



Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

Spring Quarter Commission
Meeting

April 17, 2024

What is WICHE?

- ▶ An interstate compact formed by the Western Governors in 1951
- ▶ Congressional action signed in 1953 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower

The Western Regional Education Compact

Entered into by and between the States and Territories signatory hereto, to provide acceptable and efficient educational facilities to meet the needs of the Western Region of the United States of America.

I WHEREAS, the future of this Nation and of the Western States is dependent upon the quality of the education of its youth; and

WHEREAS, many of the Western States individually do not have sufficient numbers of potential students to warrant the establishment and maintenance within their borders of adequate facilities in all of the essential fields of technical, professional, and graduate training, nor do all the states have the financial ability to furnish within their borders institutions capable of providing acceptable standards of training in all of the fields mentioned above; and

WHEREAS, it is believed that the Western States, or groups of such states within the Region, cooperatively can provide acceptable and efficient educational facilities to meet the needs of the Region and of the students thereof;

Now, therefore, the States of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming, and the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii do hereby Covenant and agree as follows:

II Each of the compacting states and territories pledges to each of the other compacting states and territories faithful cooperation in carrying out all the purposes of this Compact.

III The compacting states and territories hereby create the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, hereinafter

called the Commission. Said Commission shall be a body corporate of each compacting state and territory and an agency thereof. The Commission shall have all the powers and duties set forth herein, including the power to sue and be sued, and such additional powers as may be conferred upon it by subsequent action of the respective legislatures of the compacting states and territories.

IV The Commission shall consist of three resident members from each compacting state or territory. At all times one Commissioner from each compacting state or territory shall be an educator engaged in the field of higher education in the state or territory from which he is appointed.

The Commissioners from each state and territory shall be appointed by the Governor thereof as provided by law in such state or territory from which he shall have been appointed.

The terms of each Commissioner shall be four years: Provided, however, that the first three Commissioners shall be appointed as follows; one for two years, one for three years, and one for four years. Each Commissioner shall hold office until his successor shall be appointed and qualified. If any office becomes vacant for any reason, the Governor shall appoint a Commissioner to fill the office for the remainder of the unexpired term.

V Any business transacted at any meeting of the Commission must be by affirmative vote of a majority of the whole number of compacting states and territories.

