

SB 81

"Free community college has completely changed the conversation for students, families, and employers in our state"

-Mike Krause, Executive Director of the Tennessee Promise

Overview

Requires tuition for qualifying courses offered at community colleges to be waived if prospective student meets specific criteria. The majority of the cost is covered by the federal Pell grant via *last-dollar-in* method.

Tuition Criteria

1. Offered at a community college within the state.
2. Courses are applicable to: Oregon Transfer Module, Associates Arts of Oregon Transfer degree, Career and Technical Education program.

Student Qualifications

1. Student must be a resident of the state.
2. Must have graduated from an Oregon high school within two years from beginning date of waiver.
3. Has not previously earned more than 90 quarter hours at a post-secondary institutions.
4. Student filed FAFSA and utilized all state/federal grants available to them.
5. Last-dollar in method: Amount of tuition waived shall be the amount owed after subtracting all applicable state and federal grants

Ongoing Requirements

1. Student must maintain an average GPA of 2.5 or better.
2. Completion of eight hours of community service per term OR pay a \$50 co-pay.
3. Student must meet with a career advisor/mentor periodically.

Career Components

1. OSAC/HECC will collaborate with Regional Achievement Collaborative(s) (RACs) to identify internship and career opportunities.

Concurrent Efforts

This concept is discussed in conjunction with phasing out 5th years programs, which drained \$19 million from the 2013-2015 K-12 budget. These programs serve only 26 school districts, however, Portland and other districts are considering 5th year programs.

Coincidentally, SB 81 is projected to cost \$20 per biennium. For approximately the same cost, we can provide mentoring and higher education benefits to all Oregon high school graduate without bankrupting k-12.