

2020 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Agenda

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DEEL	8	B	1

Budget Action Title: Request that DEEL assess the feasibility of implementing the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship program in Seattle and report on progress

Ongoing: No Has Attachment: No

Primary Sponsor: Abel Pacheco

Council Members: Lisa Herbold, Bruce Harrell, Kshama Sawant, Mike O'Brien

Staff Analyst: Brian Goodnight

Date		Total	LH	BH	KS	AP	DJ	MO	SB	TM	LG
	Yes	0									
	No	0									
	Abstain	0									
	Absent	0									

Statement of Legislative Intent:

The Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) provides scholarships to low- and middle-income students pursuing degrees, certificates, or apprenticeships in high-demand trade, health care, or Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) fields. WSOS partners with industry and philanthropic donors whose contributions are matched by the State of Washington to raise funds to support two different pathways: (1) a Baccalaureate Scholarship for those pursuing a bachelor's degree in a STEM or health care field; and (2) a Career and Technical Scholarship for those pursuing a degree or certificate in a high-demand trade, health care or STEM field.

In the 2019 legislative session, the State Legislature modified the WSOS program to allow municipalities to contribute funding to the program, which along with State matching funds are awarded to program participants from that municipality. Seattle has an opportunity to be the first municipality to partner with WSOS and to design a program that matches the workforce needs of the city. Collaboration with WSOS would also further the City's commitment to post-secondary education and training, complementing the Seattle Promise investments included in the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy.

The Council requests that the Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) coordinate with WSOS and industry partners to assess the feasibility of implementing the municipal match scholarship program in Seattle. Throughout the process, where possible, the Executive should work with WSOS to compile relevant information that could be provided to other municipalities that want to create similar programs.

The Council further requests that DEEL provide a report to the Council by March 31, 2020 summarizing the status of the work with WSOS in assessing the feasibility of a scholarship program that complements the City's Seattle Promise program. The report should, at a minimum, include the following information:

- a) Partners participating in the process;
- b) Recommended focus for the scholarships to be offered (i.e., industries to be targeted, baccalaureate degrees or career and technical education certificates, etc.);

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- c) Recommended eligibility criteria and strategies for promoting the opportunity; and
- d) Recommended funding levels, including funding source and estimated number of students to be served.

Responsible Council Committee(s):

Gender Equity, Safe Communities, New Americans & Education

Date Due to Council:

March 31, 2020