



## **WAVE Update: 2025 Scholarship Cycle Off to Strong Start**

The 2025 [Washington Award for Vocational Excellence \(WAVE\)](#) scholarship cycle is off to a strong start, powered by a new application portal and additional outreach tools. As of March 14, nearly 1,900 people had created a profile in the portal to learn more about this merit scholarship that celebrates the state's top career and technical education (CTE) students. Of these, 373 had submitted their applications ahead of the March 17 deadline.

The new portal includes screening tools and enhanced software that allow agency staff administering the scholarship to more accurately identify qualified applicants at various stages of completion. These tools give the agency the ability to identify challenges and send custom messages and reminders to students, teachers, references and volunteers as needed. The portal also provides a more streamlined application process, allowing applicants to submit documents, receive certification of eligibility from their CTE instructors, collect letters of recommendation from personal references, upload transcripts and complete three essays.

Workforce Board staff have been engaged in outreach and have been available for applicant questions and technical assistance. Staff are also recruiting volunteers from business, labor and the community to review this year's applications. **Please contact Colleen Seto at [wave.award@wtb.wa.gov](mailto:wave.award@wtb.wa.gov) to volunteer.**

This year's WAVE cohort will receive a minimum of about \$3,900 per year, for two years, or \$7,800 total. Past awards have been as high as \$11,700 per year, for two years. See historical funding information [here](#).

Many thanks to the WA-ACTE community for ongoing support for this outstanding opportunity. To learn more about the WAVE Scholarship please visit our [website](#).

## **U.S. Department of Education Information Collection Request Rescinded**

In early September, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) formally published a notice on the Federal Register proposing significant changes to the existing [Perkins V State Plan Guide](#) and related requirements for data and informational reporting under the [Consolidated Annual Report](#) (CAR). The proposed changes, as outlined in the Information Collection Request (ICR), ranged from minor technical adjustments to substantial modifications that would have had significant impacts on Washington's CTE programs.

In coordination with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), the Workforce Board submitted a response outlining its concerns with the proposed changes and submitted feedback to the U.S. Department of Education during the public comment period.

Although the Department made some changes during the comment process, the data requirements remained in the final documents published in mid-January.

On February 10, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) [announced plans](#) to rescind the updated State Plan and CAR Guides Information Collection Requests (ICRs). This action allows states to continue utilizing their current procedures and data systems rather than implementing previously proposed mandated changes. This recent announcement will initiate the formal process of rescinding these ICRs, which will be communicated through formal channels, including the Federal Register.

## **NEW Workforce System Matrix Posters Available!**

The Workforce Board's popular workforce system poster (also known as America's favorite matrix) is freshly updated and ready for 2025. Make sure to order copies of this handy overview of Washington's largest, publicly funded workforce development programs, including participant employment rates and earnings, federal and state funding totals, and a list of administering agencies and providers. The poster is free and perfect for cubicle and office walls. Email us at [workforce@wtb.wa.gov](mailto:workforce@wtb.wa.gov) to request your own copies. View the poster, including [a digital PDF](#), today.