Graduation Equity Webinar Series
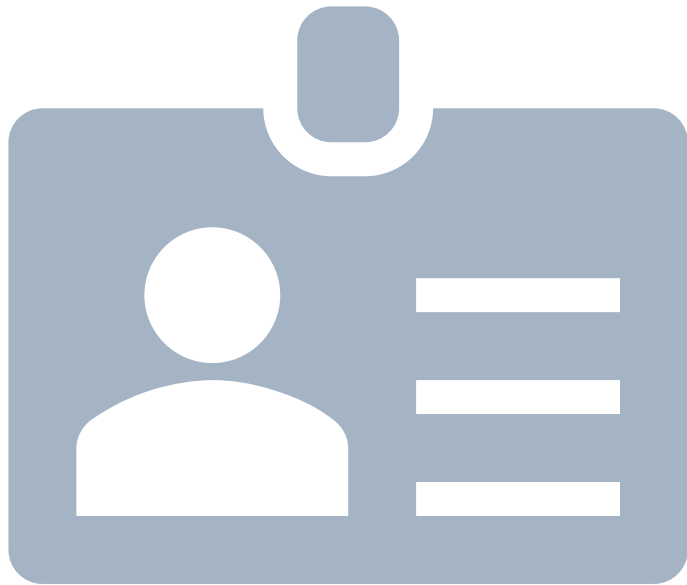
Orientation Practices to Boost Connection

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Vision

All students prepared for post-secondary pathways, careers, and civic engagement.

Mission

Transform K–12 education to a system that is centered on closing opportunity gaps and is characterized by high expectations for all students and educators. We achieve this by developing equity-based policies and supports that empower educators, families, and communities.

Values

- Ensuring Equity
- Collaboration and Service
- Achieving Excellence through Continuous Improvement
- Focus on the Whole Child

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Equity Statement

Each student, family, and community possesses strengths and cultural knowledge that benefits their peers, educators, and schools.

Ensuring educational equity:

- Goes beyond equality; it requires education leaders to examine the ways current policies and practices result in disparate outcomes for our students of color, students living in poverty, students receiving special education and English Learner services, students who identify as LGBTQ+, and highly mobile student populations.

- Requires education leaders to develop an understanding of historical contexts; engage students, families, and community representatives as partners in decision-making; and actively dismantle systemic barriers, replacing them with policies and practices that ensure all students have access to the instruction and support they need to succeed in our schools.

