

## CBS WebEx – 8.6.20 – Q and A

WebEx called to order and welcome by Monica Wilson.

Monica Wilson shared the link to the [COVID-19 Google Folder](#)

Land Acknowledgement - <https://nonprofitquarterly.org/1200-acres-near-big-sur-returned-to-esselen-tribe-after-250-years/>

<https://nonprofitquarterly.org/a-planned-death-for-one-nonprofit-and-reclaimed-space-for-another/>

Jon's update:

- As of 8/1/20, William Durden began working with Jon to transition into the Interim Director role for Basic Education.
- Jon will still be around and working with the Guided Pathways Leadership Team and as a Guided Pathways coach.
- The Ability to Benefit option for federal financial aid (Pell Grants) and our state financial aid (the WA college grant) provides eligible students without a high school credential access to the funding they need to participate in Title IV--or financial aid eligible career pathway programming.

With the reauthorization, students can now be determined eligible for Ability to Benefit if, in addition to being enrolled in an eligible Title IV career pathway program, they:

- Test at a certain level on an approved test--or
- Satisfactory complete 6 college-level credits.
- Or if a state has what they call a "state option" approved, which is our "Dual Enrollment Option"

Our process gives more students access to ATB through our highly successful dual credit I-BEST and High School+ diploma programs, and relieves some of the eligibility requirements that colleges face with the current requirement that students either earn six college credits first or pass an approve test. We are happy to say the new WCG also allows this 3rd option.

That means as of last Friday, students dually enrolled in HS+ and I-BEST can access both federal and state financial aid from their first quarter in college-programming. We are calling this the Co-enrollment Option.

We are currently pulling a system group together to get guidance out to the field. We only have federal approval for 3 years with an extension available depending on use and the success of students.

- Reminder that our system received 44 million in federal funding from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Funds (G.E.E.R.). These one-time funds were made available to governors in the CARES Act passed by Congress in March. We are pleased that Governor Inslee elected to provide all \$57 million of these funds to public institutions of higher education to help us weather the financial hardships caused by COVID19.
  - Replace Lost Tuition Revenue, 29.5 million

- Emergency support funds, 10 million
- Restart WA, 5 million

**Q)** TCC – Are students 16 and up eligible for high school class? I thought it was 18 and up.

**A)** Yes 18 and up for High School+, that is correct.

- Clarification on question: just to clarify the document that you had up on the screen. The guidance that came out. So, it starts with it says I'm 16 and up. So, the 16 and up we're only for the first two options. The Washington that third option is still 18 enough, is that right?
- That is correct, Rebecca, a great question. And we're hoping that someday in the future, the near future that it will drop down to 16 but for the third option it is 18 and above.

Will's Update:

- Rollover Leadership Block grant funds – see email from Will sent 8/4/20 for in-depth detail Here's a content summary:
  - Approximately \$200,000 in funds will be distributed across all Title-II funded providers.
  - Your 2020-21 Leadership Block Grant funds in OBIS will be increased by this amount in the next few days.
  - These Leadership Block Grant funds must be spent by September 30, 2020 and billed by October 31, 2020. The 9/30 deadline is a firm, federal deadline that cannot be extended. After the 10/31 billing deadline, any of these newly added funds not spent by 9/30 and invoiced by 10/31 will be removed from your grant award.
  - Funds will be awarded on the same formula as your master grant – not the same rules, just the same formula – and can be used to support needs related to COVID-19. Prime examples of expenditures include:
    - Curriculum development
    - “Conversion” of f2f to online
    - Training for faculty and staff on equitable practices in online environments
    - Program/student technology needs

**Q)** TCC – So we can spend the new ones first and push out the original amount? Clarification, so we're writing we're writing up how we're going to be able to shift using the original Leadership Block grant funds from travel and PD to curriculum development and then we have this additional block of money. So as long as we're spending out. Do we have to write them up separately to show what's getting spent before that 30th deadline?

**A)** We'll have to get back for final answer, but try to make sure exactly what kind of documentation that we're going to need to make sure that all of that gets all that money can be used, but in a way that has been documented in an appropriate manner.

**Q)** Does technology also include equipment?

**A)** Our guidance has been that that equipment so devices for students or program use would be an allowable part of the bullet four that was the technology for programming student needs. So yes, equipment would count.

**Q)** TCC – can we use this to pay for the 2020 Fall Faculty Institute?

**A)** Yes, you can you that's definitely an allowable use of both the funds that were just added, as well as your normal Leadership Block grant funds and that would be an allowable use.

