

# SENATE BILL 1537 (2016): Post-Graduate Scholar Program



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## BACKGROUND

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In 2016, the Oregon State Legislature passed the Post-Graduate Scholar program ([SB 1537](#)). This Post-Graduate Scholar program establishes criteria for school districts to utilize State School Funds to develop programs which provide additional financial support and academic services for post-graduate students to obtain community college credit and complete a successful transition into postsecondary education. Students who have satisfied the requirements for a high school diploma but are not eligible for the Oregon Promise due to the 2.5 GPA requirement and are ineligible to apply for a federal Pell Grant or for whom the grant does not cover their college tuition, are qualified to receive services provided by the Post-Graduate Scholar program.

According to SB 1537, the Oregon Department of Education and Higher Education Coordinating Commission are required to report on the status and future needs of the Post-Graduate Scholar program. Specifically, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission must:

- 1) *Make a report to the interim legislative committees on education that includes:*
  - a. *costs incurred by community colleges*
  - b. *amounts received by community colleges for post-graduate scholars who participated in a program established under section 2 of this 2016 Act*

## FUNDING ACCOUNTABILITY

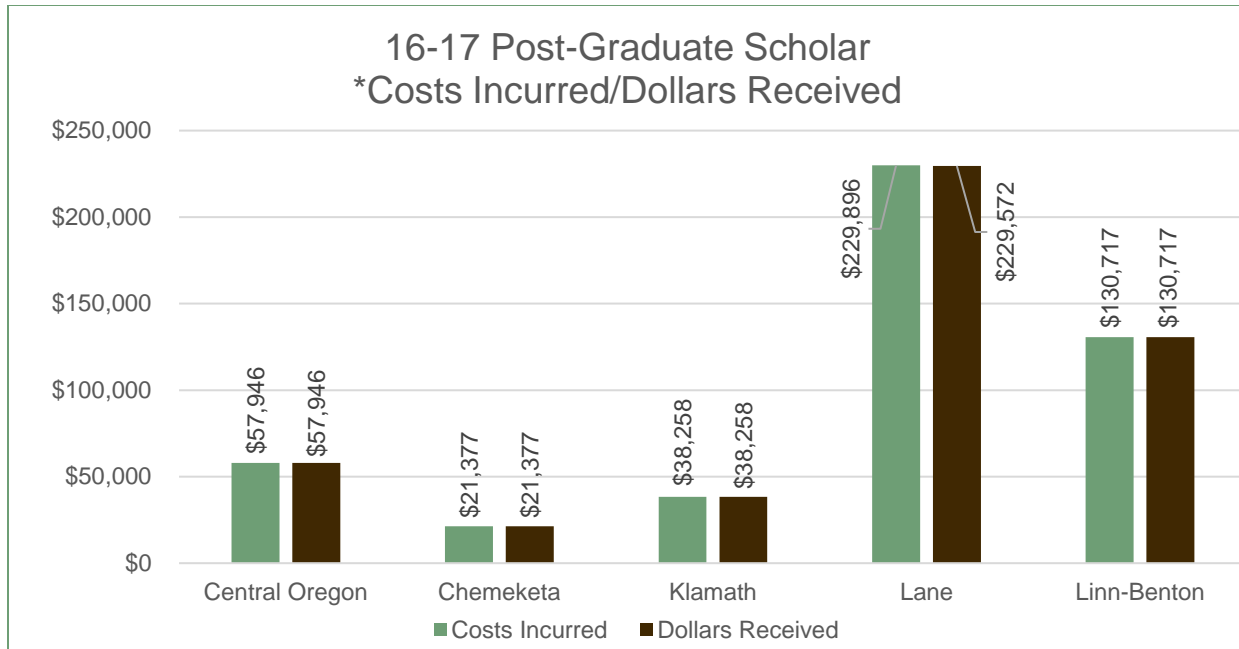
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During the 2016-2017 school year, 124 students participated in their high school's Post-Graduate Scholars program. Based on preliminary data for the 2017-2018 school year, there were 71 full year participants in the program. Post-Graduate Scholars were served by five community colleges in 2016-17, and by four community colleges in 2017-18.

