



OPPORTUNITY GRANT

2025-26 PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Student Services & K12 Alignment Department
Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges
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DEADLINES AND MILESTONES

ANNUAL DATES AND MILESTONES

MILESTONE	DATE
Program start date	July 1, 2025
Program Inventory Review Opens	April 13, 2026
Program Inventory Review Closes	May 18, 2026
Program Inventory Updates Published	June 15, 2026

TERM SPECIFIC DATES AND MILESTONES

MILESTONE	FALL TERM	SPRING TERM
Program Approval Request Opens	September 2, 2025	March 2, 2026
Program Approval Request Closes	October 10, 2025	April 10, 2026
Program Approval Submission Review Period	October 13, 2025 – November 17, 2025	April 13, 2026 – May 18, 2026
Program Approval Notification to Colleges	December 1, 2025	June 8, 2026
Funding Reallocation and Redistribution Survey Opens	October 1, 2025	February 19, 2026
Funding Reallocation and Redistribution Survey Closes	October 31, 2025	March 16, 2026
Funding Reallocation and Redistribution Survey Results Notification to Colleges	November 24, 2025 – November 28, 2025	March 30, 2026 – March 31, 2026

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UPDATES FOR 2025-2026 OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

FY26 GENERAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM ALLOCATION:

The Board approved and continued to support the 'earmark' for the Opportunity Grant program for the biennium. The total allocation remains at the same level as in past years.

FY26 OPPORTUNITY GRANT HEALTH PROGRAM ALLOCATION:

The legislature has continued its support for the Opportunity Grant Health allocation by providing \$2 million for the year.

FY26 Health and Human Services (HHS) POVERTY LEVEL:

Family income must be determined using the HHS Poverty Guidelines. To be eligible, a family's income must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. For the 2026 fiscal year, use the [2026 HHS Poverty Guidelines](#).

2025-26 FTES AWARD ALLOCATION:

The total FTES award allocation is \$7,435 per FTE (\$4,935 tuition/fees, \$1,000 books/supplies, and \$1,500 individual wrap-around student services) for associate level.

The total FTEs award allocation is \$10,378 per FTE (\$7,878 tuition/fees, \$1,000 books/supplies, and \$1,500 individual wrap-around services) for the bachelor level.

2026 MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE:

The minimum wage for Washington State increased on January 1, 2026. The statewide and regional rates are listed below on a per-hour basis.

Statewide: \$17.13

Bellingham: \$19.13

Seattle: \$21.30

SeaTac: \$20.74

Tukwila: \$21.65

PROGRAM COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATES

We are currently utilizing Canvas to support communication between program and campus staff. Announcements in Canvas will be used to share updates such as changes to HHS Poverty Guidelines, minimum wage rates, and other key information. These announcements will include links to updated content on our SBCTC Opportunity Grant web pages.

STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS CONTACT LIST

The Student Support Programs Contact List is an up-to-date email & phone contact list for WA CTC system employees working within the Student Support Programs. It's available for college staff to review and request updates to at any time in the Canvas Community on the SSP Contact List Canvas page. You'll need to have access to the SSP Canvas Community and be logged into your Canvas account in order to access the SSP Contact List Canvas page. See the above section with information on the SSP Canvas to learn how to gain access to the SSP Canvas Community.

SBCTC SSP employees use the Role columns in the SSP Contact List to connect with CTC staff based on their role in a program - for example, monitoring emails, WorkFirst Attendance Verification request emails, or questions about budget revisions and invoices.

CTC staff are encouraged to use the contact list to learn which SSP colleagues are in roles similar to theirs across the WA CTC system. You can reference the list to find contact information for your counterparts doing similar work at other WA CTCs, and connect with those staff for networking, best practice sharing, cross-college collaboration, community building, and more. Information regarding how to navigate, use, and update the list is available on the SSP Contact List Canvas page.

OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM APPROVALS:

The Opportunity Grant program approval process has returned to a term-by-term review cycle. Colleges must submit program approval requests by email to JPerez@sbctc.edu. Each request must include a request for Opportunity Grant approval, program pathway, and degree type. If additional information or clarification is needed, the Policy Associate will contact the program administrator who submitted the request.

I-BEST and Opportunity Grant staff have coordinated efforts and will use this same application process for I-BEST programs that are automatically included in the Opportunity Grant approval process.

PROGRAM INVENTORY:

Colleges will conduct an annual review of their approved program inventory each spring term to ensure accuracy and alignment with current offerings. The inventory will be sent via canvas to the colleges on April 13th to review the program inventory. The reviewed inventory should be returned to the program staff on May 18th to update and post at the start of the new fiscal year. [Program Inventory](#) will be posted on the Canvas page.

OPPORTUNITY GRANT CONSIDERATIONS:

Due to changes under the FAFSA Simplification, Opportunity grant staff may have limited access to income and identity information, which could impact staff's ability to verify student eligibility.

Students may receive Opportunity Grant funding for their first term without submitting a FAFSA or WASFA. However, to receive funding beyond the first term, they must submit a financial aid application (FAFSA or WASFA). The application does not need to be fully processed for continued eligibility.

Refer to Frequently Asked Question 7 on page 19 below for additional details.

CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

In 2006, the Washington State Legislature appropriated \$4 million to the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to create the Opportunity Grant pilot program. The pilot programs at 10 colleges demonstrated impressive results with 73% retention and approximately 843 low-income students participating in training for high-wage, high-demand career pathways.

In 2007, the Legislature expanded the Opportunity Grant program by \$7.5 million for a total of \$11.5 million per year for all 34 community and technical colleges. In 2007-08, the Opportunity Grant program served over 2,000 full-time equivalent students (FTES) or approximately 3,000 full-time and part-time students. Student persistence continued to surpass expectations, with an 81% fall to spring retention rate.

By 2008, the program had grown to serve almost 5,000 students (both full-time and part-time) equivalent to 3,305 full-time students (FTES).

In 2009, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges merged \$1 million from the Work-Based Learning Program into the Opportunity Grant Program. These monies were evenly distributed between the 34 colleges and followed Opportunity Grant policies, rules, and regulations for disbursement.

In the 2010 program year, the Opportunity Express program provided a one-time \$1 million (FY11) allocation which was distributed among the colleges based on their FTES target. The additional funds ranged from \$0 to \$36,900 to help offset increased tuition costs.

