



TO: School District Title I Program Directors

FROM: Bob Harmon (OSPI) and Rachelle Sharpe (HECB)

SUBJECT: College Bound Scholarship

DATE: December 2009

Now in its third year, the College Bound Scholarship, which offers the promise of free college tuition to eligible students, has enrolled more than 45,000 students. To receive the scholarship, students promise to graduate, seek admission to an eligible institution, and meet the income standard at college enrollment.

Eligible students include all foster youth and students who qualify for free- and reduced-price lunch. Students may sign up in their 7th or 8th grade year (they only need to sign up once); the deadline is June 30 of the student's 8th grade year.

Because of your connection to principals, counselors, and other school-level staff, you are an important partner in spreading the word about the program.

Here are few suggestions that you might pass on to your colleagues:

- Include a College Bound brochure with the free- and reduced-price lunch information in students' packets.
- Post a short note about the College Bound Scholarship on the nutrition page of the school's Web site with a link to the online application www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound.
- Share names of eligible students (using OSPI's *Disclosure of Free and Reduced-Price Information Agreement*) with selected school personnel who can help sign-up students. <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/paying/waaidprgm/documents/FreeReducedCnfidentialityStmntOther.pdf>.
- Target eligible students by inviting them to sign-up events or ask the principal or superintendent to send a letter encouraging them to sign up.

Students and their families tell us they feel positive and hopeful about the future because of the College Bound Scholarship. Help us continue to share this wonderful opportunity with this year's eligible students.