



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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September 29, 2023

TO: Ana Mari Cauce, President, University of Washington
Kirk Schulz, President, Washington State University
Shari McMahan, President, Eastern Washington University
Jim Wohlpart, President, Central Washington University
John Carmichael, President, The Evergreen State College
Sabah Randhawa, President, Western Washington University
Paul Francis, Executive Director, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

FROM: David Schumacher
Director [Handwritten Signature]

SUBJECT: COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY PLAN TUITION GROWTH RATE FOR 2024-25 ACADEMIC YEAR

RCW 28B.15.067(2) directs the Office of Financial Management to calculate the maximum increase in tuition operating fees for resident undergraduates at public institutions of higher education. These fees may increase by no more than the average annual percentage growth rate in the median hourly wage for Washington as the wage is determined by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) based on the previous 14 years.

Pursuant to Chapter 9, Laws of 2023 (Senate Bill 5079), OFM must provide the average annual percentage growth rate by October 1 of each year for the following academic year. Based on the May 2022 data released by BLS, the percentage growth rate for the median hourly wage for Washington for the previous 14 years is 3.0 percent. Therefore, the tuition operating fee for the public community and technical colleges and public four-year institutions may increase by no more than 3.0 percent in the 2024-25 academic year.

Table with 3 columns: Year, Median Hourly Wage, Annual Growth. Rows include years from 2008 to 2022 and a summary row for Average Annual Growth at 3.0%.

cc: Higher Education Agency Budget Officers
Ruben Flores, Executive Director, Council of Presidents
Susan Howson, Staff Coordinator, Senate Ways and Means Committee
Dave Johnson, Staff Coordinator, House Appropriations Committee
Michele Alishahi, Fiscal Analyst, Senate Ways and Means Committee
Kate Henry, Fiscal Analyst, House Appropriations Committee
Nona Snell, Budget Director, OFM
Shea Hamilton, Senior Budget Advisor, OFM
Ramona Nabors, Budget Advisor, OFM