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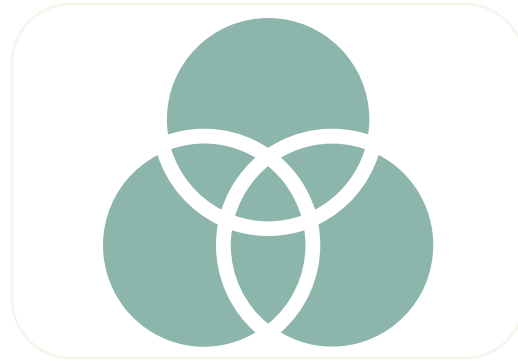
Ancestral Lands
Share your location
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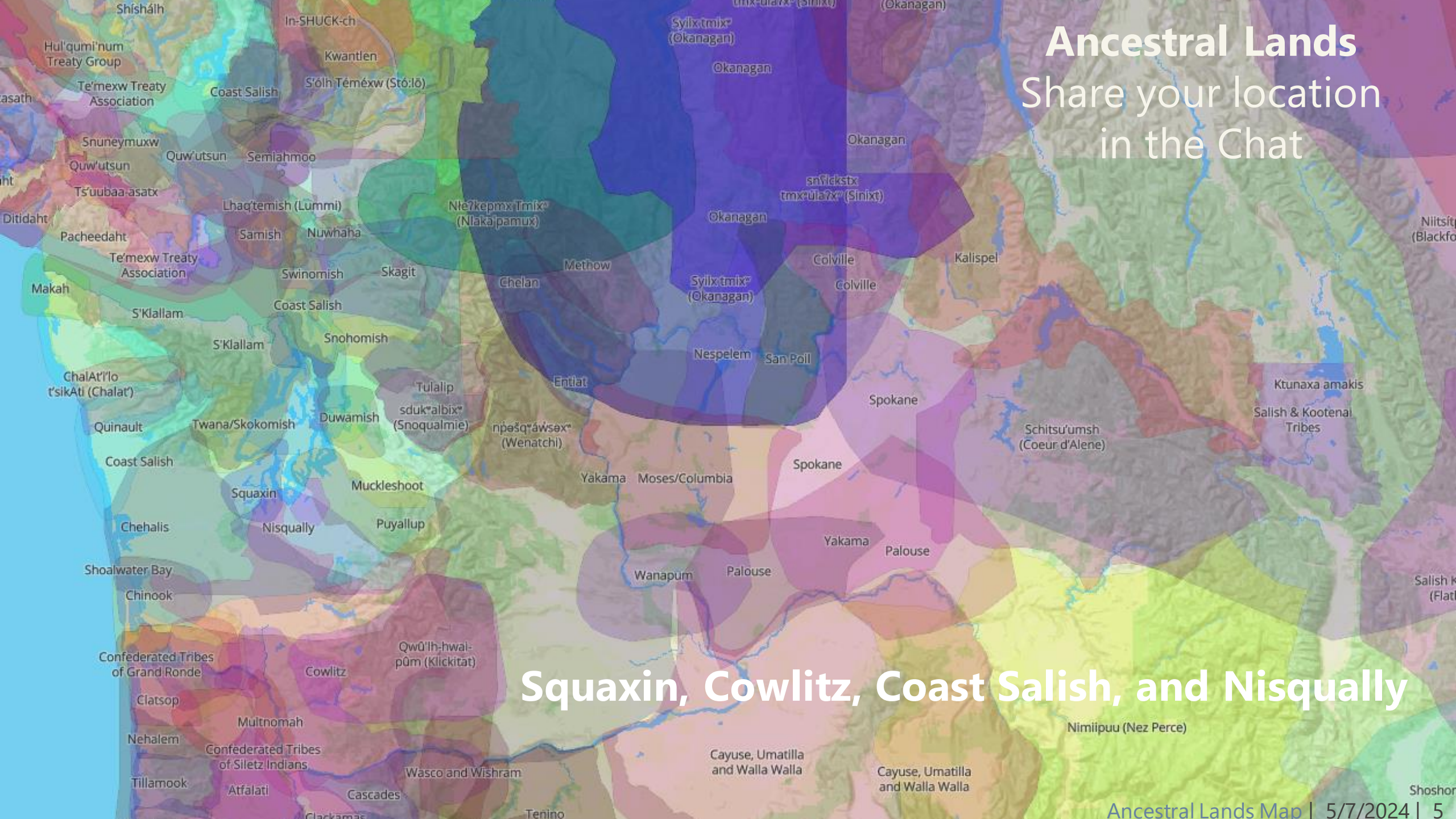
Squaxin, Cowlitz, Coast Salish, and Nisqually

Equity Pause

Who will my decision affect?

What is my locus of control?

Which actions will have the largest impact?

What's a step I can take right away?

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Objectives

- Learn elements of orientations
- Learn about strategies you can use to create connectedness at your orientations
- Get special considerations for newcomer students & their families
- Get resources that will help you get started

Presenters

Kefi Andersen

Assistant Director of Early Warning Systems

OSPI

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Virginia Caro Morales

Assistant Director of Multilingual Education

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Henterson Carlisle Northwest Regional Director, Center for High School Success

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Questions & Polling 1

Who's here?

- Administrator
- Counselor/ Counselor/Psych/Community Liaison/Attendance Liaison / Grad Specialist/ Social Worker
- Teacher
- Para-educator
- Parent/Community Member/Community Based Organization
- District Office/ESD Staff/OSPI
- Continuous Improvement Partner or Teaching Coach
- Other

What grade band do you work with the most?

- Elementary
- Secondary
- Both
- None/NA
- Other

How familiar are you with our topic?

- Very
- Somewhat
- It's new!

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Sign Up for Next Year's Series

Draft Topics Live Poll: What topics interest you most?

Supporting Students After a Prolonged Absence

Teacher Strategies for Supporting Mental Health

Family & Community Engagement Best Practices

Harnessing the Power of Peer Mentoring

Work-based Learning (Career & Technical Education)

Career & College Pathways for Students with Disabilities

Harassment Intimidation & Bullying

Compassion Based Culture with Christian Page

Assessing Functions of Behavior

Emotional Behavior Disorder Planning

Funding Mental Health Resources

Substance Use & Naloxone

Mental Health Absences

Integrated Student Supports

Tips on Universal Screening Practices

Supporting Social Emotional Learning Content Integration

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Multilingual Supports

Considerations for Multi-lingual Families

Translated material	Intentional outreach	Tap into community	Parent panel
Parent network	How to navigate	Survey to tailor for their needs & concerns	

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Welcoming Newcomers and their Families

Newcomers – K-12 students born outside the U.S. have recently arrived to the country and are learning English.

- Language Access - All parents have the right to information about their child's education in a language they understand.

