

Urban School Turnaround Initiative

Purpose:

The 2015 Washington State Legislature provided proviso language in its 2015-17 Operating Budget (ESSB 6052, Section 501 (37)) to provide grants of equal amount to the two schools that previously received Urban School Turnaround Initiative (*USTI*) grants. The goals of the USTI are to turnaround performance and substantially increase student outcomes in two of the lowest performing schools in the largest urban school district in Washington State (i.e., Seattle Public Schools). Based on these criteria, Rainier Beach High School and its community feeder school, Aki Kurose Middle School, were selected to engage in the USTI.

1. The purpose of these grants is to assist Rainier Beach High School and Aki Kurose Middle School in maintaining gains of dramatically increasing student achievement and decreasing the opportunity gap made as a result of work completed under the original program, while also phasing out state funding support of the program.

The school district shall use the funds for intensive supplemental instruction, services, and materials in Rainier Beach High School and Aki Kurose Middle School, including but not limited to:

- Providing professional development for school staff to assist with implementing research-based models of instruction and services that align with the characteristics and needs of their students and have proven to be successful in closing the educational achievement gap and substantially improving student learning;
- Providing updated curriculum, materials and technology;
- Providing extended learning opportunities for all students;
- Reducing class size to help enable more effective instruction;
- Providing summer enrichment activities;
- Creating school-based health clinics to help address student needs in the learning environment; and
- Creating other research-based initiatives to dramatically turn around performance and close educational achievement gaps.

2. **Description of services provided:** Facilitated by the Office of Student and School Success, Aki Kurose Middle School and Rainier Beach High School engage in the same school improvement planning process as identified Priority and Focus schools. With the guidance of an assigned Leadership Coach, the schools convene a school improvement team consisting of school staff, family, and community to review needs assessment data (academic performance audit) and create a plan using the Indistar platform which identifies both the findings of the needs assessment and each of the seven federal Turnaround Principles.

Rainier Beach High School and Aki Kurose Middle School may also receive the following services and supports:

- OSPI's Office of Student and School Success can serve as a partner in delivering supportive services and technical assistance in such areas as:
 - Identification of essential standards, aligned with Common Core State Standards;
 - Mathematics and reading program gap analyses;
 - Mathematics benchmark assessments;

- Reading benchmark assessments;
- Use of online data management systems for storing and analyzing ongoing results from formative and summative assessments; and
- Use of classroom walkthrough processes, including online data collection/management, professional development, and coaching for instructional leaders in effective classroom practices.

3. Criteria for receiving services and/or grants: Originally selected as part of the 2012 Operating Budget (3ESHB 2127, Section 501 (c)(vii)), Rainier Beach High and Aki Kurose Middle School will continue to receive grant funding in equal amounts to support the Urban School Turnaround Initiative.

4. Beneficiaries in 2016-17 School Year:

School Districts: 1
Schools: 2 (Aki Kurose MS, Rainier Beach HS)

FY 17 Funding: State Appropriation: \$200,000
TOTAL (FY17) \$200,000

5. Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding? No

6. First year funded: 2012-13 School Year

7. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount
FY17	\$200,000
FY16	\$400,000
FY15	Remaining from \$2 million
FY14	Remaining from \$2 million
FY13	\$2 million

8. Number of beneficiaries (e.g., schools, students, districts) history:

Fiscal Year	# of Schools	# of Districts
FY17	2	1
FY16	2	1
FY15	2	1
FY14	2	1
FY13	2	1

9. Programmatic changes since inception (if any): None

10. Evaluations of program/major findings: The Urban School Turnaround Initiative is currently in its fifth year of implementation, as originally authorized under 3ESHB 2127 (2012), then SHB 1812 extended the timeline for expending the funds, and in 2015 it was reauthorized under ESSB 6052. Progress towards implementing the Student and School Success plan and increasing student achievement is monitored quarterly by the Office of Student and School Success.

11. Major challenges faced by the program: The largest challenge to the Urban School Turnaround schools is the sustainability of the improvements put in place once the funding is no longer available.

While many improvements do not require additional funds, some improvements require additional funding for staffing time and extended learning opportunities through additional time and instructional coaching.

12. Future opportunities: The Urban School Turnaround Initiative provided additional state funding for low performing urban schools which are within the same feeder pattern (most Aki Kurose students feed into Rainier Beach). This model of improvement provides a continuous continuum of school improvement planning that ease student achievement losses that can occur during the transition from middle to high school. There is an opportunity to expand among this model and provide additional funding and technical assistance to similar feeder schools.

13. Statutory and/or Budget language:

Budget Proviso:

The 2015 Washington State Legislature provided proviso language in its 2015-17 Operating Budget (ESSB 6052, Section 501 (37)) - \$400,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2016 and \$200,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2017 are provided solely for the urban school turnaround initiative as follows:

- a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall provide grants of equal amounts to two schools that have previously received urban school turnaround initiative grants. The purpose of these grants is to assist the schools in maintaining gains made as a result of work completed under the original program, while also phasing out state funding support of the program.
- b) The office shall allocate the funds under this subsection (36) to the school district to be used exclusively in the selected schools. The district may not charge an overhead or indirect fee for the allocated funds or supplant other state, federal, or local funds in the selected schools. The school district shall use the funds for intensive supplemental instruction, services, and materials in the selected schools, including but not limited to professional development for school staff; updated curriculum, materials, and technology; extended learning opportunities for students; reduced class size; summer enrichment activities; school-based health clinics; and other research-based initiatives to dramatically turnaround the performance and close the achievement gap in the schools. The office shall enter into an expenditure agreement with the school district under which any funds under this subsection (41) remaining unspent on August 31, 2017, shall be returned to the state. Priorities for the expenditure of the funds shall be determined by the leadership and staff of each school.

14. Program Contact Information:

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