



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Washington State Achievers Scholarship

1. **Purpose:**

Funding is provided for the Washington State Achievers Scholarship (Achievers Scholars) and Washington Higher Education Readiness program (HERO). These programs are managed through a contract with College Success Foundation (CSF). New funding was provided in the operating budget for the expansion of these programs into new regions.

2. **Description of services provided:**

This contract is used by CSF to fund two student support programs providing college advising and readiness services to high school students.

1. **Higher Education Readiness Opportunity (HERO) program:** HERO provides support and guidance that 9th and 10th grade students need to successfully navigate the transition from middle school to high school, manage the academic rigor of high school and become college ready.
2. **Achievers Scholars:** The Achievers Scholars Program provides 11th and 12th grade students with college planning support and tools to successfully navigate the college admissions process. In addition, College Preparatory Advisors recruit and train community members to serve as volunteer mentors for students.

Number of College Success Foundation (CSF) Programs: A total of 40 high school programs statewide (12 HERO Programs and 28 Achievers Programs). Each program is staffed with a full-time advisor.

School and District Locations: Programs are offered in 28 high schools in 11 school districts. These districts are Auburn, Bremerton, Highline, Kent, Marysville, Mount Vernon, Port Angeles, Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma, and Yakima.

New Regions and Programs: CSF established a total of six new programs that will directly serve up to 480 additional students. Four programs were placed in two new school districts, Marysville and Mount Vernon (one HERO and one Achievers each). In addition, two new HERO programs were started in the Yakima School District.

Student Services for CSF Students: HERO and Achievers programs provide the following services and supports to students:

- Group meetings and workshops
- One-on-one advising
- Academic and attendance monitoring/coaching
- College exploration and campus visits
- Career exploration
- Test preparation
- Financial aid and scholarship supports
- Summer programming
- High school to college transition support (Achievers only)

Schoolwide Services: Most CSF services and activities are open to all students in a building to create access to college advising, regardless of enrollment in a CSF program. CSF established a total of six new programs that will directly serve up to 480 additional students. Four programs were placed in two new school districts—Marysville and Mount Vernon (one HERO and one Achievers each). In addition, two new HERO programs were started in the Yakima School District.

Through these new HERO and Achievers programs, students will receive the following services and supports:

- Group meetings and workshops
- One-on-one advising
- Academic and attendance monitoring/coaching
- College exploration and campus visits
- Career exploration
- Test preparation
- Financial aid and scholarship support
- Summer programming
- High school to college transition support (Achievers only)

Schoolwide Services: Most CSF services and activities are open to all students in a building to create access to college advising, regardless of enrollment in a CSF program.

3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

Eligibility requirements to receive student supports:

- Submission of an online student application by an established deadline.
- Enrollment in the high school where program is offered.
- Ninth grade status for HERO or 11th grade status for Achievers.
- Family income no more than 70% of the Median Family Incomes based on the State Need Grant Program.

- Minimum 2.0 grade point average (Achievers) or satisfactory academic standing (HERO).
- On-track with credits for high school graduation (Achievers).
- Priority consideration is given to students who are in foster care. Targeted outreach is made to College Bound Scholarship students.

Eligibility requirements for new regions/school districts:

- At least 100 students, on average, per grade who are eligible for Free/Reduced-Priced Lunch (FRPL)
- Percentage of student body with FRPL is 43% or more (based on statewide FRPL rate of 43% in 2016–2017)
- Percentage of high school graduation rate is 79% or less (based on statewide HS grad rate of 79% in 2016–2017)
- Percentage of student body that enrolls in college directly is 59% or less (based on college direct enrollment rate of 59% in 2016)

Beneficiaries in 2019-20 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	14
Number of Schools:	32
Number of Students:	3,200
Number of Educators:	0
Other:	0

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 0.0

Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 1.0

FY20 Funding: State Appropriation:	\$4.940 million
Federal Appropriation:	\$0
Other fund sources:	\$0
TOTAL (FY20)	\$4.940 million

4. **Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?**

No

Yes, please explain.

If state funds are not available, the state will not be eligible...

5. **State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY20	\$4,940,000	\$4,940,000
FY19	\$3,940,000	\$3,940,000
FY18	\$3,940,000	\$3,940,000
FY17	\$3,940,000	\$3,940,000
FY16	\$2,549,000	\$2,549,000

6. **Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:**

Fiscal Year	Number of Districts	Number of Schools	Number of Students
FY20	14	32	3,200
FY19	9	27	2,676
FY18	9	27	2,799
FY17	9	27	2,308
FY16	9	27	1,560

7. **Programmatic changes since inception (if any):**

Hometown Mentor Program: In 2019–20, the Hometown Mentor Program (HTM) was suspended for assessment and re-design. An internal review of HTM highlighted the need for enhancement due to levels of student participation and impact. For 2020–21, a new mentoring component based on Youth Initiated Mentoring will be implemented. The new practice will teach students the skills of identifying supportive adults, initiating interactions and maintaining these relationships. By learning and practicing these skills, students will realize the value of social capital. Advisors will deliver lessons to support skill building, understanding of social capital, and practicing new skills.

8. **Evaluations of program/major findings:**

Student outcomes:

- High School Graduation: Of the 1,103 – 12th grade Achievers, 98% or 1,081 students graduated from high school on time.
- College Enrollment Plans: Of the 1,081 – 12th grade Achievers who graduated from high school in June 2020, 85% or 919 students have enrollment plans to attend a college or university the fall term immediately after graduation.

New Regions/Programs: Established six new programs (4 HERO and 2 Achievers). By establishing a total of six new programs, 224 additional students received college

readiness and advising support. With the second year of operations, programs will enroll students to full capacity of 480 students.

9. **Major challenges faced by the program:**

N/A

10. **Future opportunities:**

OSPI will seek to continue these supports and grow access to the caring adults CSF employs and connects to some of our most vulnerable students.

11. **Statutory and/or budget language:**

ESSB 6168 Sec. 520 (11)(a) - \$4,940,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and 4,940,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for the Washington state achievers scholarship and Washington higher education readiness program. The funds shall be used to: Support community involvement officers that recruit, train, and match community volunteer mentors with students selected as achievers' scholars; and to identify and reduce barriers to college for low-income and underserved middle and high school students. Of the amounts provided: \$1,000,000 of the general fund state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and \$1,000,000 of the general fund state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for the college success foundation to establish programming in new regions throughout the state. The office may require the recipient of these funds to report the impacts of the recipient's efforts in alignment with the measures of the Washington school improvement framework.

12. **Other relevant information:**

N/A

13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)

14. **Program Contact Information:**

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