The costs incurred and dollars received by community colleges for Post-Graduate Scholars are provided in the two charts below. The five community colleges represented in the chart for 2016-17 include Central Oregon Community College, Chemeketa Community College, Klamath Community College, Lane Community College, and Linn-Benton Community College. The four community colleges represented in the chart for 2017-18 include Central Oregon Community College, Chemeketa Community College, Klamath Community College, and Linn-Benton Community College. The green bars denote total costs incurred for Post-Graduate Scholars by each institution, and the brown bars denote the dollars received by each institution from school districts for these students. Costs incurred and dollars received are largely equal. In 2016-17, the total costs to community colleges for Post-Graduate Scholars was \$478,284, and total dollars received from school districts was nearly equal at \$477,960. In 2017-18, fewer Post-Graduate Scholars were served and total costs dropped to \$233,783, with dollars received falling to \$232,980. <sup>1</sup>School districts reimburse community colleges for the costs incurred by Post-Graduate Scholars from the dollars they receive from the State School Fund under ORS 327.013.

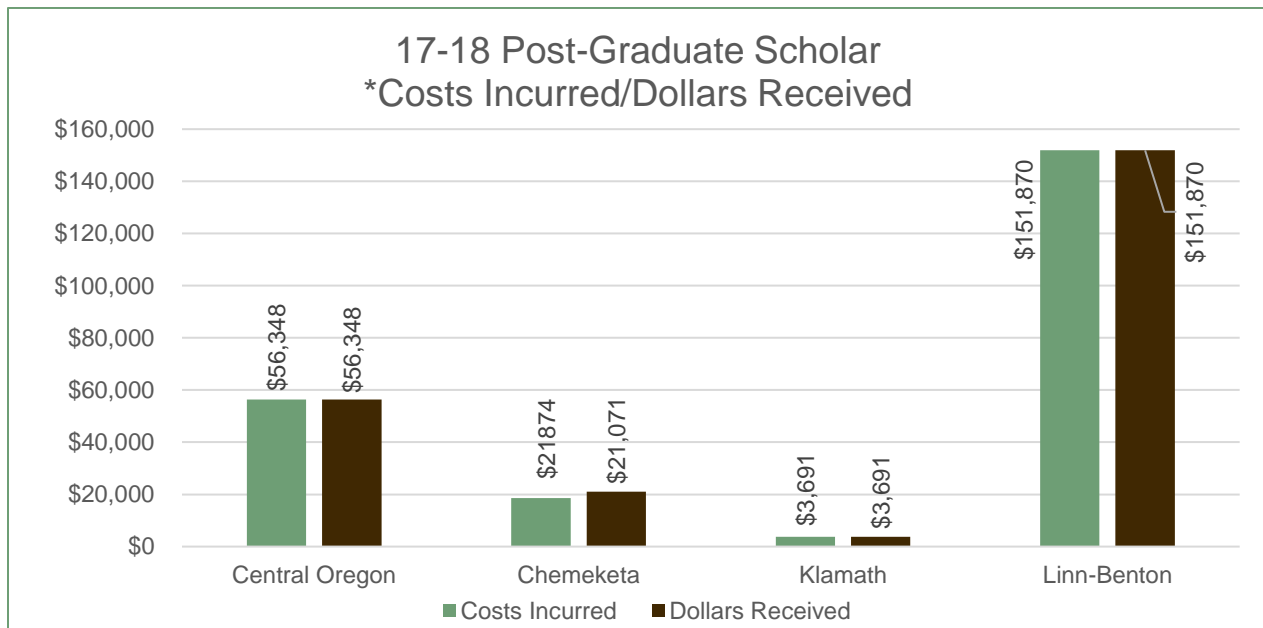
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<sup>1</sup> Weighted average daily membership for each post-graduate scholar is adjusted as outlined in SB 1537



Source: Community College Business Officers

\*Costs incurred defined as tuition, fees, and books. One institution reported that books were provided by the school districts, thus no textbook costs or reimbursements were included for this institution.



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