



Oregon Opportunity Grant and Oregon Promise

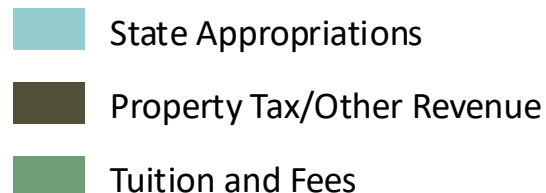
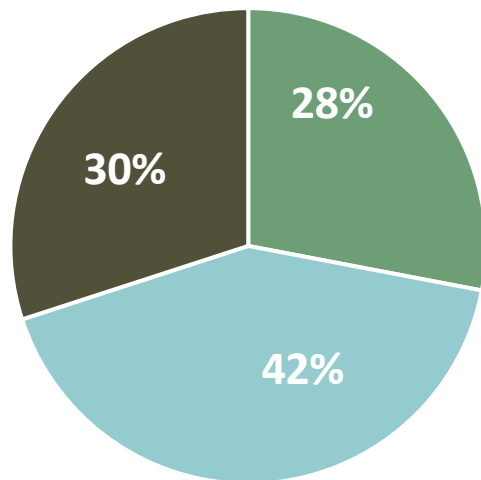
Ben Cannon, Executive Director

House Higher Education and Workforce
Development Committee

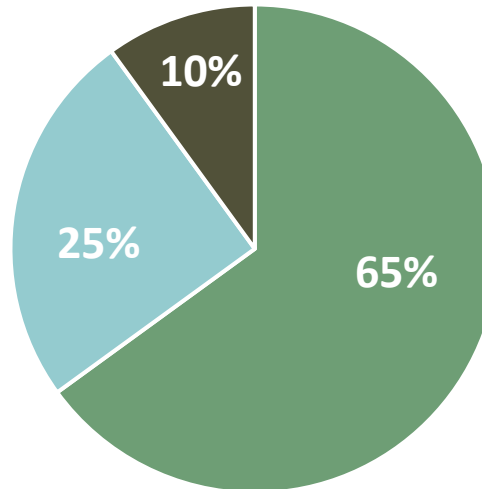
February 4, 2025

Students Bear a Sizable Proportion of the Costs of Their Education

Community Colleges

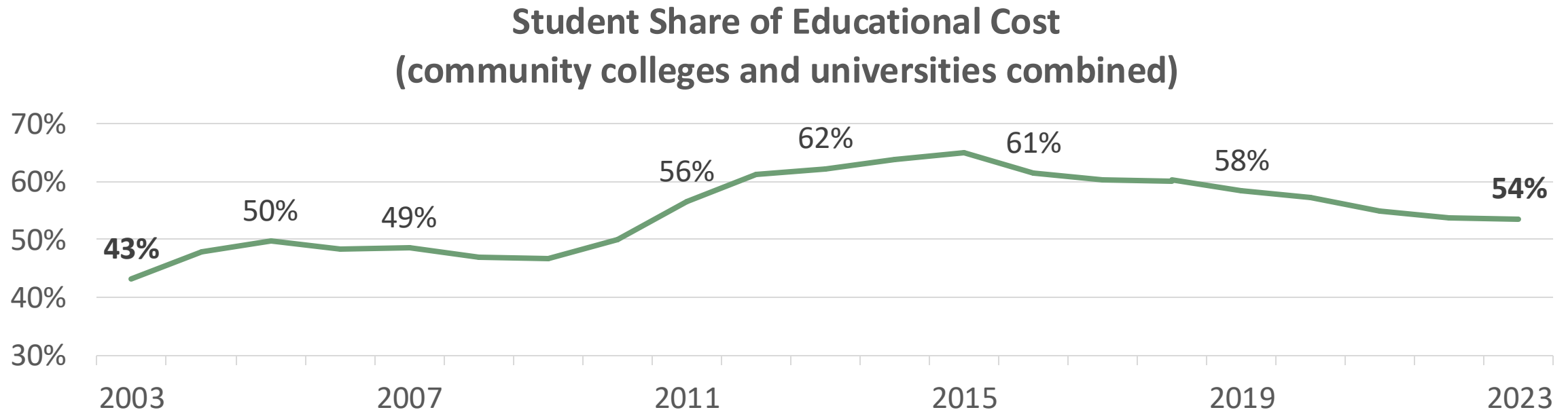


Public Universities



In the 1960s, the state provided 75% of the revenue for public universities. This dropped to about 60% by the 1990s, and 40% by the early 2000s.

