

May 2018

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We are writing to inform you of new benefits that may be available to you in the coming months. The Legislature recently enacted Senate Bill 6087, which provides GET customers with new options for their GET accounts. For most customers, these options may offer additional financial benefits, either in the form of additional units, or an incentive to transfer their funds to the new DreamAhead 529 college savings plan. **You may have to take action to receive the benefit of your choice.** The amount of additional benefit you may receive will depend on future choices you make about your GET account, your current account status, when you originally purchased your GET units, and the funded status of the GET program.

ACTION REQUIRED

1. Review the rest of this letter for a brief introduction to Senate Bill 6087.
2. Visit the following webpages for more details:
 - **Stay up-to-date on how Senate Bill 6087 will impact your GET account, and when you will need to make decisions:** www.get.wa.gov/sb6087
 - **Read the details of Senate Bill 6087:**
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/bills/summary?BillNumber=6087&Year=2017>
3. Take a minute to log in to your online GET account to review your current account status and to ensure all of your contact information is up to date.

Here's a quick overview of the new options and potential benefits that Senate Bill 6087 provides:

- **Incentive to roll your GET account over to the new DreamAhead College Investment Plan***
Beginning on June 15, 2018, or soon after, we will open a window of at least 90 days when GET customers with units purchased before July 1, 2015 will have the opportunity to roll their GET accounts over to the new DreamAhead College Investment Plan at a special Unit Cash Value.** The GET Committee will announce this new value by the end of May. We will calculate the Unit Cash Value by dividing the total assets in the GET fund by the total units in the fund. We will adjust this calculation to exclude units purchased after July 1, 2015, and any market value associated with those units. The Unit Cash Value is different from and is likely to be higher than the current GET payout value of \$103.86.

**Note that if you roll your GET account(s) over to DreamAhead, you will be closing your GET account(s) and moving all of your funds to a 529 plan that works much differently than GET. DreamAhead is an investment-based 529 plan. The State of Washington does not insure or guarantee DreamAhead accounts or any investment returns. Account owners assume all investment risks. DreamAhead offers a variety of options that can be customized based on the age of your student and your risk tolerance. The plan offers portfolios that range from conservative options that invest heavily in bonds to aggressive options that invest heavily in stocks. Please take the time to understand how DreamAhead works before starting the rollover by visiting www.dreamahead.wa.gov to download the DreamAhead Program Details Booklet. The Program Details Booklet discusses investment objectives, risks, charges, expenses, and other important information about DreamAhead. Read and consider it carefully before investing. You should also consult your tax, legal and investment advisor before making an investment decision.*

***All rollovers made before or after this limited 90-day period will be at the standard GET payout value in effect when the rollover is processed.*

- **Adjustments for customers who wish to keep their GET accounts**

Once the 90-day incentivized rollover window closes, the GET Committee will make two account adjustments for customers who choose to stay in GET and own units purchased before July 1, 2015. These adjustments will be completed no later than March 1, 2019.

- **Unit adjustment for GET accounts with higher-priced units**

The first adjustment will add units to all GET accounts with units purchased before July 1, 2015 that have an average Unit Purchase Price higher than \$117.82, which was the payout value for GET units in the 2016-17 academic year, before we reset the payout value to match tuition and rebased all customer accounts. If your average unit purchase price is higher than \$117.82, we will take the difference and add units to your account based on the current unit purchase price of \$113. Please note that this process will only consider the average Unit Purchase Price for units purchased before July 1, 2015 that have not yet been redeemed. Custom Monthly Plans not yet paid-in-full will receive additional units based on payments made before July 1, 2015.

- **GET funded status adjustment***

Once we complete the first adjustment for GET accounts with higher-priced units, the bill directs the State Actuary to perform a new calculation of GET's funded status. If the Actuary's calculation determines that GET's funded status is above 125%, we will add more units to all customer accounts with units purchased before July 1, 2015. We do not yet know how many units will be added to customer accounts, as it depends on how many accounts remain in the program and a future funded status measurement. However, the bill states that no account can receive greater than 15% more units as a result of this adjustment.

**GET's funded status compares program assets to program liabilities, meaning it measures how well the GET fund is positioned to meet all future obligations. A funded status of over 100% means the program is expected to, based on current assumptions, be able to pay out all future customers without state financial assistance.*

In the coming weeks, we will send you additional communications, including multiple emails, with more details. Please take a minute to log in to your online GET account to ensure your contact information is up to date. If you have any questions about how Senate Bill 6087 may impact your GET account, or to talk through the current details of your account, get in touch with us. You can call us at 1.800.955.2318, or email us any time at getinfo@wsac.wa.gov. We are here 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (PST) Monday through Friday, excluding state holidays. When you call, you may experience longer than normal hold times. You will have the option to leave a message, and a Contact Center Specialist will return your call as soon as possible.

Thank you for your participation in GET. We look forward to continuing to serve you.

Sincerely,



Betty Lochner
GET Program Director

