and compliance with law.

3 Duplicate the activities of other entities or the private sector?

- Does not replace or directly duplicate other scholarships. WSAC requires that a college's other scholarship funds be applied before these funds.

Sunset Questions

4 Meeting performance measures for the program?

- Scholarship provides financial support to eligible students.
- Effect on Running Start enrollment is unclear.

5 Possible effects of terminating or changing the program?

Termination

Students would need to pay for expenses now covered by the scholarship.

Change

Spending all funds by changing eligible expenses, increasing availability, or other actions could better meet legislative goals.



Legislative Auditor's recommendation

The Legislature should continue the Dual Enrollment Scholarship.

- Scholarship has reduced financial barriers for low-income Running Start students
- Consider expanding eligibility and adding other eligible expenses



Legislative Auditor's recommendation

WSAC should provide consistent and documented guidance and technical assistance to pilot sites and improve its oversight.

- Guidance on how to determine eligibility and allowable expenditures
- Guidance to help colleges ensure that they award all scholarship funds
- Improving cost controls to limit the use of funds for ineligible expenditures
- Ensuring colleges report data



Next steps

Proposed final report

December 2024

View full report

<https://leg.wa.gov/jlarc>

A background image of the Washington State Capitol building, featuring a large dome and classical architecture, surrounded by green trees and a lawn. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be overlaid.

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