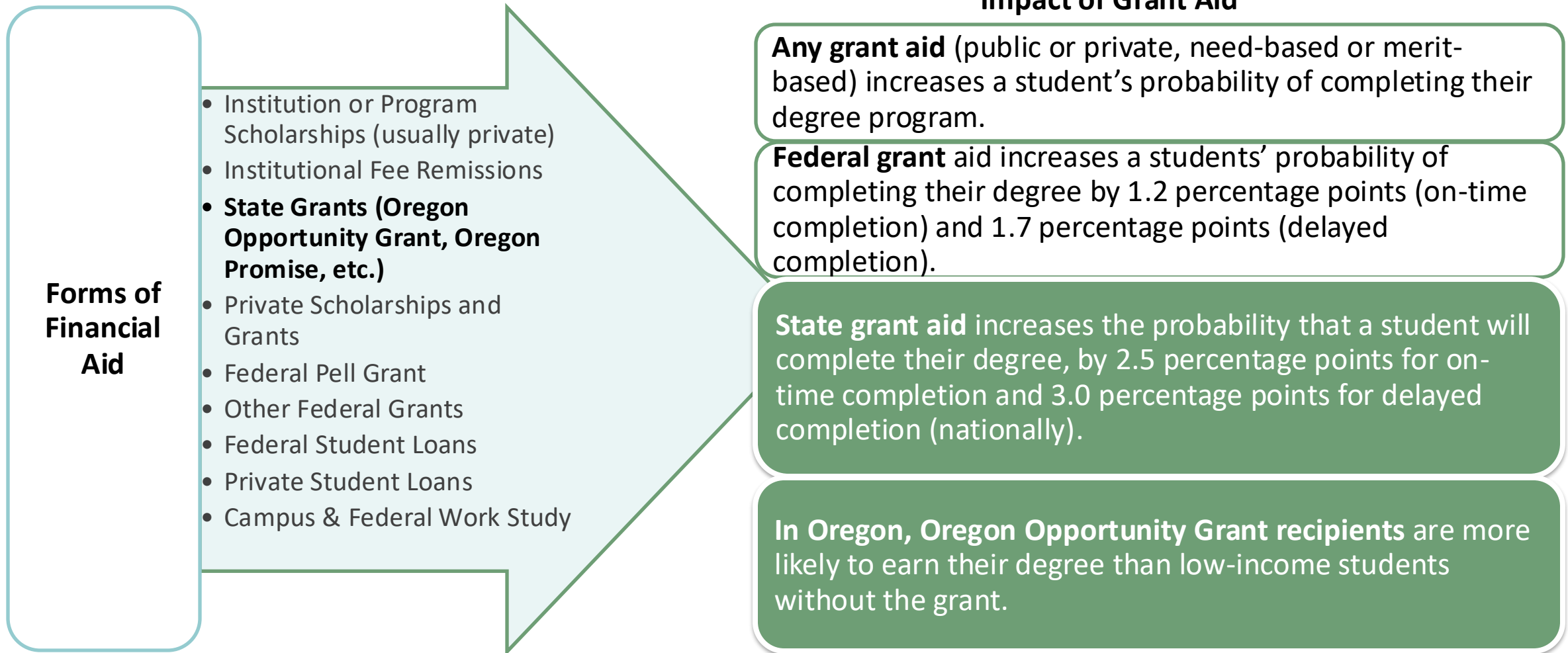
And, Students' Share of College Costs Has Increased



Students are paying for a larger proportion of their educational costs than 20 years ago.

Grant Aid—Especially State Aid—Is Proven to Support Completion

Of the Many Forms of Financial Aid, State Grant Aid is Where The State Has Influence



Sources: Reference: Nguyen, T. D., Kramer, J. W., & Evans, B. J. (2019). The Effects of Grant Aid on Student Persistence and Degree Attainment: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of the Causal Evidence. *Review of Educational Research*, 89(6), 831-874. (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.3102/0034654319877156>). HECC-R&D, January 2022, "Annual Evaluation of the Oregon Opportunity Grant: House Bill 2407 (2015)" <https://www.oregon.gov/highered/research/Documents/Reports/2022-HB2407-Oregon-Opportunity-Grant-Report.pdf>

Need-Based Aid: The Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG)

Oregon's *Only* State-funded, Need-sensitive Grant Program

GOAL

To increase college enrollment, completion, and affordability for **Oregon students who have demonstrated financial need.**



For 2024-25, almost 61,000 Oregon residents have been awarded the OOG and more than 39,000 Oregon residents are estimated to be disbursed OOG funds.

OOG awards can be used at the 24 Oregon public institutions and eligible private institutions for up to 4 years of full-time enrollment.

