WASHINGTON · STATE AID REFERENCE

Washington State Aid Cheat Sheet (2027-28)

A two-page reference for counselors and families, for the high school Class of 2027. Free to copy, print, and share.

Washington pays on income, not grades. Every state grant comes from one application: the **FAFSA** (federal and state aid) or the **WASFA** (state aid only, for students who cannot or choose not to file a FAFSA). There is no statewide deadline. What changed: the $500 Bridge Grant ended after 2024-25; the full WA Grant now stops at 60% of state median family income (MFI); private nonprofit four-year colleges lost a third of WA Grant in 2026-27 and about half of College Bound in 2027-28; for-profit colleges get neither; the 2027-28 WASFA was rebuilt and no longer calculates an SAI.

The Programs at a Glance

Program	What it pays and who qualifies
Washington College Grant (WA Grant)	A share of a full award pegged to public tuition. Full award at 0-60% MFI ($88,000 for a family of four, 2027-28); partial awards to 100% MFI ($147,000). 2026-27 full award: UW $13,203, WSU $12,700, regionals $8,035-$8,804, community and technical colleges $5,095, private nonprofit four-year $6,476. Part-time prorated. Participating Washington schools only.
College Bound	Tops WA Grant up to the College Bound maximum (2026-27: UW $13,703, community and technical colleges $5,595). Enrolled in grades 7-9. Family income at or below 65% MFI when attending ($95,500, family of four, 2027-28), 2.0 GPA for a four-year college, no felony, enroll within one year of graduation, use within six years.
WSOS Baccalaureate Scholarship	Up to $1,500 per quarter or $2,250 per semester starting 2027-28 (WSOS headline: up to $22,500). 2.75 GPA, eligible STEM or health care major, family income up to 125% MFI ($174,500, family of four, 2026 chart). Last-dollar: paid after other aid, can reach housing. Undocumented students eligible.
WSOS Career & Technical	Certificates, apprenticeships, associate degrees in high-demand fields. Several windows a year; separate from the Baccalaureate Scholarship.
Passport to Careers	Former foster youth and unaccompanied homeless youth. Tuition, fees, books, housing, transportation. Amount: ask WSAC, 888-535-0747 option 3.
Early Path to WA Grant	Grades 10-12, family receives Basic Food (SNAP): confirms income eligibility for the maximum WA Grant. Still file the FAFSA or WASFA.
Campus tuition promises	UW Husky Promise (Pell-eligible residents; tuition and standard fees). WSU Cougar Commitment (Pell, or WA Grant at 70% MFI or less, SAI $14,000 or less). Gonzaga Access Pledge (Pell-eligible first-years with a Washington address; tuition only). Each requires on-time filing.

Deadlines to Post on Your Wall

Date	What	Where
Open now	2027-28 FAFSA and WASFA	studentaid.gov · wsac.wa.gov/wasfa
Jan 31, 2027	WSU FAFSA/WASFA and scholarship priority; Western Regular Decision and FAFSA priority	WSU · Western
Feb 1, 2027	UW FAFSA/WASFA priority (Husky Promise); Eastern admission, scholarship, and FAFSA priority	UW · Eastern
Jan 13-Feb 25, 2027	WSOS Baccalaureate application; FAFSA or WASFA also due Feb 25, 9 p.m. Pacific	waopportunityscholarship.org
May 1, 2027	Typical deposit deadline. Compare offers first.	Each college
One year after graduation	Last day to enroll and keep College Bound	Any college

WA Grant itself has no deadline: every eligible resident who files is funded. UW's Husky Promise page still lists Feb 28; UW's key dates page lists Feb 1, 2027. Plan on Feb 1 (UW aid office: 206-543-6101).

The Rules That Trip Families Up

- **No state deadline is the trap.** Campus promises and college aid run on priority dates, the earliest January 31.
- **Income, not grades.** A family of four up to $147,000 qualifies for some WA Grant in 2027-28. No GPA or test score is used.
- **The 60% cliff.** Just over the full-award line, the grant drops to 60% of full: about $5,300 less at UW (2026-27 amounts). College Bound fills that gap up to 65% MFI.
- **State grants do not travel.** WA Grant and College Bound pay only at participating Washington schools, including WUE students who leave.
- **FAFSA vs. WASFA.** File one, not both. A FAFSA-eligible student who files only the WASFA gives up Pell and federal loans.

