WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL
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Workforce Pell

WA Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

January 23, 2026

Dr. Shannon Venezia, Director Student Financial Assistance

A new Pell Grant world…

- One of the most substantial changes to the Federal Pell Grant is the programmatic expansion allowing for Workforce Pell
- We are waiting for final rules and subregulatory guidance for implementation
  - July 2026 is not guaranteed (due to lack of rules) and the first year may be more of a pilot year
  - July 2027 is more likely for full implementation
  - The Department stated they wanted to go nice and slow
- The amount of Pell Grant will be prorated by the number of credit or clock hours
  - There may not be a financial benefit to run a program, and institutions need to do the cost benefit analysis
- Implementation needs to be thoughtful and well considered

Considerations

- Not all institutions may be in a position to participate
  - Participation is optional
  - Staffing (Financial Aid, Admissions, Registrar, Marketing)
  - New regulations to learn and implement
  - Systems
  - Student interest
- There is financial risk to participating
  - Being out of compliance or incorrectly implementing could lead to audit findings
- Programs will be approved institution by institution and program by program
- All eligible institutions should be included
- Limited staff at the Department of Education

Considerations – From Negotiated Rulemaking

- There are no variations in the value threshold for regional variations such as rural vs. urban wages
- There is no consideration for low-income but high industry value programs – if the wage thresholds are not met, the program is at risk of losing Pell Grant
- The programs are meant to be job-training programs and not on-ramps into higher level programs at institutions
  - The completion percentage (70%+) does not allow for excluding students who continue with degrees versus working in the industry
- The 8 to 15 weeks do not need to be sequential (for example, apprenticeships)