



Accessing Ability to Benefit



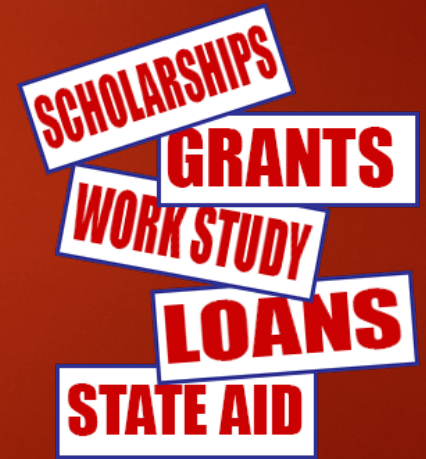


What is Ability to Benefit or ATB?

ATB is about access to federal and state financial aid resources for students without a high school credential

Access to financial aid requires either:

- a high school credential
- or
- qualify under *Ability to Benefit*





How does a student qualify for ATB?

Pursuing a Financial Aid Eligible Program

- The student must apply for financial aid (FAFSA) and be eligible (except for the HS credential)

AND

- The program must be financial aid eligible too. For example: certified nursing assistant is not eligible for financial aid funding but an AAS in Criminal Justice is eligible

Educational Program is a direct Career Pathway

- All of WCC's **Professional Technical Programs are eligible**: Nursing, Paralegal, Business ...
- **Transfer degrees are not eligible** unless they are tied directly to a career specific Bachelor's degree and the student has an educational plan that show they are taking the appropriate major preparatory courses. (Like Elementary Education or Environmental Science)
- Liberal Studies degrees are not eligible.

Evidence that the student can be successful in college level work

Pass approved ATB tests

Or

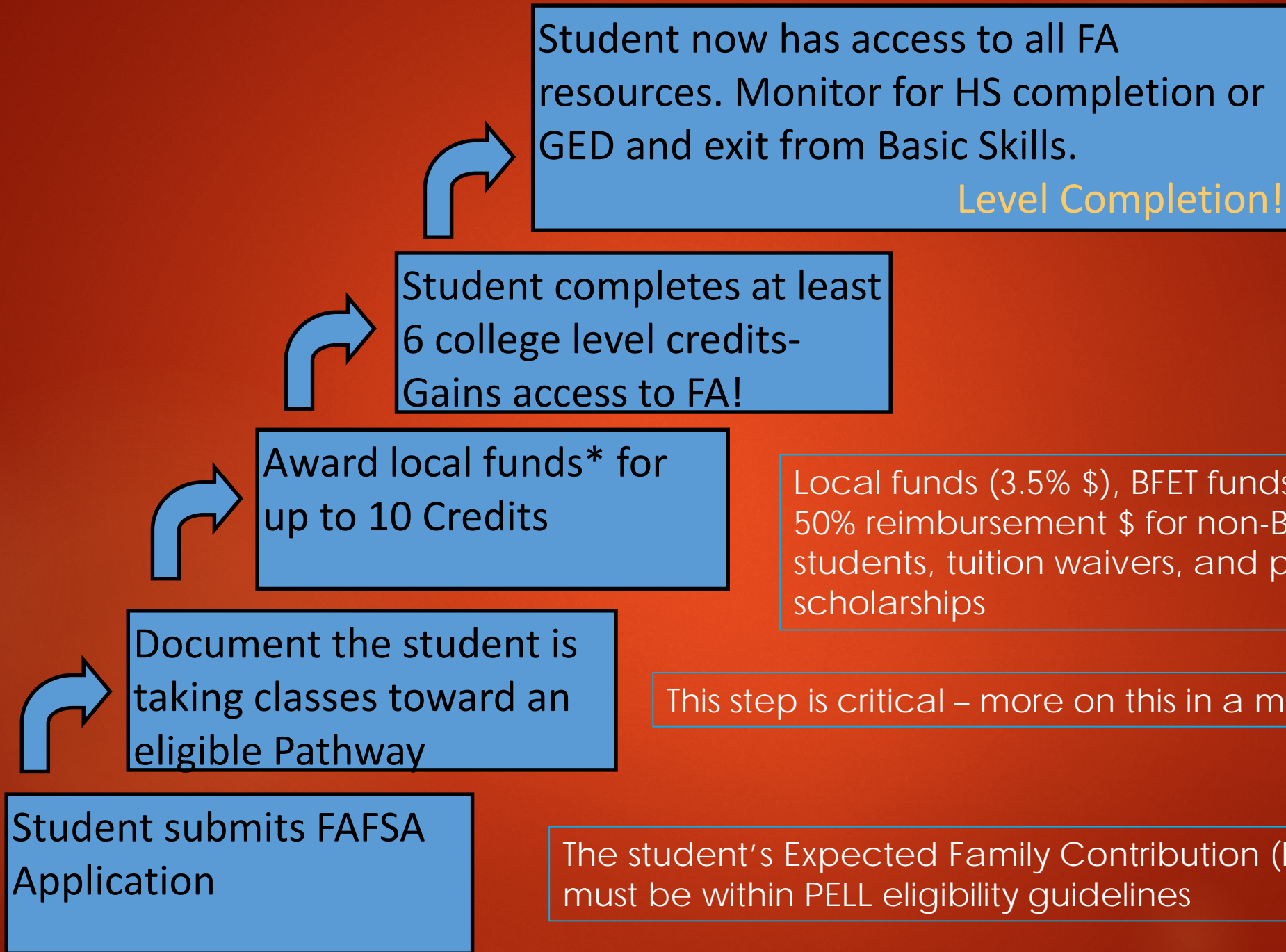
Completion of at least 6 college level credits in their educational program



