

FOUNDATION FOR TACOMA STUDENTS


INVESTING IN STUDENT NAVIGATIONAL SUPPORT

Senate Bill 5164 and House Bill 1136




THE PROBLEM

To secure well-paying, stable jobs, young adults must gain postsecondary education or training.



Large majorities of students want some sort of college credential.



But only 52% of all Washington high school graduates from the class of 2022 enrolled in college.

A ten percentage point decline from 2013.



WHAT EXPLAINS THIS?

The reasons are varied, and we need a multi-pronged approach:

Cost and questions about return on investment of higher education



A missing sense of belonging in higher education



Uncertainty around career pathways





STUDENT NAVIGATIONAL SUPPORT

Students benefit from comprehensive support, and there is no replacement for skilled and trusted adults who can help students transition from...



Highschool



To Postsecondary
Education



To Work

The bottom line: Boots on the Ground

A POLICY OPPORTUNITY

Senate Bill 5164 and House Bill 1136

Counseling, advising, and coaching that help students with the college financial aid, application and enrollment processes, and that provide hands-on assistance, are proven approaches to increasing rates of postsecondary enrollment.



EXPAND & ENHANCE STUDENT OUTREACH POSITIONS:

- Embed outreach and enrollment specialists
- Leverage existing infrastructure
- System alignment
- Holistic impact



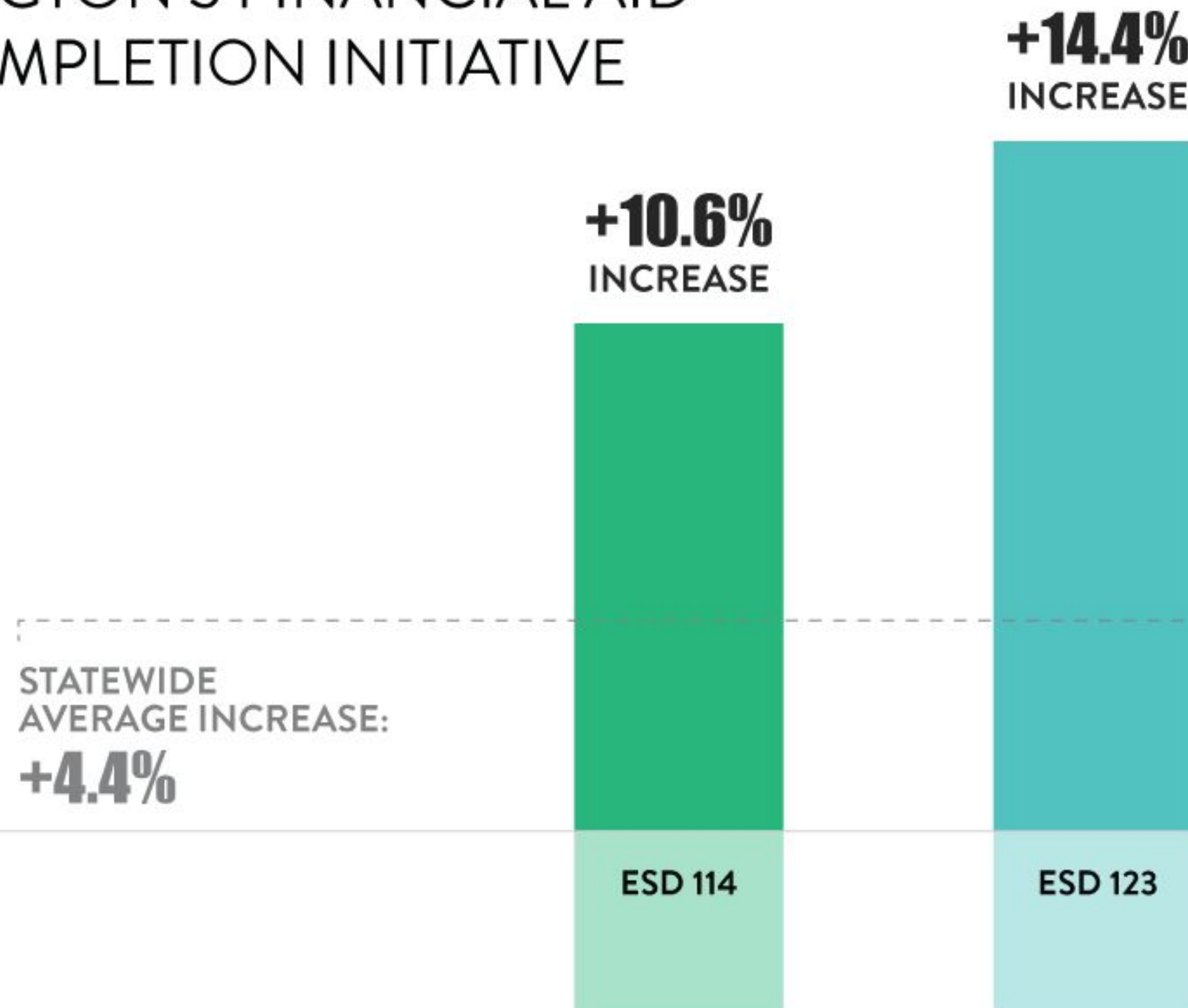
IMPROVE FAFSA/WASFA SUPPORT:

- Develop a training program
- Elevate knowledge and support
- Leverage resources
- Incentivize participation

Invest in Student Success:

EXPAND WASHINGTON'S FINANCIAL AID OUTREACH & COMPLETION INITIATIVE

Since launching in two pilot regions¹, the Initiative has significantly boosted FAFSA completion rates:



WHY IT MATTERS:

National data shows a strong link between FAFSA completion and college enrollment. Here's what a statewide expansion could achieve for the high school class of 2026:

3,256

more students completing the FAFSA*

2,979

more students enrolling in college*

**as of December 2024*

THE ECONOMIC RIPPLE EFFECT OF EXPANSION:

\$13.6M

in new federal Pell Grants for Washington students²

37%

of what we need to achieve by 2026 to be on track to our statewide 2030 goal³

¹ Pilot regions are educational services districts 114 and 123, and completion rates compare the classes of 2022 and 2023

² Based on the most recent average Pell Grant award of \$4,572 for Washington students, as reported by the National College Access Network (NCAN)

³ Based on annual progress towards Washington's goal of 70% of adults aged 25-44 earning a postsecondary credential