




STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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May 23, 2018

TO: George Bridges, President, The Evergreen State College
Ana Mari Cauce, President, University of Washington
Mary Cullinan, President, Eastern Washington University
James Gaudino, President, Central Washington University
Sabah Randhawa, President, Western Washington University
Kirk Schulz, President, Washington State University
Jan Yoshiwara, Executive Director, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

FROM: David Schumacher 
Director

SUBJECT: COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY PLAN TUITION GROWTH RATE

Pursuant to RCW 28B.15.067 (3)(b) and (6)(c), beginning with the 2017-18 academic year, full-time tuition operating fees for resident undergraduates may increase by no more than the average annual percentage growth rate in the median hourly wage for Washington for the previous 14 years, as determined by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (Federal Bureau).

Each year, the Federal Bureau releases the most recent median hourly wage data by state. Based on recently released data, the percentage growth rate in the median hourly wage for Washington for the previous 14 years was calculated at 2.2 percent. Under current law, tuition operating fees for public community and technical colleges and public four-year institutions may increase by no more than 2.2 percent in the 2018-19 academic year.

Median Hourly Wage – Average Annual Growth		
Year	Median Hourly Wage	Annual Growth
2017	\$21.36	2.3%
2016	\$20.87	2.9%
2015	\$20.28	2.6%
2014	\$19.76	0.5%
2013	\$19.67	1.0%
2012	\$19.47	0.9%
2011	\$19.30	2.9%
2010	\$18.76	2.1%
2009	\$18.37	2.5%
2008	\$17.92	3.0%
2007	\$17.39	3.5%
2006	\$16.81	3.1%
2005	\$16.30	2.4%
2004	\$15.92	1.7%
2003	\$15.66	N/A
Average Annual Growth		2.2%



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cc: Michael Bezanson, Staff Coordinator, Senate Ways and Means Committee
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