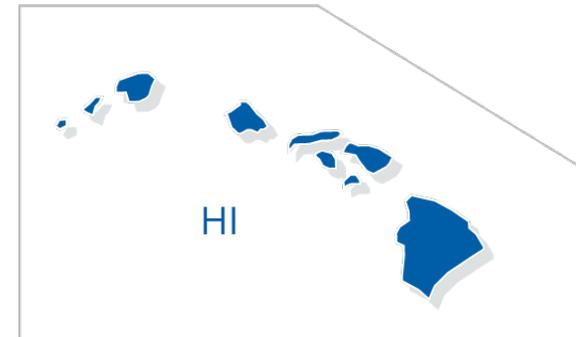
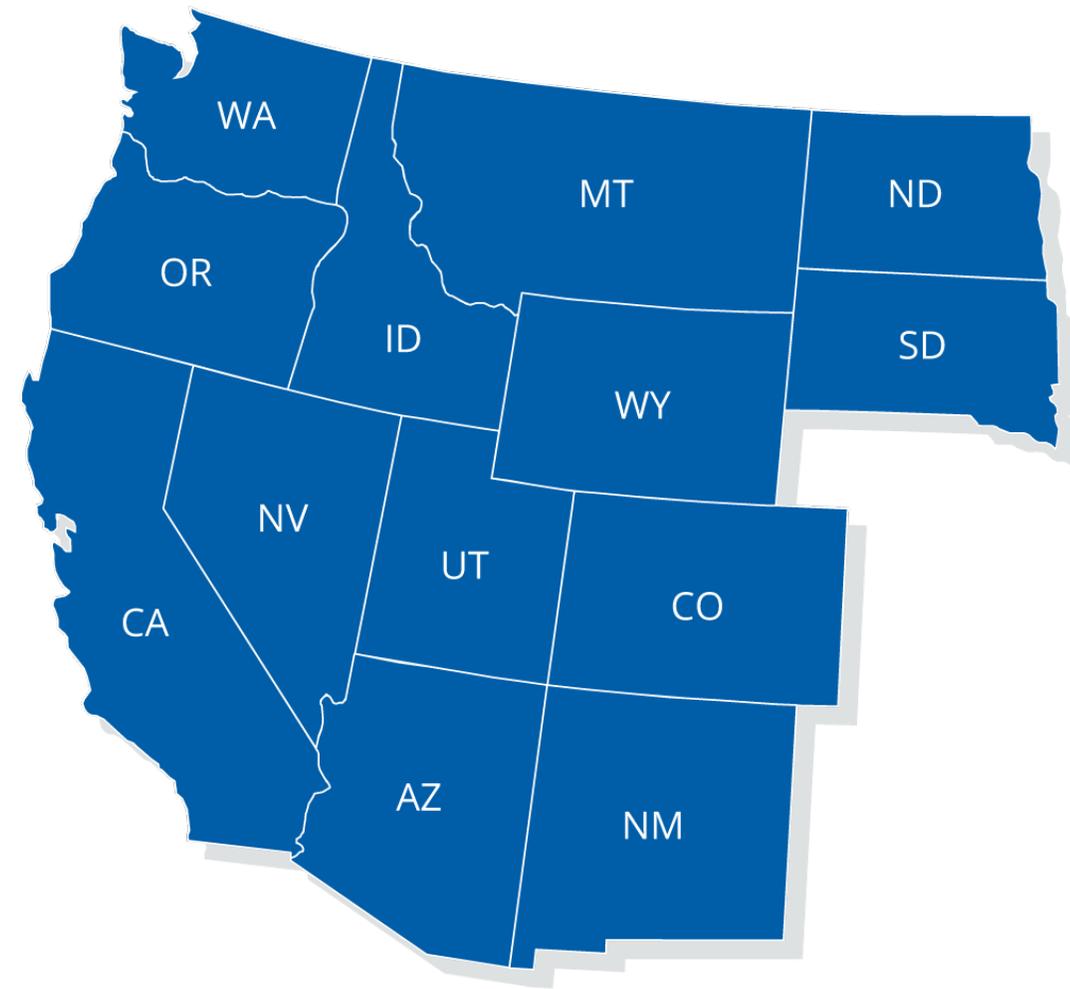
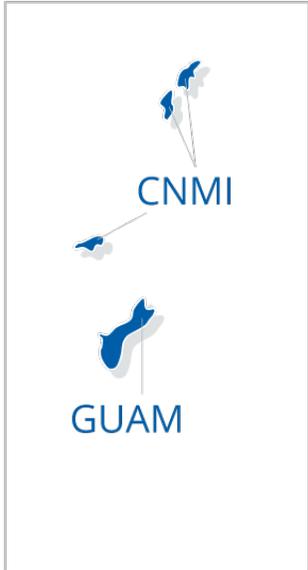
WICHE's Mission