During the 2011-12 academic year, funding for the Opportunity Grant program returned to the 2009-10 funding allocation level. Despite an 8.7% net cut to the community and technical college system in the state budget, the Board continued to support the program by providing funds and protecting student aid. The total allocation remained consistent with previous years, and the Board continued to distribute funds for the program in FY15.

In 2014 a new state law expanded eligibility for the Washington State Need Grant (now called Washington College Grant) to low-income, non-citizen students who meet the program's eligibility requirements and residency criteria. Students who are ineligible or choose not to complete the Free Application for Federal Student (including non-citizens) can complete the free Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) to be considered for state financial aid.

The goal of the Opportunity Grant is to help low-income adults reach the educational tipping point – and beyond – in high-wage, high-demand careers. Reaching this tipping point enables students with the greatest academic needs to complete 45 credits, earn a credential, and increase job skills and knowledge through career pathways. Approved high-wage, high-demand career pathways provide a minimum starting wage of \$17.13 per hour in Washington State, with regional rates of \$19.13 per hour in Bellingham, \$21.30 per hour in Seattle, \$20.74 per hour in SeaTac, and \$21.65 per hour in Tukwila.

Eligible students pursuing approved pathways may receive funds to cover tuition and mandatory fees up to 45 credits and up to \$1,000 per academic year for books and supplies. Additionally, the program provides up to \$1,500 for wrap-around support services which may include a single point of

contact, one-on-one tutoring, career advising, college success classes, emergency childcare, and emergency transportation.

The program's retention target is 70% for a full year – students who start in summer or fall terms and finish spring term. For students enrolled in programs with fewer than 45 credits, the retention target is 70% percent from the start to the end of their program.

HEALTH PROGRAM FUNDING AND PROGRAM APPROVAL

HEALTH CARE PROGRAM ALLOCATION BACKGROUND:

In the Supplemental Budget, [ESSB 5693](#), the Opportunity Grant program received the following additional funds allocated specifically for students enrolled in health care programs. This provided an additional \$12,000,000 allocation for the 23-25 biennium expanding the impact of the Opportunity Grant. For the 2026 FY the legislature allocated \$2,000,000 to continue providing the Opportunity Grant Health and \$2 million for the 2027 FY (\$4 million for the 2025-27 biennium).

The allocation breakdown for the Health Program Opportunity Grant awards is funded at both the Associate and Applied Bachelor's degree level to match tuition rates. The breakdown of the allocation for the 2026FY is listed below:

ASSOCIATE DEGREE/LOWER DIVISION (LD)

Tuition and fees (per statute)	\$4,935
Books/Supplies (per statute)	\$1,000
Wrap-around Services (per statute)	\$1,500
Total per FTE	\$7,435

BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE (BAS)/UPPER DIVISION (UD)

Opportunity Grant distribution of funds per annualized FTE for bachelor level students paying upper-division tuition

Tuition and fees (per statute)	\$ 7,878
Books/Supplies (per statute)	\$ 1,000
Wrap-around Services (per statute)	\$ 1,500
Total per FTE	\$10,378

Initial Health Care Allocation for each college listed in Chapter 2.

HEALTH CARE PROGRAM APPROVAL:

Health care program approvals are now enveloped into the standard program approval process. Colleges will have a biannual opportunity in the fall and spring term to submit program approval requests. Program approval milestones and dates are included in the Milestones & Deadlines section.

CHAPTER 2

COLLEGE ALLOCATIONS, FUNDING, AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The 2024-25 allocation recommendation assumes the following distribution of funds:

1. The Opportunity Grant covers full-time tuition and mandatory fees for eligible students up to 45 credits. The individual college shall determine the cost of full-time attendance and mandatory fees based on the rate of the institution's tuition and mandatory fees.

Example: 45 credits of tuition for 2024-25 is \$4,935. The college and/or program may also assess additional fees, such as a lab or technology fee or comprehensive admission fee, bringing 45 credits of tuition and fees to a program average of \$4,935; however, the Opportunity Grant program may cover the entire cost of tuition and fees above the \$4,935 average.

2. To determine the number of full-time equivalent students (FTES) the college expects to serve: each college shall take the cost of tuition and mandatory fees in number 1 above, add \$1,000 for books and supplies then add \$1,500 for wrap-around individual support services.

The product is the maximum the college will spend on one FTES. Divide this number into the college's total allocation to determine the minimum number of FTES the college will serve.

Example: 45 credits tuition and mandatory fees = \$4,935, plus \$1,000 books = \$5,935 plus \$1,500 wrap-around support services = \$7,435 per FTE. The college's total allocation is \$300,000 so divide that by \$7,435 = approximately 40 FTES to be served.

3. To determine the amount of wrap-around individualized support dollars the college may access, multiply the FTES in number 2 above by \$1,500. The answer is the maximum the college may spend on wrap-around individualized support services such as salary, benefits, and training for a single point of contact (i.e. Opportunity Grant Coordinator), faculty to teach student success classes, tutoring, counseling, retention strategies, and emergency childcare, transportation, and other emergent student costs.

Example: 40 FTES X \$1,500 = \$60,000 available for wrap-around individualized support dollars. If needed, these dollars may be moved to the financial aid category.

4. The total allocation minus the amount for wrap-around individualized support services is the amount of financial aid the college must spend on OG participants' tuition, fees, books, supplies, and tools.

Example: Original allocation \$300,000 minus \$60,000 available for wrap-around = \$240,000 to be used on student financial aid.

5. The college may not move money from the financial aid category (student aid category) but may move money from the wrap-around category to the financial aid category without notifying the SBCTC.

6. The Opportunity Grant funds must be expended by June 30 of each fiscal year. Current year funds may pay for summer term tuition and fees if the tuition is due before June 30 of current fiscal year. Please consult your business office for institutional practices for awarding summer funds.

