



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Racial Disparity Grants

1. **Purpose:**

In 2020, the Washington State Legislature established a grant opportunity for the 2021 fiscal year (FY) under [SB 6168](#) Section 520(31) for school districts to create systems, policies, and practices to address racial discipline gaps. The scope of grant activities focuses on student discipline provisions that apply to all school districts under WAC [392-400-110](#) and RCW [28A.415.410](#) involving family and community engagement, disaggregated data use, best practices for behavior, policies and procedures, and staff training.

2. **Description of services provided:**

As a result of the RDGP grant opportunity, and with support provided by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and partner organizations, the grantee districts were able to fund activities to engage families of student groups experiencing racial discipline gaps, implement best practices, adopt policy changes, and use data to address racial discipline gaps. Highlights included professional learning on restorative practices for a significant number of staff members in North Thurston Public Schools and targeted community partnerships with schools in the Northshore School District to augment existing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) efforts. Both districts organized the grant activities with longer term implementation plans in place to reduce disproportionality in discipline and recommended RDGP grant opportunities be made available in the future so that other districts could benefit.

3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

This was a competitive grant.

Beneficiaries in 2020–21 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	2
Number of Schools:	58
Number of Students:	38,000
Number of Educators:	2500
Other:	0

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 2.0
Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 0.0

FY 2021 Funding: **State Appropriation:** \$75,000
 Federal Appropriation: \$0
 Other fund sources: \$0
 TOTAL (FY 2021) \$75,000

4. **Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?**

- No
- Yes, please explain.

5. **State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY21	\$75,000	\$68,500

6. **Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:**

Fiscal Year	Number of School Districts	Number of Schools	Number of Students	Number of Educators	Number of Other
FY 2020					

7. **Programmatic changes since inception (if any):**

It is too early to tell if any substantial changes have occurred. Both districts are continuing activities.

8. **Evaluations of program/major findings:**

The grant was available during the COVID-19 pandemic. This led to a small number of districts applying. Timelines shifted in response to the pandemic, leading to a shorter implementation timeline. The amount of funds available was also a barrier. Successes have been mentioned in number two.

9. **Major challenges faced by the program:**

Grant opportunity opened during the COVID-19 pandemic. Short implementation timeline.

10. **Future opportunities:**

Possibilities for another grant opportunity.

11. **Statutory and/or budget language:**

ESSB 5092, Sec. 1518 (28) - \$75,000 of the general fund-state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 is provided solely for grants to school districts to create systems, policies, and practices to address racial discipline gaps consistent with RCW 28A.415.410. The office of superintendent of public instruction, in coordination with a state association representing both certificated and classified staff, an association representing principals, an association representing school superintendents, the Washington state school directors association, and an association representing parents, will guide grant recipients using existing training materials and resources. Grant recipients must develop systems that provide tiered supports for intervention, restorative approaches to behavior, and eliminate zero-tolerance policies that contribute to racial disparities.

12. **Other relevant information:**

N/A

13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

See [OSPI's 2021 Grantee List](#).

14. **Program Contact Information:**

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