More than 74% of OOG awardees demonstrate the highest financial need based on their SAI and have been awarded the max OOG award.

2024-45 Awarding (full-time)

- \$3,900 per year (*community college*)
- \$5,904 per year (*community college BAS program*)
- \$7,524 per year (*public university/private nonprofit 4-year institution*)

More info: www.oregonstudentaid.gov/grants/oregon-opportunity-grant

Oregon Opportunity Grant Awarding: 2024-25

The number of students authorized for 2024-25 awards is virtually identical to 2023-24. This shows the strong FAFSA/ORSAA completion efforts of Oregon's lowest income families.

Headcount per Award Tier	SAI Range	% of Authorized Students
44,583	-1500 to 0	74.1%
1,666	1 to 1,000	2.8%
1,937	1,001 to 2,000	3.2%
2,399	2,001 to 3,000	4%
2,282	3,001 to 4,000	3.8%
2,097	4,001 to 5,000	3.5%
1,942	5,001 to 6,000	3.2%
3,297	6,001 to 8,000	5.5%

Almost 61,000 students authorized and notified of their award for the Fall Term.

More than 74% of students currently authorized for OOG exhibit the highest level of financial need.

Source: HECC Office of Student Access and Completion % authorized based on December 2024 OOG data.

Who is served by the Oregon Opportunity Grant?

Compared to students from higher income backgrounds and students overall, students with an OOG award are more likely to be from communities that have been underserved in higher education.

- OOG students are more often:
 - Students of color
 - Students from rural areas
 - Older students
 - Women

OOG recipients in 2021-22 looked similar to previous years of OOG recipients and previous years of Pell recipients.

- Under the expanded eligibility, the OOG program continued to serve students facing some of the greatest headwinds to pursuing college/university

Growth of the Oregon Opportunity Grant

The data below shows the number of OOG recipients for Fall 2023 and Fall 2024. The comparison shows increased growth and utilization of OOG recipients year over year. More students are attending college and more at attending full time.

	Fall 2023 Full Time Enrolled Recipients	Fall 2023 Half Time Enrolled Recipients	Fall 2024 Full Time Enrolled Recipients	Fall 2024 Half Time Enrolled Recipients	Fall 2023 Total Amount Disbursed	Fall 2024 Total Amount Disbursed
Community Colleges Total	11,630	6,586	12,425	7,195	\$17,461,857	\$18,572,730
4-year Public Universities Total	14,183	1,549	15,086	1,675	\$32,719,216	\$34,694,428
4-year Private Universities Total	2,257	121	2,557	123	\$7,463,355	\$8,489,308
Total all sectors	28,070	8,256	30,068	8,993	\$57,644,428	\$61,756,466

Oregon Promise Grant (OPG)

Helps cover the average cost of tuition at Oregon's community colleges for recent high school and GED® test graduates.

Oregon Promise can be used up to 90 attempted college credits at any Oregon community college.

2024-25 award amounts for full-time enrollment:

- Maximum award: \$4,422
- Minimum award: \$2,124



GOAL:

To increase college enrollment, completion, and affordability for recent high school and GED® test graduates.

Oregon Promise Grant

What does the Oregon Promise Grant cover?