2025-26 OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM INITIAL ALLOCATION BY COLLEGE

College	Allocation	FY26 FTES TARGET AND BUDGET		
		FTES Target	Student Aid	Wrap-around
Bates Technical College	\$279,412	37	\$223,041	\$56,371
Bellevue College	\$379,412	51	\$302,866	\$76,546
Bellingham Technical College	\$373,412	50	\$298,077	\$75,335
Big Bend Community College	\$428,412	57	\$341,981	\$86,431
Cascadia Community College	\$131,912	17	\$105,299	\$26,613
Centralia College	\$369,412	49	\$294,888	\$74,528
Clark College	\$279,412	37	\$223,041	\$56,371
Clover Park Technical College	\$448,412	60	\$357,946	\$90,466
Columbia Basin College	\$279,412	37	\$223,041	\$56,371
Edmonds Community College	\$461,412	62	\$368,323	\$93,089
Everett Community College	\$319,412	42	\$254,971	\$64,441
Grays Harbor College	\$299,412	40	\$239,006	\$60,406
Green River Community College	\$354,412	47	\$282,910	\$71,502
Highline Community College	\$461,412	62	\$368,323	\$93,089
Lake Washington Institute of Technology	\$279,412	37	\$223,041	\$56,371
Lower Columbia College	\$306,412	41	\$244,594	\$61,818
North Seattle Community College	\$329,412	44	\$262,954	\$66,458
Olympic College	\$334,412	44	\$266,945	\$67,467
Peninsula College	\$399,412	53	\$318,831	\$80,581
Pierce College Fort Steilacoom	\$369,412	49	\$294,884	\$74,528
Pierce College Puyallup	\$319,412	42	\$254,971	\$64,441
Renton Technical College	\$279,412	37	\$223,041	\$56,371
Seattle Central Community College	\$379,412	51	\$302,866	\$76,546
Shoreline Community College	\$445,412	59	\$355,551	\$89,861
Skagit Valley College	\$279,412	37	\$223,041	\$56,371
South Puget Sound Community College	\$279,412	37	\$223,041	\$56,371
South Seattle Community College	\$319,412	42	\$254,971	\$64,441
Spokane Community College	\$319,412	42	\$254,971	\$64,441
Spokane Falls Community College	\$279,412	37	\$223,041	\$56,371
Tacoma Community College	\$279,412	37	\$223,041	\$56,371
Walla Walla Community College	\$461,412	62	\$368,323	\$93,089
Wenatchee Valley College	\$279,412	37	\$223,041	\$56,371
Whatcom Community College	\$279,412	37	\$223,041	\$56,371
Yakima Valley Community College	\$392,412	52	\$313,243	\$79,169
Total CTC System	\$11,476,508	1525	\$9,161,141	\$2,315,367

2025-26 OPPORTUNITY GRANT HEALTH PROGRAM INITIAL ALLOCATION ASSOCIATE LEVEL

College	Allocation	FY26 FTES TARGET & BUDGET		
		FTES Target	Student Aid	Wrap-around
Bates Technical College	\$42,738	5	\$34,116	\$8,622
Bellevue	\$88,038	11	\$70,276	\$17,762
Bellingham Technical College	\$42,738	5	\$34,116	\$8,622
Big Bend Community College	\$17,808	2	\$14,215	\$3,593
Cascadia Community College	-	-	-	-
Centralia College	\$28,492	3	\$22,744	\$5,748
Clark College	\$71,230	9	\$56,859	\$14,371
Clover Park Technical College	\$71,230	9	\$56,859	\$14,371
Columbia Basin College	\$71,230	9	\$56,859	\$14,371
Edmonds Community College	\$35,615	4	\$28,430	\$7,185
Everett Community College	\$35,615	4	\$28,430	\$7,185
Grays Harbor College	\$35,615	4	\$28,430	\$7,185
Green River Community College	\$35,615	4	\$28,430	\$7,185
Highline Community College	\$89,038	11	\$71,075	\$17,963
Lake Washington Institute of Technology	\$124,653	16	\$99,504	\$25,149
Lower Columbia College	\$53,423	7	\$42,645	\$10,778
North Seattle Community College	\$17,808	2	\$14,215	\$3,593
Olympic College	\$71,230	9	\$56,859	\$14,371
Peninsula College	\$53,423	7	\$42,645	\$10,778
Pierce College Fort Steilacoom	\$53,423	7	\$42,645	\$10,778
Pierce College Puyallup	\$53,423	7	\$42,645	\$10,778
Renton Technical College	\$71,230	9	\$56,859	\$14,371
Seattle Central Community College	\$71,230	9	\$56,859	\$14,371
Shoreline Community College	\$106,845	14	\$85,289	\$21,556
Skagit Valley College	\$53,423	7	\$42,645	\$10,778
South Puget Sound Community College	\$28,492	3	\$22,744	\$5,748
South Seattle Community College	\$10,685	1	\$8,529	\$2,156
Spokane Community College	\$71,230	9	\$56,859	\$14,371
Spokane Falls Community College	\$54,750	7	\$43,704	\$11,046
Tacoma Community College	\$71,230	9	\$56,859	\$14,371
Walla Walla Community College	\$53,423	7	\$42,645	\$10,778
Wenatchee Valley College	\$53,423	7	\$42,645	\$10,778
Whatcom Community College	\$28,492	3	\$22,744	\$5,748
Yakima Valley Community College	\$53,423	7	\$42,645	\$10,778
Total CTC System	\$1,820,261	227	\$1,453,023	\$367,238

2025-26 OPPORTUNITY GRANT HEALTH PROGRAM INITIAL ALLOCATION BACHELOR LEVEL

College	Allocation	FY26 FTES Target & Budget		
		FTES Target	Student Aid	Wrap-around
Bates Technical College	-	-	-	-
Bellevue	\$10,378	1	\$8,878	\$1,500
Bellingham Technical College	-	-	-	-
Big Bend Community College	-	-	-	-
Cascadia Community College	-	-	-	-
Centralia College	\$10,378	1	\$8,878	\$1,500
Clark College	\$10,378	1	\$8,878	\$1,500
Clover Park Technical College	-	-	-	-
Columbia Basin College	\$10,378	1	\$8,878	\$1,500
Edmonds Community College	\$10,378	1	\$8,878	\$1,500
Everett Community College	-	-	-	-
Grays Harbor College	-	-	-	-
Green River Community College	-	-	-	-
Highline Community College	\$10,378	1	\$8,878	\$1,500
Lake Washington Institute of Technology	\$10,378	1	\$8,878	\$1,500
Lower Columbia College	-	-	-	-
North Seattle Community College	-	-	-	-
Olympic College	\$10,378	1	\$8,878	\$1,500
Peninsula College	-	-	-	-
Pierce College Fort Steilacoom	\$10,378	1	\$8,878	\$1,500
Pierce College Puyallup	-	-	-	-
Renton Technical College	-	-	-	-
Seattle Central Community College	\$10,378	1	\$8,878	\$1,500
Shoreline Community College	-	-	-	-
Skagit Valley College	-	-	-	-
South Puget Sound Community College	-	-	-	-
South Seattle Community College	-	-	-	-
Spokane Community College	\$10,378	1	\$8,878	\$1,500
Spokane Falls Community College	-	-	-	-
Tacoma Community College	\$10,378	1	\$8,878	\$1,500
Walla Walla Community College	-	-	-	-
Wenatchee Valley College	\$10,378	1	\$8,878	\$1,500
Whatcom Community College	-	-	-	-
Yakima Valley Community College	\$10,378	1	\$8,878	\$1,500
Total CTC System	\$145,292	14	\$124,292	\$21,000

