Supplemental Report: 1.3.a - Increase the percentage of eligible students who sign up for College Bound program from 80% to 92% by 2016-17

Reported: Nov. 7, 2016

1.3.A INCREASE PERCENTAGE OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WHO SIGN UP FOR COLLEGE BOUND PROGRAM

Washington Student Achievement Council

Rachelle Sharpe, Ph.D.

November 7, 2016
Background:

College Bound is an early commitment of financial aid to middle school students from low-income families. Students pledge to:

- Graduate high school with at least a 2.0 GPA
- Stay crime free
- Prepare for and get admitted to college
- Apply for financial aid in a timely manner

Over 247,000 students have applied for College Bound and the initial rate increased 34 percentage points in seven years.

Current State: Initial sign-up rates have exceeded the target. Sign-ups are strong and consistent statewide.
**Current State:** Students are graduating at about the statewide rate.

Graduation rates for CBS students are at least 10 percentage points higher than non-CBS low-income peers.

Source: OSPI staff analysis of WSAC CBS applicant data.

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**Opportunity:** College Bound addresses the educational opportunity gap.

College Bound students are more likely to represent racial/ethnic minority groups than the overall K-12 population.

Source: WSAC administrative data, OSPI Washington State Report Card
**Strategy:** The initial sign-up rates represent a snapshot of fall of 7th grade. Retroactive reconciliation demonstrates a wider gap in participation.

- Applications have increased over time.
- Using an initial snapshot of eligible students provides a baseline.
- Reconciled rates capture increases in the number of eligible students and describe the missed opportunity.

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**Strategy:**

Emphasis on web-based applications and automatic upload of eligible students leads to earlier and higher numbers of applications.

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**Imports/App Entry**
- Upload eligible students (i.e., FRPL)
- Online application [www.collegebound.wa.gov](http://www.collegebound.wa.gov)
- Training includes video vignettes, templates, outreach via fall counselor packet and CBS listserv

**Student Files**
- Student Lookup Tool, application history, and downloadable lists
- Allows staff to easily track student applications and school progress
- Partnership with WCAN regional officers includes strategizing best practices with schools

**Missing Info Letters**
- Print letters for signature and income verification after upload
- Best practice recommendations include attaching the new informational flyer (available in 11 languages) at the schools
- Schools can print, WSAC sends 3 batches of letters to schools each year for distribution, and home to students in alternating months
**Detailed Action Plan:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Task Lead</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Expected Outcome</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roll-out of reconciled rate vs. initial rate with practitioners</td>
<td>WSAC, local nonprofits, and districts</td>
<td>Increase understanding that students are missing access to CBS opportunity</td>
<td>In progress</td>
<td>December 2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase usage of WSAC portal for auto-uploads</td>
<td>WSAC, regional nonprofits, and districts</td>
<td>Increase in applications started and ultimately completed applications</td>
<td>Started in 2016-17 academic year</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
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<td>New resources for both middle school and high school practitioners working with CBS students</td>
<td>WSAC, regional nonprofits</td>
<td>Increase in completed CBS applications and students accessing the scholarship</td>
<td>Started in 2016-17 academic year</td>
<td>Revised annually</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase understanding of what the commitment of CBS entails</td>
<td>WSAC, regional nonprofits, and districts</td>
<td>More informed students and families and impact of scholarship</td>
<td>Started in 2016-17 academic year</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
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**Assistance Needed:**

- Student support related requests that target services to underrepresented and underserved students.
- Opportunity gap innovation grant proposed by WSAC would incentivize creative approaches to support College Bound and other students.
- Attend and participate in *Pave the Way* to learn about and share best retention practices.
College Success Foundation

- Michelle Alejano, College Success Foundation & Washington College Access Network

- Our charge: maximize school adoption and integration of the College Bound Scholarship in middle and high schools statewide.

- We serve schools statewide with regional officers that:

  - **TRAIN and EQUIP**: frontline school staff with tools and resources to increase student success.
  - **BUILD and SUPPORT**: school-based teams to enhance College Bound Scholarship outreach in middle and high school.
  - **PROMOTE and FACILITATE**: the collection and use of data to track student progress.
  - **ADVOCATE**: for all students pursuing postsecondary education through statewide awareness events.
  - **ALIGN**: community-based resources, programs, and services to support students and families.

2015-2016 Results

- 3,853 Total # of Students Served
- 1,187 Total # of School or District Staff Served
- 862 Total # of Parents Served
- 531 Total # of Community Members Served

College Bound High School Repledge - Launching February 2017

- Inspiring 9th grade students to recommit to the College Bound Scholarship pledge
- Targeted effort to support College Bound students transition from middle to high school
- Providing an opportunity to talk to College Bound students about pledge requirements and pathway options
Kent District Leadership & Community Partnerships

Randy Nuñez,
College Career Liaison
Kent School District

- 98–100% eligibility
  8th graders signed up to the
College Bound Scholarship
for the last five years.

- Nearly 1,000 new CBS
  students are signed up
  each year, over half of our
  high school student population.

- New partnerships and programs are developing to meet the
  needs of CBS students, such as with University of Washington
  Tacoma’s Pathway to Promise and College Success Foundation.

- Annual KSD College Bound Scholarship Conference drawing
  over 1,000 students and parents, over hundred volunteers.