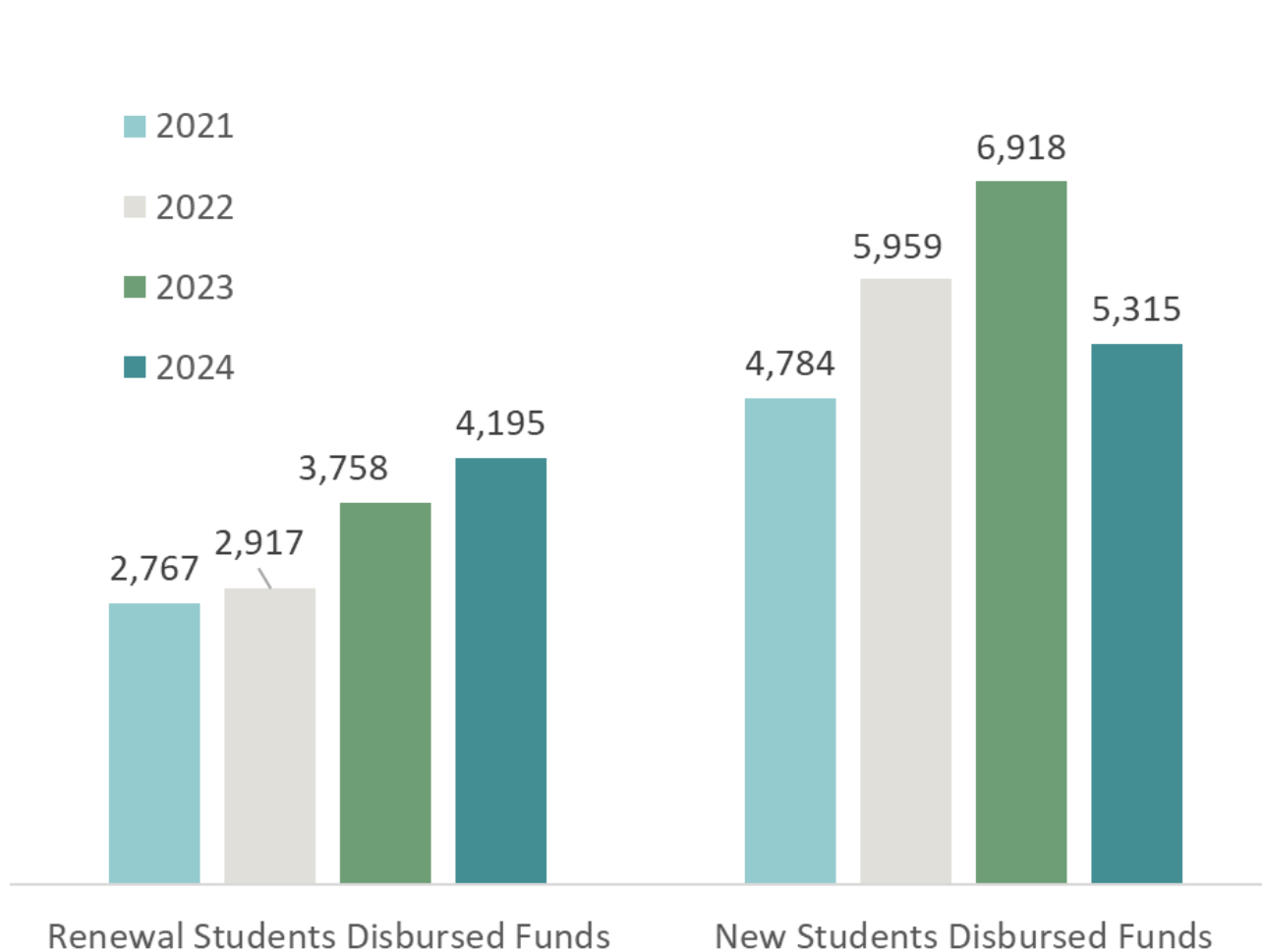
- The OPG is a "last dollar" grant. Award amounts are calculated after the Federal Pell Grant and OOG are applied to the average cost of tuition at an Oregon Community college.
- Award amounts for full-time enrollment for 2024-25 aid year range between \$2,124 and \$4,422.
- Oregon Promise covers up to 12 credits per term (fall, winter, spring) up to a maximum total of 90 college credits attempted.

Eligibility Criteria

- Be a recent high school graduate or GED® test graduate
- Complete the OPG application and the FAFSA or ORSAA
- Attend an Oregon Community College at least half-time within 6 months of graduation/GED test completion
- Be an Oregon resident
- Have a 2.0 cumulative high school GPA or 145 on all GED® tests

Oregon Promise Students

How many students are receiving the OPG each aid year?



§The application cycle is mid-September to June 1 for new Fall Cohort students.

§Renewal students do not have to re-submit the Oregon Promise Grant application. They only must submit their FAFSA or ORSAA each year by June 1 and continue to meet eligibility criteria.

- Due to a large number of applicants and renewal students, there is an SAI limit of 25,000 for Class of 2024.

- Almost 2,600 Class of 2024 students were not awarded because of the SAI limit.

Oregon Promise Grant EFC/SAI Limits

What is the history of EFC/SAI limits for the Oregon Promise Grant?

Authority to set a limit based on financial need was given during the 2017 session and utilized that year with a 18,000 EFC – then increased to 20,000 EFC to award more students.

A limit was not needed again until Class of 2020. Before the pandemic hit, the applicant pool was strong. Then the pandemic hit, along with a late budget cut in August 2020. The EFC limit was set at first to 34,000, and was later decreased to 22,000.

