



PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Background

In partnership with leadership at community and technical colleges (CTCs), the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) adopted a new allocation model. Over a two-year CTC-led process, we worked through and agreed on a new way for SBCTC to allocate (distribute) funds to CTCs.

Allocation model

Under this new model, SBCTC will allocate funds to CTCs **based on their enrollment numbers**. The allocation model will indirectly impact some programs, such as the Parent Education Program, if they aren't tied to workforce outcomes.

About the Parent Education Program

In some cases, participation in the Parent Education Program — which provides key support and resources for families and caregivers — does not result in a credential leading to an employer-defined career path. This means some CTCs that offer the program will not receive enrollment funding for this program.

Here's the distinction under the new model. CTCs that offer a:

- **Professional technical credential** for the Parent Education Program **will** receive enrollment funding.
- **Self-support, non-credit** Parent Education Program **won't** receive enrollment funding.

SBCTC and CTC roles

SBCTC does not allocate funds for specific programs. The allocation model uses enrollments in broad categories, such as professional-technical programs and transfer education, to calculate distributions.

CTCs budget locally and decide the best way to use the funding that SBCTC allocates to them. CTCs determine how to meet community needs, what programs to offer, how they operate, and more. The impact of the allocation model for each CTC will vary, based on different factors.

Next steps

To become **credentialed** and earn enrollment funding, CTCs that currently offer a non-credit Parent Education Program must:

- Submit a program approval request (PAR) to SBCTC no later than June 16, 2026.
- Redesign their program to demonstrate workforce outcomes (via the PAR) based on industry and employer needs.

If a CTC doesn't get approval, enrollment in their Parent Education Program won't count toward allocation funding starting July 1, 2026.

This does not mean CTCs must close their program.

CTCs manage their own budgets and can use other non-allocation-related funds to keep their Parent Education Program open.

SBCTC believes childcare, early learning and education, and support and resources for parents and young children are essential for many families across our state. We also recognize that families experience a wide range of needs and challenges, and we are committed to listening and responding with care.

SBCTC will continue to work closely with CTCs as they navigate how to best meet the needs of their communities, students, faculty, and staff, while we provide funding that aligns with state policy standards.

Resources

For more information:

- Visit the [Organization of Parenting Education Programs \(OPEP\) page](#).
- Read the [Issue Brief](#).
- View the [PAR guidelines](#).