- Q)** Spokane - is confirming that we have said, this can be used for student technology. And can you explain what this means software laptops hotspots?
- A)** You can definitely use it for student or program technology and I would think that it would include all of those things. I think software and laptops would be technology that could be utilized by students. And then I would think hot spots would fit in there as well. So, I would think all of those things would be allowable uses for the additional funds that were added that need to be expanded by the 30th of September.
- Q)** Olympic - Could we use our entire allocation for technology or just this new portion?
- A)** No, just the new portions. So, your initial allocation of 2020-21 Leadership Block grant funds can be used for curriculum development and then for registration and faculty staff stipends to attend professional development. That's not BEdA sponsored but it does not include technology. So just be this new allocation of dollars that could be spent on technology.
- Q)** Centralia – Does equipment needs to be delivered by the deadline, and I believe the answer is yes, but Troy and Will, correct me if I'm wrong.
- A)** Yes, this has always been the policy and the requirement in the past. So yeah, it'll be tight. But yes, I think everything is supposed to be on site and in your possession by the time that the funds need to be expanded, which would be the 30th of September.
- **AEAC Survey**  
Thanks to the leadership provided by our statewide, governor-appointed Adult Education Advisory Council, we're conducting a survey to learn more about students' fears or concerns before they decided to enroll in school and what caused them to change their minds. We also hope to hear their views on the type of messaging that would be most effective in persuading other people to enroll.
    - This survey is being done through a contract with EMC researchers so we are on a contract-restricted timeline. EMC did not collect as many surveys as needed through their channels, no doubt some of that being COVID-related, and we're asking you to partner with us to get 300 more participants.
    - We understand that the turnaround time is short and that the timing is not ideal. We thank those able to participate. If everyone participated we would only need 8 students per program, not counting our corrections education programs.
    - Participating instructors should send their emails to students by tomorrow.
    - We will share the actual survey link as soon as we have it.
  - **I-BEST Development and Expansion Application 2020-2023**
    - Applications close tomorrow, Friday August 7<sup>th</sup>
    - Q&A closes 5pm today – questions asked before 5pm today will appear tomorrow
  - **Strengthening Community College Training Grants (SCC Grant)**
    - The Strengthening Community College Training Grants or SCC Grants have been gaining a lot of interest across the system – these are the new TAACCCT grants
    - Statewide applications are preferred
    - SBCTC will be releasing more information and guidance very soon so please wait for that announcement

**NOTE – if you watch the video, this is where the video ends, however, there was more to the meeting.**

MarcusAntonio – Update on Professional Development Survey

- Thank you very much for the response – we received 230 responses from faculty, deans and directors. We received good content and notes for us to work off of that will help in form what we do for you in the future.

Lou Sager – Update on the Online GED test pilot

- [GED website](#)
  - full system check – run this to see if your computer will accommodate testing
  - NO paper, must use white board for scratch paper
  - NO one may come into the room while student is testing
  - Clarification -remote testing is available for 18-year-old if they have the release form
- Q)** Peninsula – my testing center is very particular about having the originals. We're having a very hard time with electronic forms from the school district. Is there any guidance about this that I can help them with? Is anybody else experiencing it?
- A)** We have a lot of folks who are approving those forms via Zoom because they are particular and they have to see the students face and their ID. So, bringing them on Zoom with the form with their ID, they're making that verification remotely.

Then they send form and they approve it. Once approved, then either have them bring in or maybe fax the form in. I know we love the originals. And that's always been a piece that I've told them that they need to have is the originals in the folder, but we're in a pretty unique world and I had a school request the form in a syllable format the other day, so that the school districts connects we get them filled in. So, you might find some with electronic signatures. If your testing center has any problems or if they don't want to do this because they don't think it's okay, please have them email me and I will give them approval to do what they need to do.

- Q)** GHC - How long will remote testing be available?
- A)** There have been some discussions about keeping it after this is all over for very specific purposes. Right now, the testing centers aren't getting anything for remote testing. This is all based on serving students and the population needs for testing. We're hoping to keep it around, after COVID restrictions, but more on a special specialized basis or he's got someone who's out in Silver Creek and has to drive three hours to get to a test center. That person could benefit from remote testing. So, it'll probably be around for quite a while, but not as the primary like it is now.

CBS Update – Brent Carter, BBCC, CBS Chair

We will be doing a live survey of 4 questions during the next CBS COVID call 8/20. This will help give us some guidance for our topics on equity and for best practices for the year.

COVID Weekly Digest

- We had no updates since the prior meeting 7.23.20.

Questions / Answers:

- Q)** EDCC - Is there an estimated time when the WABERS form will be available in multiple languages? We are struggling to collect WABERS from students in ELA who have limited English literacy.

**A)** No, there is no timeline on when we will have translated forms. We will check with Scott and get an email out next week.

**Comment)** Whatcom - FYI... CASAS Accommodations Materials for Test Takers with Visual Impairment/Blindness are now avail for order

**Q)** BBCC - Has anyone had any big changes since the Aug 1st guidance happened at your campuses? Meaning the guidelines that Carli shared for the state

- BBCC - Nothing at BBCC
- Whatcom - Not at WCC
- RTC - No big changes at RTC
- Highline - Not at HC
- Peninsula - None at PC
- WWCC - Our Re-entry task force is currently working on faculty access starting next week
- Spokane - SCC will have some f2f starting next week
- Literacy Source - We're the same for summer and fall. All remote but limited 1:1 barrier mitigation appointments
- WWCC - We will be online for fall.
- TCC - BEdA approved for 1:1 barrier mitigation meetings but most classes will be remote for Fall

Shout outs!!

- Kelli at Hopelink I have something to share. That just makes me really happy. We did a survey about how students felt about online instruction and the results were amazing. I never thought that we could have the same positive impact on students lives via Zoom as we do in person, but the survey results were like even more amazing and impressive than our in person results. And we asked questions like: How was your experience using zoom? How was your experience using Canvas? How was your experience meeting with your advisor virtually, how many times did you meet with your advisor, we asked about language improvement and the results just like amazed me and I just there were so many great comments.
- Peninsula – student are thriving in this remote environment
- Olympic – attendance has been better with online instruction!
- Whatcom – we had the same comment from faculty
- Literacy Source – Our retention and student engagement has also been high. A few also returned because can do online.