Washington College Grant: Check These Things Early

- **Residency:** usually a year living in Washington before college plus a diploma or equivalent. Undocumented students can qualify through the WASFA.
- **Family size and income** from the FAFSA or WASFA set the band. 2027-28 uses 2025 tax-year income.
- **Renewal:** refile every year; keep the college's satisfactory academic progress (SAP) standard.
- **Income dropped after 2025?** Ask the college aid office for a financial aid appeal (professional judgment).

MFI band	Share	Family of 4 (2027-28)	UW	WSU	Western	Comm. & tech.	Private nonprofit 4-yr
0-60%	100%	Up to $88,000	$13,203	$12,700	$8,804	$5,095	$6,476
61-65%	60%	Up to $95,500	$7,922	$7,620	$5,282	$3,057	$3,885
66-70%	50%	Up to $103,000	$6,602	$6,350	$4,402	$2,548	$3,238
71-75%	24.5%	Up to $110,000	$3,235	$3,111	$2,157	$1,248	$1,587
76-100%	10%	Up to $147,000	$1,320	$1,270	$880	$510	$648

Income limits: WSAC 2027-28 MFI chart. Dollar amounts: WSAC final 2026-27 award chart (full-time, 3 quarters or 2 semesters); 2027-28 amounts not yet published. Family of 2 / 3 / 5 / 6 full-award limits: $60,000 / $74,000 / $102,000 / $116,500; any-award limits: $100,000 / $123,500 / $170,500 / $194,000.

Counselor Calendar: What to Tell Students When

When	Tell students
October-December	File the 2027-28 FAFSA or WASFA now; list every Washington college. Create the WASFA account with a personal email and a parent-findable login.
Before January 31	Beat the earliest priority date (WSU, Western). UW and Eastern: February 1. STEM or health care: start the WSOS application when it opens January 13.
February	WSOS application and FAFSA/WASFA both due February 25. Answer every verification request from colleges.
March-April	Compare offers line by line. College Bound students at private colleges: ask for the 2027-28 College Bound amount in writing.
Summer and beyond	Enroll within one year to keep College Bound. Refile every year; income and award are recalculated.

Three Mistakes That Cost Washington Students Money

- **Skipping the form because income seems too high.** At $100,000 a family of four gets half the full award; at $147,000, ten percent.
- **Filing after the priority date.** WA Grant survives; Husky Promise, Cougar Commitment, and limited college aid may not.
- **Filing the WSOS application but not the FAFSA or WASFA by February 25.** Both are required.

The Signature Trap: The Private College Cut Lands on the Class of 2027

Starting 2027-28, the College Bound maximum at private nonprofit four-year colleges is 50% of the average UW and WSU award. In 2026-27 it was $13,452; at 2026-27 amounts the new formula comes to about $6,700 (WSAC has not published the 2027-28 figure). WGU Washington: $8,800 to $4,650. For-profit colleges: nothing. The 2026 supplemental budget did not restore the cut. Tell College Bound families to ask each private college, in writing, whether it will replace the reduction and for how many years.

Free Resources: No Account, No Cost, No Data Collection

Resource	What it does
wsac.wa.gov/wcg	WA Grant rules, income chart, award chart. Questions: 888-535-0747 option 3, wcg@wsac.wa.gov
wsac.wa.gov/college-bound	College Bound requirements and income limits. 888-535-0747 option 1
wsac.wa.gov/wasfa	WASFA application and privacy statement. 888-535-0747 option 2
waopportunityscholarship.org	WSOS applications and eligible majors. 1-877-899-5002
collegereadyparent.org/washington/	The full guide this sheet summarizes, with sources

No paywall, no accounts, no lead forms, no student data collection. Counselors and educators: you may freely copy, print, and distribute this sheet. Corrections: leo@collegereadyparent.org. Verified against the Washington Student Achievement Council, WSOS, and college aid pages, October 29, 2026. Program rules change; confirm on official pages before making financial decisions. CollegeReadyParent.org is independent and not affiliated with any college or agency.