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- The college must maintain a retention program for Opportunity Grant (OG) students. This may include but is not limited to, a single point of contact, student success workshops or classes, attendance tracking, intrusive advising, counseling, mentoring, tutoring, early alert systems, automated communication systems, graduation acknowledgment, and cohort-based models.
- According to Washington State's Opportunity Grant legislation, eligible students may receive funding up to 45 credits within a period of three years from the initial date of receiving the grant. An exception is made for students called to active military duty. *Time spent in active military service is not counted towards the 3-year limit. However, the total duration of college attendance using the grant must not exceed the 3-year limit.* This may include any required related courses in a program. (See FAQs at the end of this document for more information)
- Students must maintain a minimum cumulative 2.0 grade point average *and* meet the requirements of the college's satisfactory academic progress (SAP) policy. Students who do not meet the cumulative GPA requirement and/or fail to meet SAP standards may petition the college for continued eligibility. The college may grant a probationary period during which students are expected to meet the required satisfactory academic progress standards.
- An Opportunity Grant program of study must be formally approved by SBCTC through the applicable program approval process, either the [Professional Technical Program Approval Process](#) or the Bachelor's Degree Program Approval Process. Once the program is formally approved by SBCTC, email studentservices@sbctc.edu with the Program Pathway Title, and Degree Type to request official approval for Opportunity Grant funding.

CHAPTER 3

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligible Opportunity Grant (OG) students must:

- Complete a formal application to the program
- Be a Washington resident student as defined in [RCW 28B.15.012](#).
- Enroll in an Opportunity Grant eligible program of study.
- Have family income that is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level using the most current guidelines available from the United States Department of Health & Human Services. See the [2026 HHS Poverty Guidelines](#).
- Demonstrate financial need based on federal methodology from the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or, if applicable, the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA).

Students are not eligible for Opportunity Grant if they:

- Are in unsatisfactory academic progress status
- Owe an Opportunity Grant repayment
- Receive OG funds for a second term without submitting a financial aid application form (FAFSA or WASFA)
- Receive funds beyond 45 credits
- Have exceeded the following funding limits:
 - \$1,000 per year for books and supplies
 - Students' total aid, including OG award, has exceeded their calculated financial need.
- Have exceeded the total cost of tuition and fees

Formal Application Components

Students must complete a formal application for the Opportunity Grant program. Each college can create its own Opportunity Grant application, but it must include the following:

- A personal interview, an essay, or written responses to questions
- A release form allowing the student to be contacted in the future for
 - An exit interview
 - Media contact
 - Data tracking purposes

ELIGIBILITY PRIOR TO FAFSA

Students who meet the first three bullets of the Student Eligibility Requirements section above and

have not filed a FAFSA or WASFA, may receive Opportunity Grant for one term. The intent of the legislation is for students to leverage all other eligible funds and to decrease student loan indebtedness. Students may receive Opportunity Grant and scholarships, Worker Retraining, WorkFirst, Pell Grant, Washington College Grant, Work Study, and other forms of state and federal financial aid.

Students may not receive a second term of Opportunity Grant funding until they have submitted the appropriate financial aid application form and demonstrate financial need through the needs analysis. Students who received one term of Opportunity Grant and later submitted the appropriate financial aid application form showing zero financial need will not be eligible for Opportunity Grant in future terms (see below for special circumstances related to income changes).

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Students whose current financial situation differs significantly from the prior-prior year (PPY) information reported on the FAFSA or WASFA, may be eligible to request a re-evaluation of their financial aid eligibility by following the process outlined by the college's Financial Aid Office. Financial aid administrators may exercise professional judgment to adjust students' financial aid based on income changes when special or unusual circumstances exist, such as loss of employment, separation or divorce.

STUDENT AID ELIGIBILITY

There are students who meet the eligibility requirements for traditional aid resources, but do not receive aid due to other disqualifying factors. For example, they may be enrolled in programs of study that are not eligible for state and federal aid, or they may be in default status or owe repayments on prior financial aid awards. As a result, some students who are ineligible for traditional aid may be eligible for Opportunity Grant funding and participation.

The underlying law does not include language that requires students to complete a FAFSA. Rather the FAFSA is used to determine eligibility. In short, the law focuses on eligibility criteria and uses the FAFSA as a tool to assess income eligibility, but it does not mandate that students must submit an application form. The FAFSA or WASFA serve as the method for measuring financial need.

CHAPTER 4

CODING

FINANCIAL AID AND CODING

Eligible students may receive the Opportunity Grant for tuition and mandatory fees up to 45 credits. In addition, students may receive up to \$1,000 per academic year for books, supplies and required tools. This annual allowance may be distributed by term. For example, full-time students attending three terms may receive approximately \$333 per term and a student attending four terms (including summer) may receive approximately \$250 per term. These funds may be disbursed directly to the student. If students are enrolled less than full-time, the awards must be prorated. All Opportunity Grant funding is awarded in ctcLink using global item types.

OPPORTUNITY GRANT GLOBAL ITEM TYPES

Students receiving Opportunity Grant funds receive an accepted award in ctcLink. The financial aid global item types used to award Opportunity Grant funding are included below.