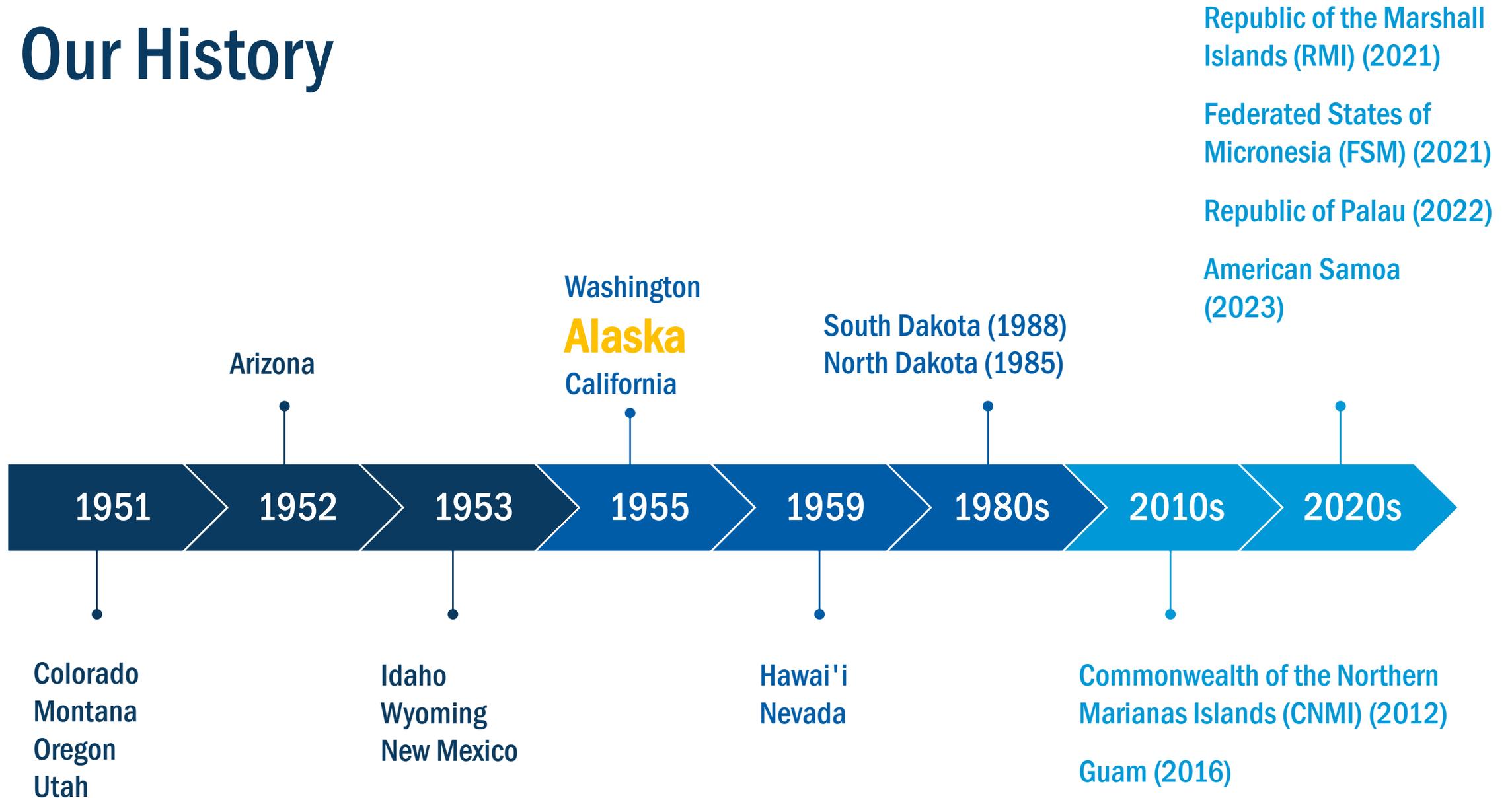
WICHE works collaboratively to expand educational access and excellence for all residents of the West.

By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy, WICHE strengthens higher education's contributions to the region's social, economic, and civic life.