A little WCC background

- ▶ WCC like most WA colleges doesn't offer approved ATB tests
- ▶ WCC requires HS21+ students to complete at least one college level course as part of the HS21+ diploma
- ▶ We want to support students in earning dual credit (HS and college)
- ▶ WCC has struggled with low IBEST enrollments – partly due to lack of access to financial aid for students without a high school credential
- ▶ There are unused seats each quarter in many college level courses





Student submits FAFSA Application

Document the student is taking classes toward an eligible Pathway

Award local funds* for up to 10 Credits

Student completes at least 6 college level credits- Gains access to FA!

Student now has access to all FA resources. Monitor for HS completion or GED and exit from Basic Skills.
Level Completion!

Local funds (3.5% \$), BFET funds including 50% reimbursement \$ for non-BFET eligible students, tuition waivers, and private scholarships

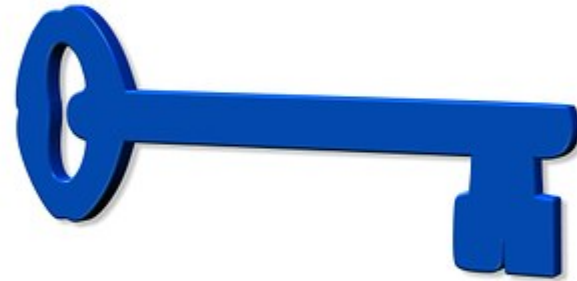
This step is critical – more on this in a minute

The student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) must be within PELL eligibility guidelines

Documenting and eligible pathway



Eligible



Pathway



ATB



Documenting an eligible pathway



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with RESULTS



Documenting an eligible pathway



Definition of an Eligible Career Pathway Program

Public Law 114-113 amended the definition of an eligible career pathway program for purposes of Title IV aid eligibility under section 484(d)(2) of the HEA to align with the definition of career pathway in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) (29 U.S.C. 3102(7)). Under section 484(d)(2) of the HEA, an eligible career pathway program means a program that combines rigorous and high-quality education, training, and other services that—

Documenting an eligible pathway



1. Aligns with the skills needs of industries...
2. Prepares an individual to be successful in a range of post-secondary options...
3. Includes counseling to support the individuals goals...
4. Includes, as appropriate, concurrent and contextual basic skills education...
5. Organizes education and other services to accelerate education and advancement...
6. Enables an individual to attain a high school level credential and at least one post-secondary credential...
7. Helps an individual enter or advance within a specific occupation or occupational cluster...

[Summarized from Department of Ed Letter: GEN-16-09](#)

Documenting an eligible pathway



A. Title IV eligibility

- Student's record must indicate appropriate intent code for a program that meets all of the Title IV eligibility guidelines. (examples: Associate in Science for Computer Information Systems or Certificate in Criminal Justice)
- Student completes FAFSA application, and meets all college deadlines, and demonstrates financial need

Documenting an eligible pathway



B. Eligible Career Pathway

- An individualized educational plan for each student that shows a direct correlation between the students college program and a specific career ladder or job
- Meet the Definition of an Eligible Career Pathway. Documentation can happen at the college level, program level, or student level.

Documentation - examples



Eligible Pathway Criteria	College, program, or individual level documentation	Possible Documentation Suggestions
1.Aligns with skill needs of industries...	College level	College Career Pathways <u>or</u> Gainful employment
3.Includes counseling to support an individual ...	Program level	Transitional Learning Navigator, IBEST Advisor, AIM coach, or Community Partner
5.Organizes education, training, and other services to....accelerate	Program level Individual level	IBEST approved program HS 21+ customized student education plan for dual credit

Documenting an eligible pathway



C. Student is academically ready

~~Proof of appropriate score on an ATB approved test~~

Or

Successful completion of 6 or more college level credits in their program of study (not developmental education credits)

Students can earn dual credit for HS 21+ and their Degree or Certificate requirements.



Examples of HS21+ Crosswalk Plans

- Certificate- Early Childhood Ed
- Certificate- Criminal Justice
- ASS- Business- Non Transfer

Remember our strategy and goals:



Thank you for your time and attention!

Questions? Thoughts?

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Documenting and eligible pathway

Available guidance

- US Department of Education/Federal Student Aid: Dear Colleague Letters
 - [GEN-15-09 - May 22, 2015](#)
 - [GEN-15-09 update - October 22, 2015](#)
 - [GEN-16-09 - May 9, 2016](#)
- SBCTC Guidance
 - Letter - December 7, 2015
 - Letter on Academic IBEST - July 19, 2016
- US Department of Education
 - [Slides from ATB Webinar, October 27, 2016](#)