



Funded Pathways to Living Wage Work

Equity in Funding for Basic Skills Students

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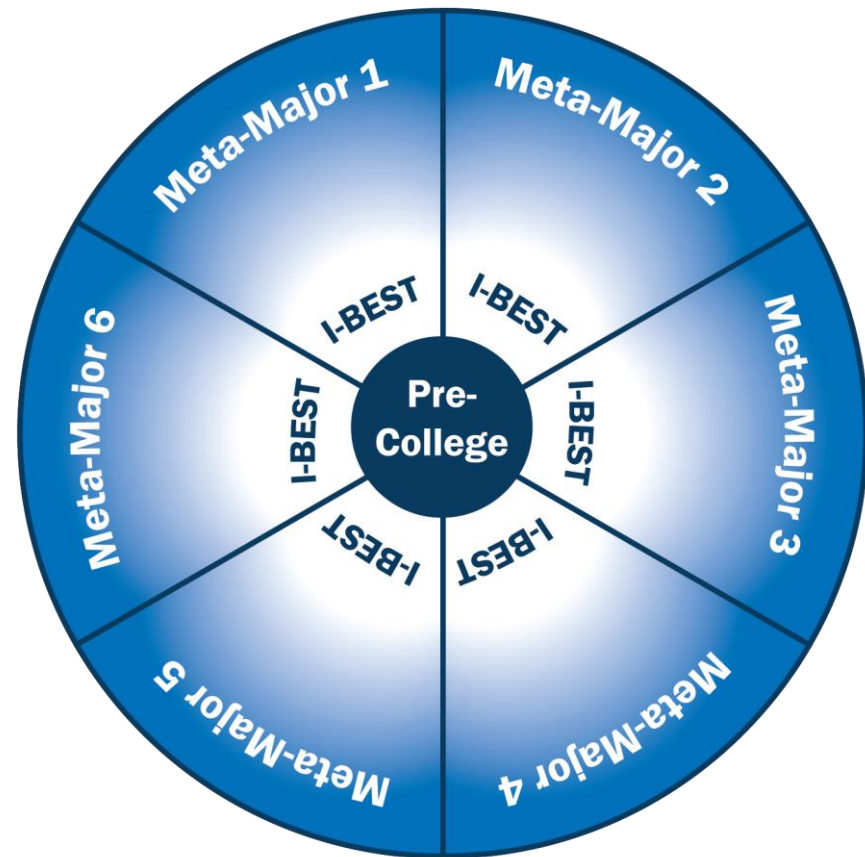


Session Objectives

- Participants will:
 - Learn how WA state funds basic skills students in living wage career pathway programs.
 - Share their state efforts in funding basic skills students to living wage careers.
 - Receive planning resources for further funding work in their state.

BEdA in Guided Pathways

- Integrated Workforce, employment, and academic skills.
- Industry specific contextualized instruction
- Comprehensive navigation & student support
- Dual enrollment
- Job placement & Education Transitions



Ensuring Equity in Pathway Funding

Contextualized
Basic Skills
(\$25/quarter)

- High School Plus (HS+)
- I-BEST @ Work
- I-DEA
- College Readiness/Employability Skills
- IET/IELCE Career Specific Basic Skills



I-BEST Quarter 1

- Opportunity Grant
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF or WorkFirst in Washington state)
- Basic Food, Employment, and Training (BFET)
- Worker Retraining
- WIOA Title I & II



I-BEST → Two-year
Degree

- Ability to Benefit (Pell)
- WA College Grant
- Opportunity Grant (up to 45 credits)

Applied
Baccalaureate
Degrees

- Ability to Benefit (Pell)
- WA College Grant



Contextualized Basic Skills

- For \$25/quarter, students can take the following coursework:
 - High School Plus (HS+)
 - I-BEST @ Work
 - Integrated Digital English Acceleration I-DEA
 - College Readiness/Employability Skills
 - IET/IELCE Career Specific Basic Skills
- Students who are unable to pay can apply for a waiver for this coursework.

I-BEST Quarter One

- Currently students must first earn six college credits (or pass an approved test) before applying for Ability to Benefit
- Funding the first quarter of a student's pathway is key.
- Washington state resources for this first quarter include:
 - Opportunity Grant (first 45 credits of a pathway)
 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF or WorkFirst)
 - Basic Food, Employment, and Training (BFET)
 - Worker Retraining
 - WIOA Title I & II Funds
- Most of these resources extend past the first quarter as well.

I-BEST → Two and Four-year Degrees

- Once a student has earned six college credits, they may be eligible for Ability to Benefit and have access to Pell Grants and other forms of Federal Student Aid (FSA).
- The Washington College Grant is a new resource with major impacts to our students (more information in following slides.)

Washington College Grant

- The Washington College Grant (WCG) is the new state financial aid program.
- The WCG ensures more people in Washington state can pursue their dreams of a college education and a better life.
- Starting Fall 2020, The WCG will:
 - Provide guaranteed funding for all eligible students – no more wait lists.
 - Extend financial aid to more families. As incomes go up, the award amounts go down.

Washington College Grant, con't.

- Starting Fall 2020:
 - A family of four making \$50,500 or less will receive a full financial aid award that covers the full cost of tuition plus state-mandated fees. For Fall 2019, the threshold for a full financial aid award is \$46,000.
 - Middle-income families of four will be able to earn about \$92,000 and still get some level of aid i.e. a partial award.) For fall 2019, the top income limit for a partial award is \$64,000.
 - Basic Education for Adults (BEaA) has requested that the WCG follow the same criteria as the Ability to Benefit Option 3 proposal (see next slides.)

Ability to Benefit: A Lifejacket for Students

- The Washington College Grant, Opportunity Grant, and workforce funds provide excellent support to students.
- Access to Federal Pell Grants completes the picture
 - Helps students pay for their education
 - Grants students money for living expenses
 - Remember: Pell is a grant, not a loan!
- Currently, students must first achieve a cut score on an approved test or earn six college credits before applying for Ability to Benefit.
- Washington state has proposed a “third option” ...

Ability to Benefit: Option 3

- “Option 3” permits students to demonstrate ability to benefit from federal student aid “in accordance with such process as the State shall prescribe.”
- Washington state submitted a proposed process to Secretary DeVos with letters of support from Governor Inslee and congressional delegates.
- Our process would give more students access to ATB through co-enrollment in I-BEST and HS+, and would relieve the eligibility requirements that students must first either achieve a cut score or earn six college credits.
- Key statistic: in Washington state, 91% of I-BEST students earn their first six college credits.

Putting It All Together

- Washington state uses a mix of state and federal resources to provide funding solutions to students.
- Navigational services tied to I-BEST and BEdA help students “navigate” the maze of resources.
- Ability to Benefit is a critical resource for providing students not only with stable funding, but with resources for living expenses.



Questions & Contact Info

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