- Develop an intake system

  - Collect student/family history

  - Prior Schooling

  - Native Language Proficiency

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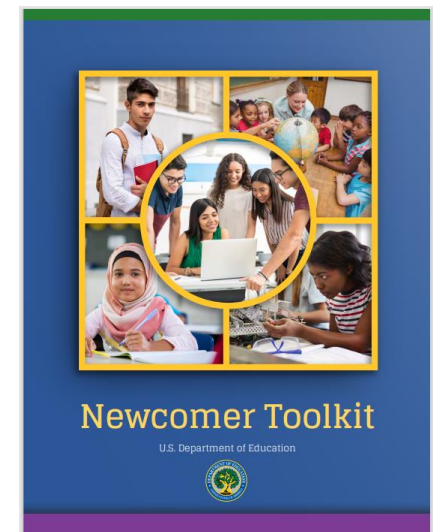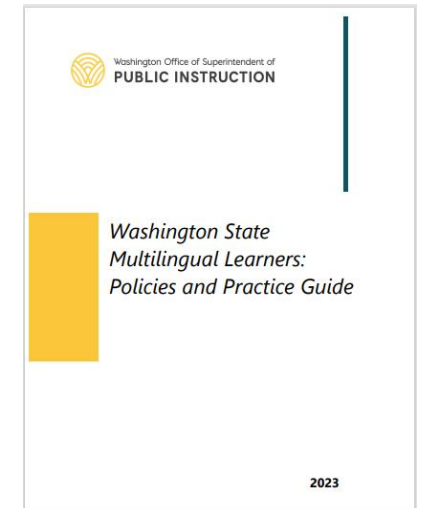
Developing a Welcoming School Culture

Newcomers: Promoting Success through Strengthening Practice (WIDA self-paced eWorkshop)

- Building relationships that create and maintain welcoming communities

- Challenging personal and systemic biases

- Creating an atmosphere and system of shared responsibility

- Incorporating and building on the rich resources that multilingual newcomers bring

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Share in the chat:

What orientation strategies are you using?

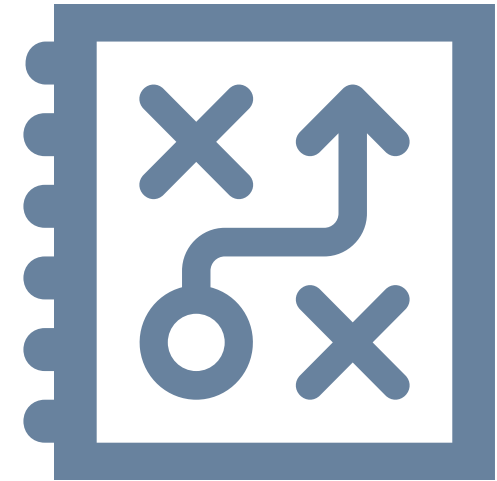# What are Orientation Practices that Boost Connection?

Orientation Big Ideas

Meaningful Connections Matter

Orientations are an opportunity to welcome students to the school community

Orientation is 1 part of the school-wide plan for building culture and belonging

Connectedness, Inclusion and Belonging

4 Grounding Statements

- *School connectedness refers to "the extent to which students feel personally accepted, respected, included, and supported by others in the school social environment"* - Carol Goodenow

- *An inclusive environment ensures access and unconditional belonging for every person* – Cobb, Krownapple, Belonging Through A Culture of Dignity

- *"Belonging means more than having just access, it means having a meaningful voice and the opportunity to participate in the design of political, social, and cultural structures."* – John A. Powell, Othering and Belonging Institute

- *"Fitting in is about assessing a situation and becoming who you need to be to be accepted. Belonging, on the other hand, doesn't require us to change who we are; it requires us to be who we are."* – Brene' Brown