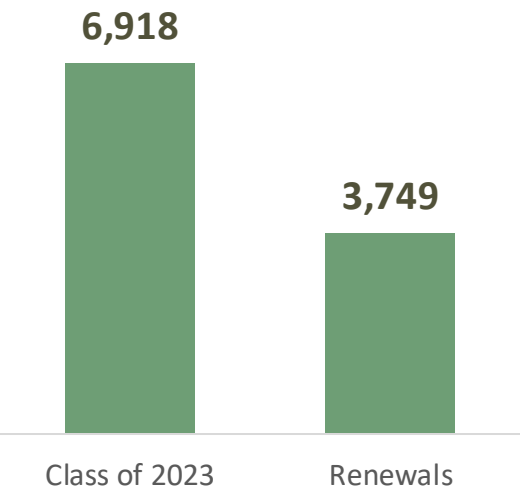
With strong disbursement numbers in 2023-24 and a large applicant pool, Class of 2024 started with an SAI limit of 22,000. The final limit was increased to 25,000 to allow more students to be authorized for an award.

EFC/SAI limits are always announced when awarding begins. For most years (even ones where a final EFC/SAI was not set), awarding starts with a **tentative limit** to allow for flexibility if projections are higher than available funds.

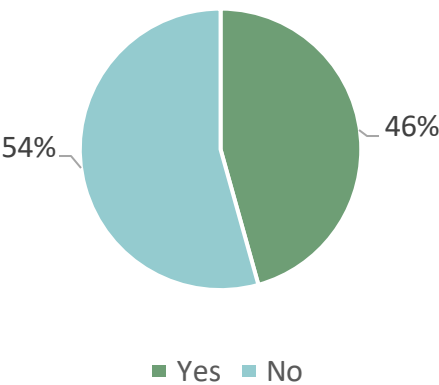
Based on projections, Oregon Promise would overspend by roughly \$6 million if the current SAI limit was not implemented for the Class of 2024. **Almost 2,600 Class of 2024 students were not awarded because of the SAI cap.**

Oregon Promise 2023-24 Disbursement Data

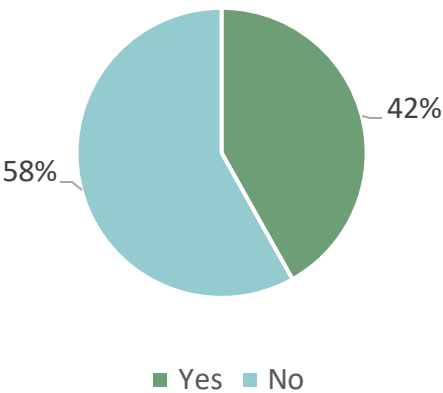
The breakdown of students is no different than any other cycle. For 2023-24, the swing back to pre-pandemic numbers for both the application process and attendance is what accounted for the larger expenditure rate.



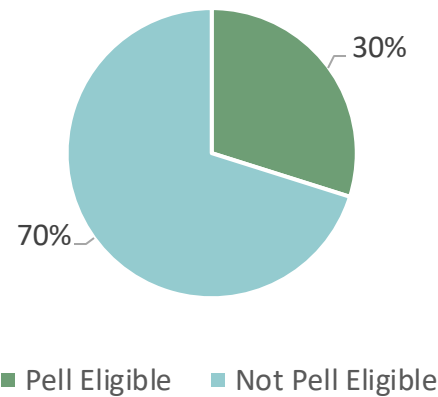
Pell Eligible Students



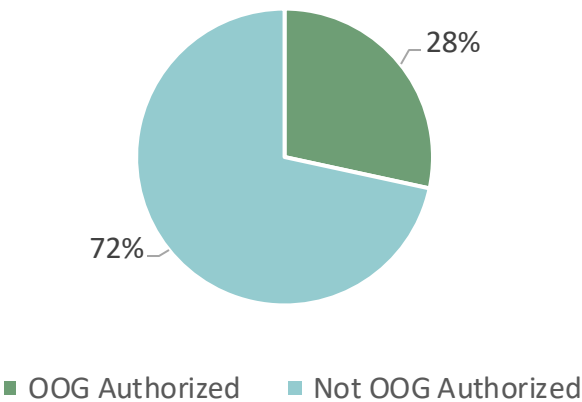
OOG Eligible Students



Pell Eligible Dollar Distribution



OOG Eligible Dollar Distribution



Source: HECC Office of Student Access and Completion.

Oregon Provides Less Student Grant Aid than Average, and Trails our Neighbors

FY 2023	U.S. Average	Oregon amount	Oregon rank
State Financial Aid per FTE	\$1,050	\$876	26th

Oregon’s investment is significantly lower than border states Washington and California and is lower than the national average.

The great majority, **90%**, of Oregon Opportunity Grant distributions go to students at public institutions.

Other States

Tennessee amount	New Mexico amount	Georgia amount	Washington amount	California amount
\$3,478	\$3,444	\$2,542	\$1,790	\$1,048