WICHE Region



Our History



5 Strategic Priorities



Affordability & Finance



Innovation



Access & Success



Value & Accountability

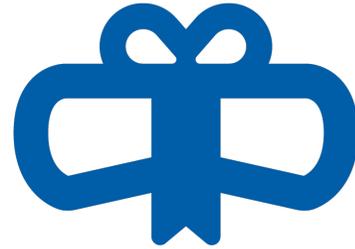


Workforce & Society

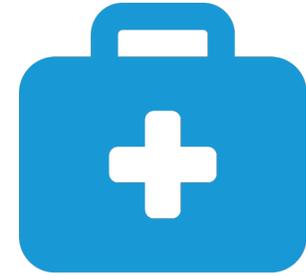
Save On Tuition in the West



Western
Undergraduate Exchange
(WUE)



Western
Regional Graduate
Program
(WRGP)



Professional
Student Exchange
Program
(PSEP)

Student Access Programs

Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP)

- 10 healthcare degree fields
- Savings varies (\$9K - \$35K), depending on degree and program
- 11 states/territories fund PSEP students through WICHE



Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP)

\$14.5M

Total tuition savings in AY
2023-24

130+

Programs
available

557

Enrolled
students

How PSEP Works

- ▶ Applicant applies to home state office for "certification" and applies to cooperating programs in their field.
- ▶ State determines fields to be funded, and number of seats by field.
- ▶ Students are selected for funding (sometimes rankings are used).
- ▶ States provide a "support fee" to reduce student's tuition (public and privates participate).
- ▶ WICHE administers funding on behalf of its PSEP states; also monitors student progress and graduation.
- ▶ States can use PSEP as a "return-for-service" workforce building provision.

Current PSEP Fields

▶ **Dentistry**

▶ **Allopathic Medicine**

▶ **Occupational Therapy**

▶ **Optometry**

▶ **Osteopathic Medicine**

▶ **Pharmacy**

▶ **Physical Therapy**

▶ **Physician Assistant**

▶ **Podiatry**

▶ **Veterinary Medicine**

Support Fees by Field

FIELD	2024-25 (approved)	2025-26 (proposed)	2026-27 (proposed)
Dentistry	\$29,900	\$31,200	\$32,550
Medicine	35,700	37,250	38,875
Occupational Therapy	15,625	16,300	17,025
Optometry	20,575	21,475	22,400
Osteopathic Med.	25,600	26,725	27,875
Pharmacy	9,125	9,525	9,925
Phys. Therapy	17,225	17,975	18,750
Physician Asst.	20,400	21,275	22,225
Podiatry	17,750	18,525	19,325
Veterinary Med.	35,400	36,950	38,550

