

## 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 the College Success Foundation (CSF).
2. **Description of services provided:** This contract funds two student support programs providing college advising and readiness services to high school students.

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.

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.

3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:** The contractor selects schools based on need and readiness to benefit. Data on underrepresented student college going rates at technical, 2-year and 4-year institutions is reviewed. Buy in from building leaders for Achiever programming includes space to work and access to students.

To be enrolled in the program, students must complete applications for HERO their 9th grade year and for Achiever Scholars their 11th grade year. Eligibility determination is made based on:

- Family income not greater than 70% of Washington state’s median family income (same criteria as for the State Need Grant program); and
- Minimum academic standing. For HERO, students must be in good standing based on school progress reports. For Achiever Scholars, the student must have at least 2.0 GPA and have enough credits to be on track for high school graduation.

### Beneficiaries in 2018–19 School Year:

	<b>HERO</b>	<b>Achiever Scholars</b>	<b>Total</b>
# of School Districts:	5	10	15
# of Schools:	7	28	35
# of Students:	352	2,324	2,676
Other:	00		

# of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 0  
 # of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 1

FY19 Funding: State Appropriation:	\$3,940,000
Federal Appropriation:	\$0
Other fund sources:	\$0
TOTAL (FY19)	\$3,940,000

4. Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding? If yes, explain. No.

5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
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., schools, students, districts) history:

Fiscal year	# of Districts	# of Schools	# of Students
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):** Loss of Gates Foundation support in 2010 increased the mentor match monitoring workload for College Preparatory Advisors.

8. **Evaluations of program/major findings:** High School Graduation: Of the 1,129 – 12th grade Achievers, 1,086 students (96%) have graduated from high school on time.

College Enrollment Plans: Of the 1,086 – 12th grade Achievers who graduated from high school in June 2018, 1,009 of these Achievers (93%) have enrollment plans to attend a college or university the fall term immediately after graduation.

Program Participation: Over the 2017-18 school year, 97% (or 199) of 206 tenth grade HERO students participated in one or more college and/or career experiences by June 30th. These activities included HERO meetings, college and career workshops, and campus visits.

Test Preparation: For the 2017-18 school year, 85% (or 175) of 206 tenth grade HERO students completed an ACT or SAT preparation activity by June 30th of their tenth grade year. These activities included ACT/SAT practice tests and workshops.

9. **Major challenges faced by the program:** Without Gate funding for program associates, College Preparatory Advisors have taken over the coordination of mentoring activities for 50 mentors in addition to serving 100 Achievers per year as well as other students in

their schools. The program remains committed to mentoring and providing the high quality supports for students. At the same time, the program is faced with restricted capacity due to limited resources.

10. **Future opportunities:** The 2019-21 operating budget provided additional funding to expand the program into other areas of the state. OSPI will be monitoring this expansion. In addition, OSPI will be assessing how well investments in the HERO and Achiever Scholars programming is aligned with improving student outcomes as measured in the Washington School Improvement Framework.
11. **Statutory and/or Budget language: Budget Proviso: ESSB 6032** Sec. 501 (25) \$3,940,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2018 and \$3,940,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2019 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.

Budget Proviso:

12. **Other relevant information:**
13. **List of schools/districts receiving assistance:** See OSPI [website](#).
14. **Program Contact Information:**  
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