Item Type	Description	Short Description
912000000300	Opportunity Grant Tuition	OGTUIT
912000000301	Opportunity Grant Tuition-2nd	OGTUIT2
912000000305	Opportunity Grant Tuition Rfnd	OGTUITRFND
912000000306	Opportunity Grant Tuit Rfnd-2nd	OGTUITRFD2
912000000310	Opportunity Grant Books	OGBOOK
912000000311	Opportunity Grant Books-2nd	OGBOOK2
912000000312	Opportunity Grant Books-RefundOnly	OGBKREFND
912000000313	Opportunity Grant Books-RefundOnly2	OGBKREFND2
912000000320	Opportunity Grant Transportatn	OGTRAN
912000000321	Opportunity Grant Transp-2nd	OGTRAN2
912000000330	Opportunity Grant Other	OGOTHER
912000000331	Opportunity Grant Other-2nd	OGOTHER2
912000000340	Opportunity Grant Child Care	OGCHLDCR
912000000341	Opportunity Grant ChldCr-2nd	OGCHLDCR2
912000000350	Opportunity Grant Tools	OGTOOLS
912000000351	Opportunity Grant Tools-2nd	OGTOOLS2

OPPORTUNITY GRANT HEALTH GLOBAL ITEM TYPES

Item Type	Description	Short Description
912000000360	OG Health Tuition	OGHCAATUT
912000000361	OG Health Tuition Refund	OGHCAATURF
912000000365	OG Health Bk & Supplies	OGHCBKSUPP
912000000366	OG Health Bk & Supplies Rf	OGHCBKSPRF
912000000370	OG Health Wrap Around	OGHCWRAP
912000000371	OG Health Wrap Around Refund	OGHCWRAPRF

STUDENT GROUP CODING

Effective summer 2026 term, Opportunity Grant students must be coded to the SOPG-Opportunity Grant. The student group active date must be set no later than the first day of the first term, in which students receive Opportunity Grant funding or services.

Students should remain in the SOPG student group code for as long as they are eligible to receive funding. Once students are no longer eligible for Opportunity Grant funding, an inactive date will be entered. For detailed steps on how to add, view, or inactivate student groups, refer to the [ORG for add/view/inactivate student groups.](#)

Student Group Codes are used by SBCTC to analyze the official count of students served, Opportunity Grant student demographics, enrollment persistence, and credential completion for the Opportunity Grant program. Colleges should follow their established process to verify student coding before the SBCTC collects the student data, ensuring all Student Group Codes are accurate prior to the [Data Warehouse quarterly snapshot deadlines.](#)

CHAPTER 5

REFUNDS, DE-OBLIGATIONS, RE-ALLOCATIONS, AND PENALTIES

REFUNDS

Students receiving Opportunity Grant funding who officially or unofficially withdraw will have funds returned to the Opportunity Grant institutional account in accordance with the college's refund policy. Returned funds from student refunds may be re-awarded to other eligible Opportunity Grant students, provided the refunds are received within the same fiscal year as the original disbursement. For students who re-enroll later, returned funds will apply toward and count against the academic year Opportunity Grant tuition/fees funding maximum. However, refunds for books and supplies are generally not permitted.

RE-ALLOCATIONS, DE-OBLIGATIONS & REDISTRIBUTION

Colleges may request or return Opportunity Grant funds twice per year by completing and submitting an Opportunity Grant Funding Survey form. The form is shared electronically via Canvas each fall and spring terms with program administrators. Key deadlines and milestones are listed at the top of the Program Guidelines (Page ii).

Colleges that do not expect to meet the annual enrollment targets (FTES) should return unneeded funds to SBCTC for reallocation to other colleges. All unspent funds must be returned by 30 and cannot be carried forward into the next fiscal year.

Colleges may also de-obligate funds through the same survey process. Enrollment targets will be adjusted accordingly.

Returned, de-obligated, and reserve funds will be reallocated on a formula basis. Historically, funding requests have exceeded available resources. Colleges receiving reallocated funds will have their enrollment targets adjusted to reflect the new allocation.

PENALTIES

Per legislation, the SBCTC is accountable for student retention and completion rates of opportunity grant-eligible programs of study. SBCTC is required to set annual performance measures and targets, as well as monitor the performance at system colleges. Legislation also requires the SBCTC to reduce funding at the colleges that do not meet retention targets for two consecutive years.

Retention data will be collected annually each fall. A retained student is defined as a student who:

1. Began summer/fall term and was enrolled spring term
2. Completed program of study any term within the year

Should a college not meet the retention target for two consecutive years, Opportunity Grant funding will be reduced.

CHAPTER 6

PROGRAM REPORTING

ANNUAL REPORTS

The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) receives a quarterly report from the data warehouse. This report provides high-level ‘snapshot’ of the Opportunity Grant data. The year-end Data Collection Report will no longer be requested from colleges, as the necessary information is captured through ctcLink queries and will be used to respond to legislative questions.

STUDENT PROGRAM COMPLETIONS

Student retention is measured by continued enrollment and/or program completion. Therefore, it is essential that all students completing programs of study be coded with the appropriate exit code. The most common Workforce exit codes for Opportunity Grant students are:

- 1 Workforce Degree (Technical degrees excluding AAS-T))
- 2 Certificate, 90+ credits
- 3 Certificate, 45-89 credits
- 4* Certificate, 20-44 credits
- 9**Certificate, 1-19 credits

*Prior to Summer 2014, the definition of Exit Code 4 was a certificate under 45 credits.

** Prior to Summer 2014, the definition of Exit Code 9 was “Unique Program Completion or Non-credit occupational training completion”. The intent was to recognize job-specific completions, particularly non-credit certification courses. The definition of Exit Code 9 changed to 1 to 19 credits in the Summer of 2014.

The full listing of exit codes can be found under “Coding Guidelines” on the [SBCTC Coding and Reporting Guidelines](#) web page or check with your college registrar.

EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE REPORT

Employment and wage data are collected by matching the unemployment insurance records from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana through Employment Security. This data is used to evaluate the wage and employment outcomes of Opportunity Grant students who have exited college.

“Exit college” refers to students who have not been enrolled for a full year, regardless of whether they completed a program. Once students are identified as “exited”, their wage and employment status are assessed three terms after they leave college.

CHAPTER 7

PROGRAM AUDITS AND RECORDS RETENTION

SBCTC OPERATIONS REVIEWS

The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) conducts annual operations reviews. While these reviews are not formal audits, they do incorporate certain standard auditing techniques. However, some aspects of the reviews rely on standard auditing techniques. SBCTC is charged by statute with oversight responsibility for the state's community and technical colleges. These efforts are intended to assess compliance with the rules and regulations established by the state and SBCTC.