PSEP Enrollment and Support Fees by Profession, AY 2023-24

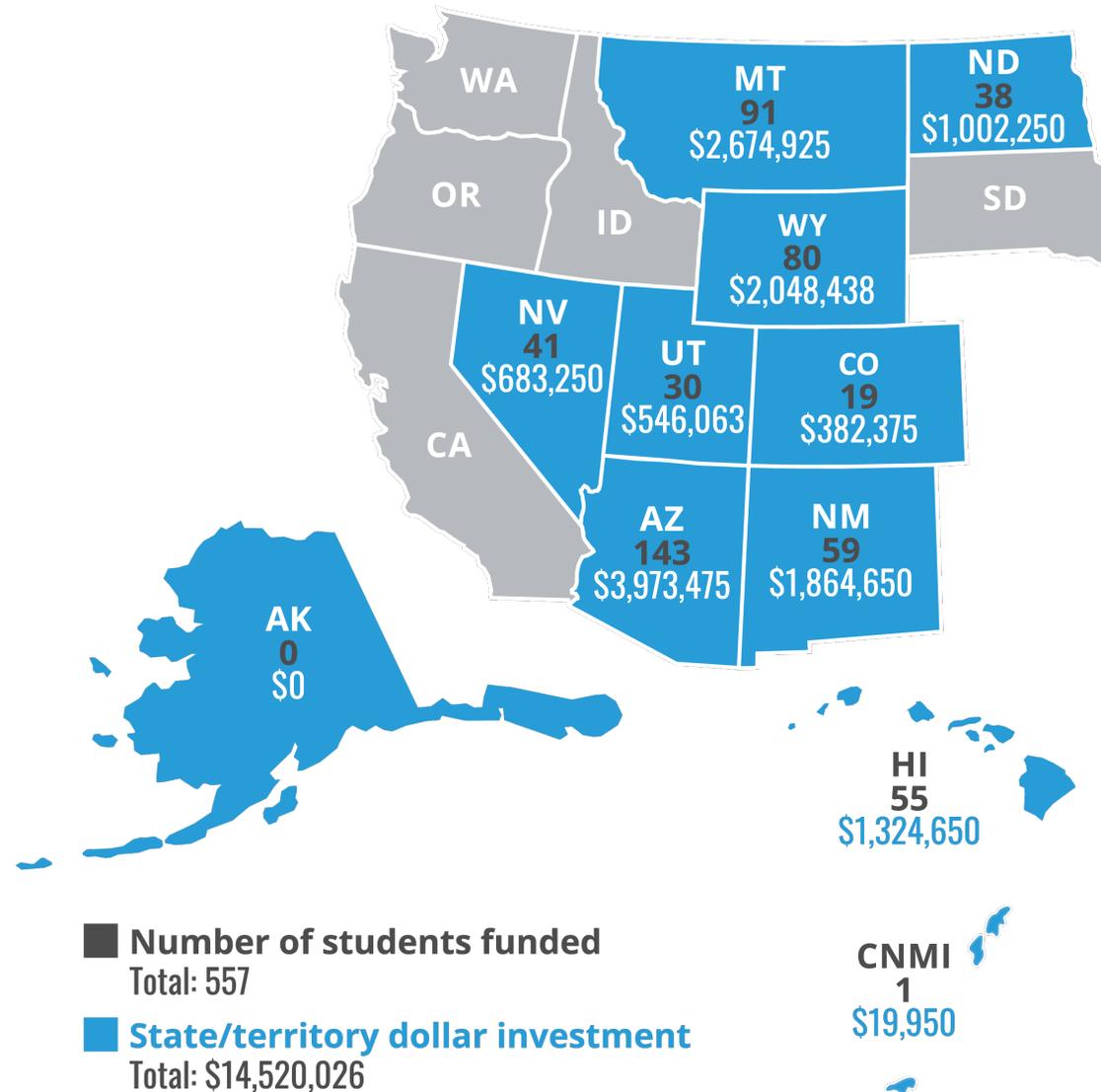
Professional Field	Enrollment	Support Fee Per Student	State Investment Paid on Behalf of Students
Dentistry*	115	\$29,250 (acc = \$39,000)	\$3,422,250
Allopathic Medicine	37	\$34,950	\$1,231,989
Occupational Therapy	23	\$15,300	\$321,300
Optometry	107	\$20,125	\$2,125,512
Osteopathic Medicine	57	\$25,050	\$1,377,750
Pharmacy*	10	\$8,925 (acc= \$11,900)	\$119,000
Physical Therapy	43	\$16,850	\$724,550
Physician Assistant	13	\$19,950	\$259,350
Podiatry	15	\$17,375	\$243,250
Veterinary Medicine	137	\$34,650	\$4,695,075
TOTAL	557		\$14,520,026

*Accelerated 3-year programs with higher fee noted in parentheses.

