

# Pierce County Financial Aid Cohort

year-to-date

## Why

**70%** Jobs in WA that will require postsecondary education or training by 2020

**Top College Concern: Paying for it**

**Federal student grant aid that went unclaimed last year: About \$2.7 million**

**Stronger Together: local student feedback indicates students want a continuum of aligned & accessible college and career readiness supports and resources**

## Who

**Over 50 educators & staff**

...from...

**22 schools and community-based organizations**

...serving youth and young adults in communities connected to...

**7 Pierce County school districts**

## What

During the 2017-18 school year, teams from Pierce County school districts, colleges and community organizations convene to share, learn and advance strategies for increasing financial aid completion and T-2-4 (college)-going culture and support partners from throughout Pierce County working to increase access to postsecondary for **all** students.

## Resources

**shared with over 50 educators and community-based organizations:**

**Financial Aid Toolkit**  
An online resource that was designed for schools, district staff and community organizations to access common regional financial aid resources to support students and families with the financial aid application process.

**College Knowledge Materials**  
23 digital handouts covering the most requested college readiness topics. Students provided continuous feedback that led to the final materials, which are available in English and five additional languages.

Access the resources at <http://psccn.org>

## Training

**Since August 2017, the cohort has covered topics including:**

**Financial Aid 101:** things every practitioner needs to know about supporting students and families through the financial aid process.

**Financial Aid Data & Strategies that Work for All Students:** effective promising practices from one district that has seen significant gains in financial aid completion.

**Parent Engagement in Financial Aid:** local parents share strategies for incorporating meaningful parent engagement into postsecondary transition supports.

**Perspectives on Financial Aid from College Partners:** obstacles college financial aid officers address around financial aid and their insights on supporting students through the entire process.

## Impact Snapshot

"Thank you so much for all of your help through the workshops I have attended, the amazing staff training you provided and all the resources that you have shared. We had our Financial Aid Night tonight and over 90 students attended along with their parents. Never in our history have we had such a turn out. . . . As a staff we are better prepared to assist students. . . ."