

ESSB 5187 PILOT PROGRAM REPORT

FEBRUARY 2024



RENTON
TECHNICAL
COLLEGE®

Overview of ESSB 5187, Section 605 (46)(a)

Renton Technical College received an appropriation via ESSB 5187, Section 605 (46)(a) during the Washington State 2023 regular legislative session, which provided for:

(46) \$243,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024, \$180,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025, and \$400,000 of the workforce education investment account—state appropriation are provided solely for Renton Technical College. Of the amounts provided in this subsection:

(a) \$400,000 of the workforce education investment account—state appropriation is for the college to award full tuition and fees to students who attend the college and graduated high school in the school district where the main campus is located. Eligible students must complete a free application for federal student aid or the Washington application for state financial aid.

The purpose of the appropriation is for Renton Technical College (RTC) to award full tuition and fees beginning with the class of 2023 Renton School District high school graduates.

Renton Promise

- A pilot program funded for the 2023-2025 biennium
- Provides for tuition and fees for Renton School District graduates attending Renton Technical College
- Designed to be low-barrier
 - Students may enroll in the fall, winter, or spring quarters following their high school graduation
 - There is no minimum GPA or income requirement
 - Students may attend up to two years until they earn a certificate or a degree – whichever occurs first
- To be eligible, students must have a completed FAFSA/WASFA college application and graduated from an RSD high school in 2023 or 2024

Student Enrollment

- To date, 55 students and \$126,608 have been awarded tuition and fees from this appropriation:
 - 30 awarded full tuition and fees
 - 25 awarded partial tuition and fees
- Enrollment from RSD graduates in fall quarter alone exceeded RSD enrollment during the entire 2022-2023 academic year at RTC
- 82% of Renton Promise students are students of color
- 55% of Renton Promise students are enrolled in professional/technical programs, while 45% are enrolled in MRP-DTA's/academic courses