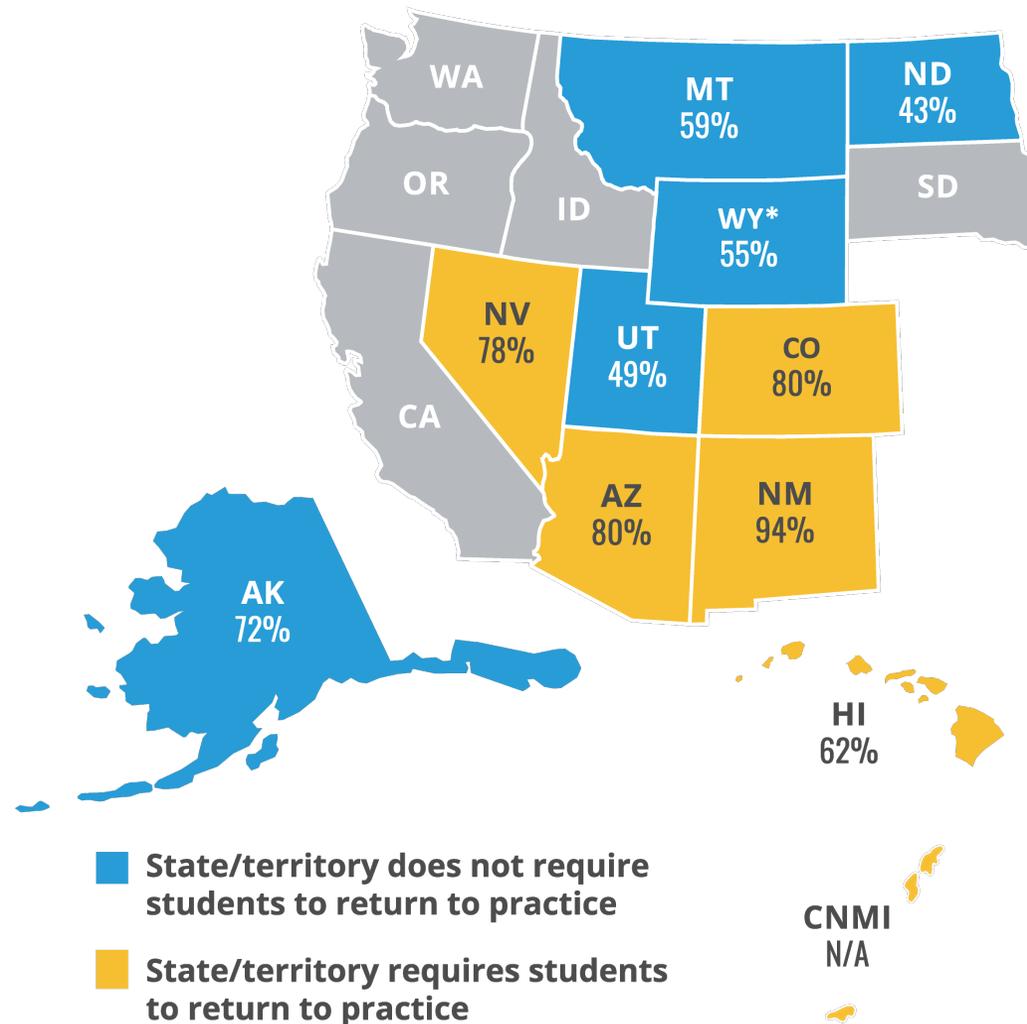
PSEP Enrollment and Support Fees by State/Territory, AY 2023-24

State	Number of students supported	Total of PSEP support fees per state
Alaska	0	\$0
Arizona	143	\$3,973,475
Colorado	19	\$382,375
CNMI	1	\$19,950
Hawaii	55	\$1,324,650
Montana	91	\$2,674,925
New Mexico	59	\$1,864,650
Nevada	41	\$683,250
North Dakota	38	\$1,002,250
Utah	30	\$546,063
Wyoming	80	\$2,048,438
TOTAL	557	\$14,520,026

