

State Need Grant Repayment: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why do I owe money to the State for this grant? I thought a financial aid grant was “free” money.

A: The Washington State Need Grant (SNG) is meant to provide assistance toward meeting your educational expenses. However, this grant is conditioned upon your satisfactory academic progress (SAP) as determined by your school. If you fail to meet SAP or withdraw from classes before the end of the term, repayment of all or part of the grant may be required.

Q: Can I appeal this?

A: Following SNG policies, your school determined that you must repay a portion of your grant. WSAC does not determine SNG repayments and we do not have the authority to cancel these debts unless you are totally and permanently disabled. If you feel you should not have to repay these funds, or have questions about how your repayment was determined, please contact the financial aid office at your school.

Q: How much do I owe and how do I pay?

A: For information regarding your repayment account, contact the Washington Student Achievement Council at **1-888-535-0747, Option 4** or **repayment@wsac.wa.gov**.

Q: Does interest accrue on this debt?

A: No, interest does not accrue on your account.

Q: Have there been any fees added to this debt?

A: If your account has been placed with a collection agency, then your account will have the collection agency fee added to it.

Q: I am not able to pay the full balance owed, can I set up payment arrangements?

A: Yes, however, you still must pay your account in full before the financial aid hold can be released. Payment arrangements are a great way to work towards a paid in full status. **Please contact us at 1-888-535-0747 Option #4 or repayment@wsac.wa.gov.**

While there are no penalties for paying off your account early, fees may have been added to your account if it was sent to collections.

Q: How can I release the hold from my financial aid and/or transcripts?

A: Your SNG repayment account must be **paid in full** before the hold can be released. Once you have paid your account in full, you and the school to which you owed the repayment will receive a letter in the mail, and the electronic hold will be removed from your record. This takes about one week.

Q: This repayment was taken out of my tax return, why?

A: The state of Washington does not have the ability to garnish any funds out of your federal tax return; only the **federal** US Dept. of Education can do that. Many State Need Grant recipients also receive a federal PELL

grant, and upon early withdrawal end up owing both state and federal repayments. The money taken out of your tax return was for a federal debt, not a debt owed to the State of Washington.

Q: **The school told me that, due to a medical withdrawal, I didn't have to pay any money back.**

A: Your school must follow the State Need Grant policy and require you to pay back any unused portion of your State Need Grant, no matter the reason for your early withdrawal. Under some circumstances, schools can lower or cancel repayments that are owed **to the school** such as tuition waivers and scholarships, and may have some flexibility with some federal repayments.

Q: **What will happen if I don't pay it?**

A: A permanent hold will remain on your financial aid should you return to school and your account will be sent to a collection agency.