The operations review related to the Opportunity Grant program will include, but not limited to, the following:

1. All Opportunity Grant expenditures must be for student financial aid and/or wrap-around services
2. Opportunity Grant funds for financial aid awards must not exceed legislative maximums
3. Opportunity Grant funds may not be used for non-resident students

To support effective fiscal oversight, it is recommended that the staff member responsible for determining the initial eligibility and award amount should not be the same person who enters the award in the student aid system.

RECORDS RETENTION

Records, both student and financial, related to the Opportunity Grant program must be maintained in accordance with the [Washington State Records Retention Schedule](#). It is recommended that Opportunity Grant program managers coordinate their records retention plan and schedule with their institution's records officer.

CHAPTER 8 STATUTES

OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

RCW 28B.50.271

- 1) The college board shall develop and implement a workforce education program known as the opportunity grant program to provide financial and other assistance for students enrolled at qualified institutions of higher education in opportunity grant-eligible programs of study as described in RCW [28B.50.273](#). Students enrolled in the opportunity grant program are eligible for:
 - a. Funding tuition and mandatory fees at the public community and technical college rate, prorated if enrolled in less than full-time, paid directly to the educational institution; and
 - b. An additional \$1,000 per academic year for books, tools, and supplies, prorated if enrolled in less than full time.
- 2) Funding described in subsection (1) (a) and (b) of this section is limited to a maximum 45 credits or the equivalent in an Opportunity Grant-eligible program of study, including required related courses. No student may receive opportunity grant funding for more than forty-five credits or for more than three years from initial receipt of grant funds in one or a combination of programs.
- 3) Grants awarded under this section are subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose.

OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM, STUDENT ELIGIBILITY, FUNDING, PERFORMANCE MEASURES, DOCUMENTATION, ANNUAL SUMMARY

RCW 28B.50.272

- 1) To be eligible for participation in the opportunity grant program established in RCW [28B.50.271](#), a student must:
 - a. Be a Washington resident student as defined in RCW [28B.15.012](#) enrolled in an opportunity grant-eligible program of study;
 - b. Have a family income that is at or below two hundred percent of the federal poverty level using the most current guidelines available from the United States department of health and human services, and be determined to have financial need based on the free application for federal student aid; and
 - c. Meet such additional selection criteria as the college board shall establish in order to operate the program within appropriated funding levels.
- 2) Upon enrolling, the student must provide evidence of commitment to complete the program. The student must make satisfactory progress and maintain a cumulative 2.0 grade point average for continued eligibility. If a student's cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0, the student may petition the institution of higher education of attendance. The qualified

institution of higher education has the authority to establish a probationary period until such time as the student's grade point average reaches required standards.

- 3) Subject to funds appropriated for this specific purpose, public qualified institutions of higher education shall receive an enhancement of one thousand five hundred dollars for each full-time equivalent student enrolled in the opportunity grant program whose income is below two hundred percent of the federal poverty level. The funds shall be used for individualized support services which may include, but are not limited to, college and career advising, tutoring, emergency child care, and emergency transportation. The qualified institution of higher education is expected to help students access all financial resources and support services available to them through alternative sources.
- 4) The college board shall be accountable for student retention and completion of opportunity grant-eligible programs of study. It shall set annual performance measures and targets and monitor the performance at all qualified institutions of higher education. The college board must reduce funding at institutions of higher education that do not meet targets for two consecutive years, based on criteria developed by the college board.
- 5) The college board and higher education coordinating board shall work together to ensure that students participating in the opportunity grant program are informed of all other state and federal financial aid to which they may be entitled while receiving an opportunity grant.
- 6) The college board and higher education coordinating board shall document the amount of opportunity grant assistance and the types and amounts of other sources of financial aid received by participating students. Annually, they shall produce a summary of the data.
- 7) The college board shall:
 - a. Begin developing the program no later than August 1, 2007, with student enrollment to begin no later than January 14, 2008; and
 - b. Submit a progress report to the legislature by December 1, 2008.
 - c. The college board may, in implementing the opportunity grant program, accept, use, and expend or dispose of contributions of money, services, and property. All such moneys received by the college board for the program must be deposited in an account at a depository approved by the state treasurer. Only the college board or a duly authorized representative thereof may authorize expenditures from this account. In order to maintain an effective expenditure and revenue control, the account is subject in all respects to chapter [43.88](#) RCW, but no appropriation is required to permit expenditure of moneys in the account.

IDENTIFICATION OF JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS, DESIGNATION AS OPPORTUNITY GRANT, ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS OF STUDY, MARKETING

RCW 28B.50.273

The college board, in partnership with business, labor, and the workforce training and education coordinating board, shall:

- 1) Identify job-specific training programs offered by qualified postsecondary institutions that lead to a credential, certificate, or degree in green industry occupations as established in chapter 14, Laws of 2008, and other high demand occupations, which are occupations

where data show that employer demand for workers exceeds the supply of qualified job applicants throughout the state or in a specific region, and where training capacity is underutilized;

- 2) Gain recognition of the credentials, certificates, and degrees by Washington's employers and labor organizations. The college board shall designate these recognized credentials, certificates, and degrees as "opportunity grant-eligible programs of study"; and
- 3) Market the credentials, certificates, and degrees to potential students, businesses, and apprenticeship programs as a way for individuals to advance in their careers and to better meet the needs of industry.

OPPORTUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

RCW 28B.50.274

- 1) Community and technical colleges shall partner with local workforce development councils to develop the opportunity partnership program. The opportunity partnership program may be newly developed or part of an existing program, and shall provide mentoring to students participating in the opportunity grant program. The program must develop criteria and identify opportunity grant students who would benefit by having a mentor. Each participating student shall be matched with a business or labor mentor employed in the field in which the student is interested. The mentor shall help the student explore careers and employment options through any combination of tours, informational interviews, job shadowing, and internships.
- 2) Subject to funds appropriated for this specific purpose, the workforce training and education coordinating board shall create the opportunity partnership program. The board, in partnership with business, labor, and the college board, shall determine the criteria for the distribution of funds.
- 3) The board may, in implementing this section, accept, use, and dispose of contributions of money, services, and property. All moneys received by the board for the purposes of this section must be deposited in a depository approved by the state treasurer. Only the board or a duly authorized representative thereof may authorize expenditures from this account. In order to maintain an effective expenditure and revenue control, the account is subject in all respects to chapter [43.88](#) RCW, but no appropriation is required to permit expenditure of moneys in the account.