State and Territory Investment

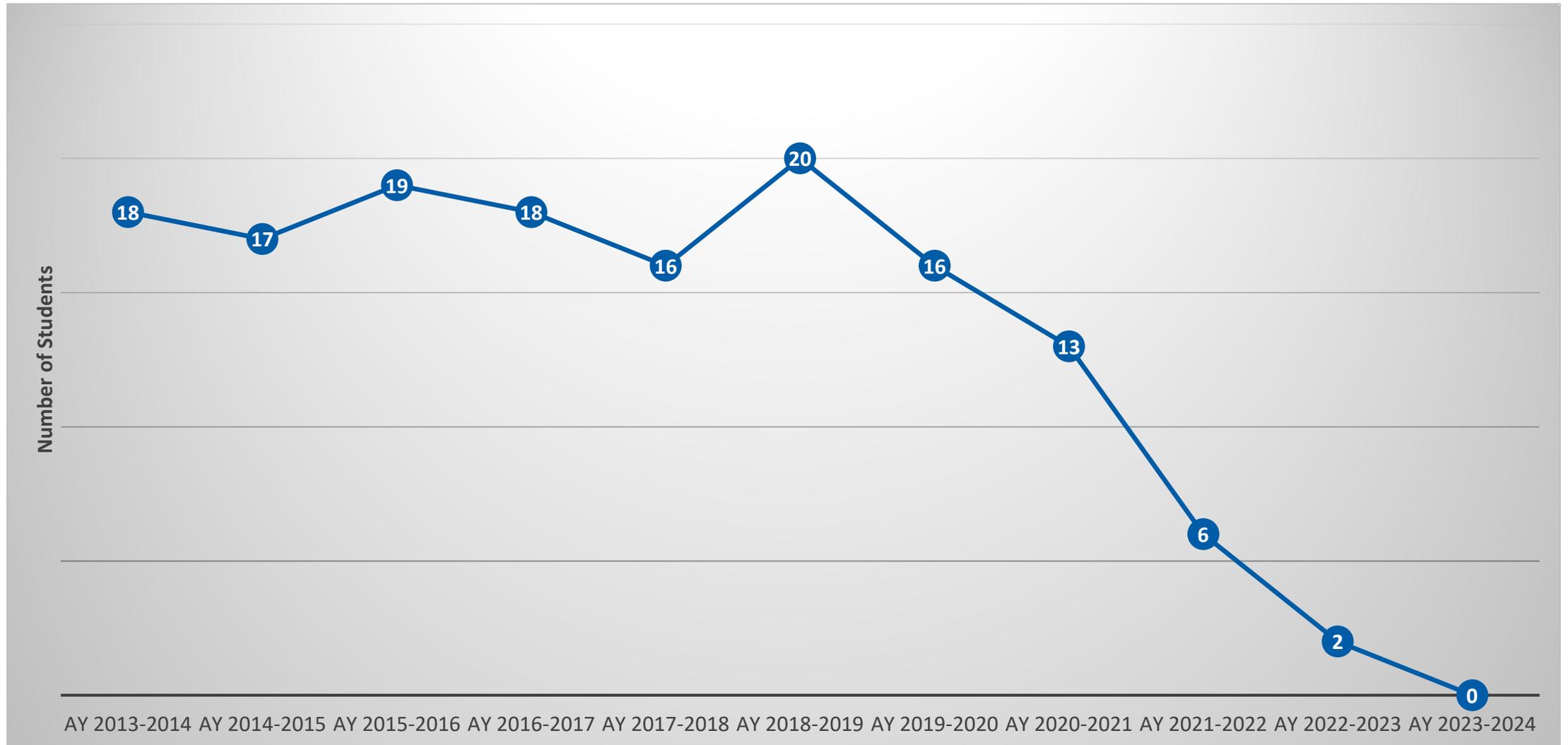


PSEP Graduate Return Rates, AY 2012-22

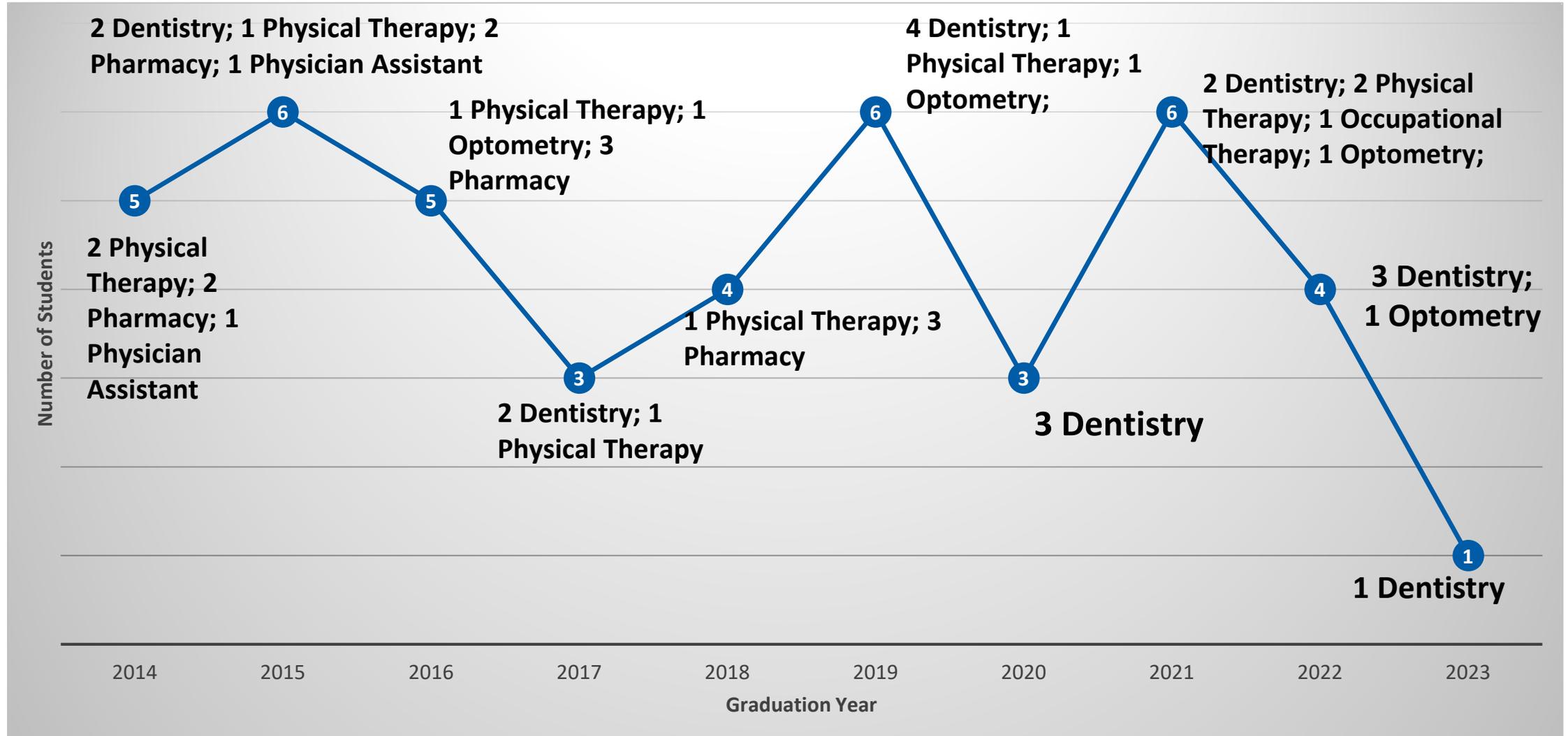


*Wyoming instituted service payback for students enrolling Fall 2013 and later, except in Veterinary Medicine. Wyoming is listed as an honor state for this cycle because less than half of its graduates in the current cycle have a contractual service payback. It will be reclassified as a contractual payback state in the next reporting cycle, in ≈ 2027.

Number of Alaska Students Enrolled in PSEP, AY 2013 – AY 2023



Number of Graduates by Year



Thoughts for Consideration

- ▶ **Current PSEP strategy isn't as targeted as it could be; there is little incentive guiding students toward high-need fields.**
- ▶ **PSEP could be an effective workforce development tool that is part of Alaska's overall strategy.**
 - WICHE recommends basing decisions on workforce projections.
- ▶ **Alaska may want to consider alternatives to the loan program or supplemental strategies.**
 - Some or all fields could be shifted from a loan program to an appropriation.
 - The state could consider loan forgiveness on high needs fields.
- ▶ **WICHE is open to considering new fields if there is a need.**

Questions?



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