



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

August 17, 2023

Mr. Will Durden  
Director – Basic Education for Adults  
Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges  
1300 Quince Street, SE  
Olympia, WA 98501  
[wdurden@sbctc.edu](mailto:wdurden@sbctc.edu)

Dear Mr. Durden:

This letter responds to your application to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) regarding the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) for approval of an ability-to-benefit (ATB) State process to allow students without high school diplomas to receive Federal student financial aid under the programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act, as amended, while enrolled in an eligible career pathway program.

The Department has reviewed your application and determined that it is materially complete, and your application is approved. Your State Process will be approved until August 17, 2028.

Participating institutions must now indicate in the Department's Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) that a student has qualified for ATB under the "State Process" by submitting a Student Eligibility Code (SEC) value of "03-State Process" and then entering the required approved state in the Ability to Benefit State Code field. Please see the following guidance for more information: <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-03-17/cod-system-implementation-2023-24-award-year>.

We thank you for your interest in participating in the State process. If you have questions regarding COD System processing for ATB students, please contact Marie Fitzpatrick at

400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20202  
[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

*The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global Competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.*

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[marie.fitzpatrick@ed.gov](mailto:marie.fitzpatrick@ed.gov) or (312) 730-1549. For all other questions, please contact Aaron Washington at [aaron.washington@ed.gov](mailto:aaron.washington@ed.gov) or (202) 987-0911.

Sincerely,

Annmarie Weisman  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Policy, Planning, and Innovation