CHAPTER 9

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) WHAT ARE THE RETENTION EXPECTATIONS OF THE PROGRAM?

The retention target is 70 percent for a full year – students who start in fall and finish spring term. For students who are in a program that is less than 45 credits, the retention would be 70 percent from beginning to the end of their program.

2) CAN NON-CITIZENS RECEIVE THE OPPORTUNITY GRANT?

Yes, non-citizens may be eligible to receive Opportunity Grant funds if they meet the eligibility guidelines. Students who are unable to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) due to immigration status may instead complete the free [Washington Application for State Financial Aid \(WASFA\)](#).

3) DO STUDENTS NEED TO BE 18 YEARS OLD TO RECEIVE THE GRANT?

No, students do not need to be 18 years old, but students need to be matriculated into the college as an adult. Dual credit or high school students are not eligible to receive Opportunity Grant.

4) DOES A STUDENT NEED TO HAVE LESS THAN AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR OPPORTUNITY GRANTS?

The intent of the legislation is to recruit and retain underserved students for high-wage, high-demand pathways. The best definition of underserved would be a student without higher education experience or less than an associate's degree. While there are no specific legislative restrictions in awarding Opportunity Grant funds to students with associate degrees and/or higher, it would be advisable to award these students on a funds available basis.

5) HOW CAN I AWARD A STUDENT THE \$1,000 FOR BOOKS, SUPPLIES AND TOOLS?

When the Opportunity Grant program was developed, the Washington Financial Aid Association determined the average cost of books and supplies is \$1,000 a year. Therefore, Opportunity Grant students may receive up to \$1,000 an academic year for books, supplies and required tools. It is acceptable for a full-time student to receive an award of \$333 a term for books, supplies and tools or \$250 a term if they are attending four terms (summer).

The disbursement can be made directly to the student. If the student attends less than full-time then the award must be prorated.

If a program has significantly higher costs for books, supplies, or tools during the initial term, the award amount may be adjusted to reflect those expenses.

6) SHOULD WE USE PREVIOUS YEAR INCOME OR CURRENT YEAR INCOME TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY?

The institution may develop its own policy to determine which year of income to use. Typically, federal financial aid is based on income from prior-prior year. However, the Financial Aid Office may use Professional Judgment to base the aid on current calendar year income, including projected income for the remainder of the year.

7) CAN A STUDENT RECEIVE OPPORTUNITY GRANT BEFORE THEY APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?

While the student is applying for aid, they may receive the Opportunity Grant for their first term if they meet the following eligibility guidelines:

- Washington resident student as defined in [RCW 28B.15.012](#)
- Enrolled in an Opportunity Grant-eligible program of study
- Family income that is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level using the most current [United States Department of Health & Human Services Poverty Guidelines](#).

Once the FAFSA or WASFA is submitted, if the financial aid need analysis shows that the student does not have unmet financial need, the student is not eligible to receive Opportunity Grant funding for future terms.

8) DO I NEED TO DETERMINE INDEPENDENCY/DEPENDENCY ON THE INITIAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT APPLICATION? IF MY STUDENT MEETS THE DEFINITION OF A DEPENDENT STUDENT ON THE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION, DO I NEED TO GATHER PARENTAL INCOME?

On the initial Opportunity Grant application, the college may make the determination if they would like to collect independency/dependency information. If the college chooses not to determine dependency initially, they may base the first term Opportunity Grant award on their standard application and then future terms of Opportunity Grant will be determined from the financial aid application form (WASFA or FAFSA).

If the student is deemed dependent on a financial aid application form, then family income is taken into consideration in determining financial need. If there are extenuating circumstances, the Financial Aid Office has the option of using Professional Judgment to override dependency and use only student income.

9) WHEN DOES A STUDENT'S CLOCK START TICKING ON USING THE 45 CREDITS OF OPPORTUNITY GRANT ELIGIBILITY?

A student is eligible to receive Opportunity Grant funding for up to 45 credits and no more than 3 years from the initial receipt of Opportunity Grant support. These two limits are tracked separately.

The 45-credit limit begins once Opportunity Grant funds are used to pay for tuition and fees. The 3-year limit begins as soon as the student is identified as an Opportunity Grant recipient, whether through receiving funding for tuition, books, supplies or tools, or by receiving wrap-around services. Opportunity Grant funding is exhausted when either the 45-credit limit or the 3-year time limit is reached, whichever comes first. *Students called up to active military duty may extend beyond the three-year maximum.*

10) I HAVE A STUDENT WITH FIVE CREDITS OF OPPORTUNITY GRANT ELIGIBILITY REMAINING BUT THE STUDENT HAS NOT USED \$1,000 BOOKS AND SUPPLIES. MAY I GIVE THE STUDENT FULL- TIME BOOKS AND SUPPLIES IF THEY ARE ACTUALLY TAKING A FULL-TIME LOAD?

Yes, if the student's credit load is full-time then you may pay full-time books and supplies. Once the

student has used up his or her 45 credits of eligibility, then the student is no longer eligible for book and supplies even if three years has not passed.

11) MAY I USE OPPORTUNITY GRANT FUNDS TO PAY FOR A STUDENT'S SUMMER TERM TUITION?

The Opportunity Grant funds must be expended by June 30 of each fiscal year. The decision to award funds in the summer term must be made with the college's Business Office.

12) WHAT IF A STUDENT HAS VERY EXPENSIVE BOOKS AND SUPPLIES COSTS THE FIRST TERM, BUT ATTENDS LESS THAN FULL-TIME EACH TERM? IS THERE FLEXIBILITY IN PRORATING THE AWARD?

If a student is enrolled less than full-time, the cost of books and supplies must be prorated. Unlike traditional aid, institutions can choose to prorate for the entire year instead of by term.

EXAMPLE OF PRORATING BOOKS AND SUPPLIES:

A Nursing Assistant Certification (NAC) student enrolled in 6 credits. The full-year allowance for books and supplies is \$1,000, the student would be eligible for 50% or \$500, for the academic year.

If the student has higher book and/or supplies costs in the first term, you may allow up to the full \$500 in that term. However, a student cannot exceed \$500 for the full academic year, unless they later enroll in more credits that increases their enrollment status from part-time.

Institutions may choose to prorate books and supplies funds each term, following the more traditional approach. The yearly proration method shown above is just one option.

13) MAY OPPORTUNITY GRANT PAY FOR A REPEATED CLASS?

Yes, you may use Opportunity Grant funds to repeat a class (even if Opportunity Grant paid for it previously), but the repeated class diminishes the student's 45 credits of eligibility. In addition, the student must abide by your Satisfactory Academic Progress policy. *It is recommended that only classes below a grade of 2.0 be repeated.*

14) WHAT TYPE OF SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) POLICY MUST MY COLLEGE IMPLEMENT?

Opportunity Grant legislation requires that students must maintain a cumulative 2.0 grade point average (GPA). If a student's cumulative GPA falls below 2.0, the student may petition the college. The college has the authority to establish a probationary period until such time as the student's grade point average reaches required standards.

Beyond this minimum requirement, colleges have the flexibility to define their own SAP policy for Opportunity Grant Students.

You may choose to:

- Use the same SAP policy as federal and state financial aid, or
- Develop a separate SAP policy specific to Opportunity Grant students

Regardless of which approach is chosen, the SAP policy must be clearly defined and applied consistently to all Opportunity Grant recipients.

15) DOES OPPORTUNITY GRANT PAY FOR PRE-REQUISITES?

Opportunity Grant legislation allows 'required related' course(s) to be funded. If a student is required to take foundational or pre-requisite courses to start their program, then these courses may be funded by Opportunity Grant.

However, the student's total funding is limited to 45 credits, including required related courses. By funding foundational or perquisite courses, it may cause a student to exhaust their Opportunity Grant funding quicker. It's important that the student understands this limitation and has access to other funding sources to complete their program.

Once your college establishes a local policy make sure it is clearly defined in writing and consistently applied.

16) HOW OFTEN MAY COLLEGES AWARD WRAP-AROUND FUNDS TO STUDENTS FOR EMERGENCIES?

Colleges may choose to award emergency wrap-around funds more than once per year if each request is for a different emergency. Alternatively, a college may decide to limit emergency funding to once per student per year. Each has the flexibility to define its own policy and procedures.

EXAMPLE OF AWARDING EMERGENCY FUNDING MORE THAN ONCE PER YEAR:

A student receives a power shut-off notice and brings the documentation to the Opportunity Grant Office. After reviewing the request, your team determines the student is eligible and awards Opportunity Grant wrap-around emergency funds under Opportunity Grant Other global item type.

A few months later, the same student requests additional assistance due to a car breakdown and provides a repair estimate. After review, you may approve a second wrap-around emergency award under Opportunity Grant Transportation global item type.

17) MAY WE ADD AN ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBER TO THE POVERTY GUIDELINES IF TWO FAMILY MEMBERS ARE IN COLLEGE?

The college may make the decision to add a family member to the poverty guidelines if a sibling is under 24 years old is in college at the concurrently. Just make sure you define your policy and consistently apply it.

18) CAN WE ADD HIGH-DEMAND, HIGH-WAGE PATHWAYS TO OUR APPROVED PROGRAMS LIST?

Yes, please review bullet number 3 under PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS in these guidelines for more information.

Approved traditional (Workforce) I-BEST programs are automatically reviewed during the biannual Opportunity Grant review process. However, Academic I-BEST and other non-Workforce I-BEST programs are not eligible for Opportunity Grant funding.

19) HOW DO YOU CALCULATE A FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENT (FTES)?

For FTES reporting purposes, full-time is defined as 15 credits per term, or 45 credits per academic year.

FTES Calculations:

FTES per Term = Total credits registered in a term divided by 15

FTES per Year = Total credits registered in the year divided by 45

EXAMPLE 1: Calculate FTES per Term

A student registers for 12 credits in the fall term.

- $12 \div 15 = 0.80$ FTE for the fall term

EXAMPLE 2: Calculate FTES per Year

A student registers for 12 credits fall term, 17 credits winter term, and 16 credits in spring term. This student is only 0.80 FTES fall term and is 1.0 FTES for the year.

- $12 + 17 + 16 = 45$ credits for the academic year
- $45 \div 45 = 1.0$ FTE for the academic year

EXAMPLE 3: Comparison of FTES Calculated by Term Versus Annually

For the fall term Student 1 registers for 18 credits, Student 2 registers for 17 credits, and Student 3 registers for 20 credits. The term FTES is 3.67, while the annualized FTES is 1.22

- Term FTE Calculation:

- $18 + 17 + 20 = 55$ total credits
 - $55 \div 15 = 3.67$ FTES per term

- Annual FTE Calculation:

- $18 + 17 + 20 = 55$ total credits
 - $55 \div 45 = 3.67$ FTES per academic year

20) IF A STUDENT ENROLLS IN MORE CREDITS THAN OPPORTUNITY GRANT IS PAYING FOR, WHICH CREDIT TOTAL IS COUNTED FOR FTES SERVED?

When calculating FTES counted toward a college's target, we use the total number of credits the student is registered for, regardless of whether Opportunity Grant funds cover all of them.

However, each college is still responsible for tracking the number of credits actually paid for with

Opportunity Grant funds, in accordance with the 45-credit funding limit.

21) CAN OPPORTUNITY GRANT FUNDS BE APPLIED AFTER OTHER FINANCIAL AID HAS BEEN PAID AND THEN CAN THE STUDENT RECEIVE A BALANCE CHECK OF OPPORTUNITY GRANT FUNDS?

Yes, Opportunity Grant funds may be applied after other financial aid, as long as:

- Funds do not exceed the student's tuition and fee expenses
- Book/supply awards stay within the allowable maximums
- Total aid package does not exceed the student's demonstrated financial need; and
- The Opportunity Grant tuition award is coded with the appropriate Global Item Type for expenditure tracking.

If these conditions are met and there are remaining eligible Opportunity Grant funds after tuition, fees, and allowable books/supplies are covered, the student may receive a balance check.

22) WILL THE OPPORTUNITY GRANT HEALTH FUNDING CONTINUE?

The Opportunity Grant Health allocation was funded through the supplemental budget. For the 2025-27 biennium, the allocation was reduced to 50% with \$4 million provided. Future Opportunity Grant Health funding (beyond the 2025-27 biennium) will depend on the legislative budgeting process, evolving state priorities, and available resources at the time of appropriation.