Orientation: A Small Part of a Larger Plan
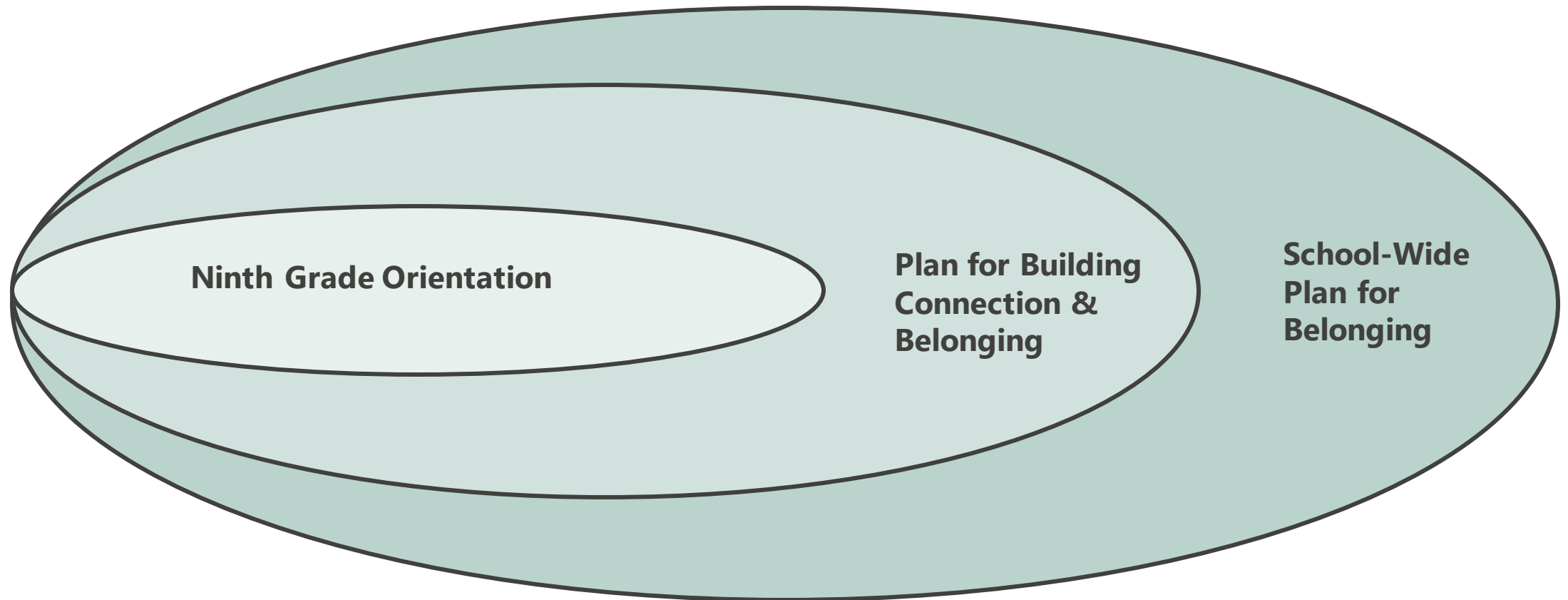
Ninth Grade Orientation

Plan for Building Connection & Belonging

School-Wide Plan for Belonging

Key Elements of a School-Wide Plan for Belonging

Key Elements of a
School-Wide Plan for Belonging

Student Voice & Agency

- Empower students to have a **voice** in decision-making processes within the school.

Inclusive Environment

- Foster an **inclusive** environment where diversity is celebrated, and all students feel respected and valued.

Supportive Staff

- **Train** teachers and staff to be supportive mentors and advocates for students.

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Key Elements of a School-Wide Plan for Belonging

Promote Positive Relationships	Community Engagement	Celebration of Achievements
• Create **structures** for students to build positive relationships with their peers, teachers, and other school staff.	• **Engage** parents, guardians, and community members in school activities and events.	• **Recognize** & **celebrate** students' achievements, whether academic, extracurricular, or personal.

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Key Elements of a School-Wide Plan for Belonging

Conflict Resolution & Restorative Practices

- Teach students **conflict resolution skills** and implement restorative justice practices to address conflicts and disciplinary issues.

Wellness & Mental Health Support

- Provide **access to wellness resources**, mental health support services, and counseling for students who may be struggling emotionally or psychologically.

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Supportive Structures for Building Connection

Orientation

Guiding Questions

- How are you going to build connection and belonging?
- What are the tenets of your community?
- How can you leverage older students on campus?

Ideas

- Link Crew, ASB, clubs and sports teams, student panel, peer mentoring
- Scavenger hunts, team building activities, straw tower build

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Academic & Social Emotional Supports

Guiding Questions

- What supports are available to students?
- What is the process for students to access the supports?

Ideas

Academic help, counseling supports (advising & mental health), extracurricular information

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Parent Engagement

Guiding Questions

- What activities will the parents participate in?
- What multi-lingual supports are available for parents?
- What supports are in place to help parents navigate school norms and procedures?

Ideas

- Translated materials, interpretation services
- Multi-lingual support, liaison, parent panel, parent buddy system

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Peer & Adult Mentorship Programs

Guiding Questions

- What structures do we have that can support peer mentors?
- How do we recruit peer mentors?
- How often do mentors interact with mentees?
- What data do we use to help match mentors and mentees?

Ideas

- Check & Connect, Link Crew, Adult champion

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Transition Planning Process

Provide Early Preparation for High School Entry

- Eighth to ninth grade orientation
- Establish ongoing parent engagement
- Conduct summer activities
  - **Data to consider**: eighth grade semester 1 data, eighth grade semester 2 data, eighth grade qualitative data
  - **Guiding Questions**: What's in place? Are there opportunities?

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Transition Planning Timeline

Provide Proactive Supports

April & May

- Develop ongoing partnerships between key middle & high school personnel

May & June

- Eighth to ninth grade spring orientation

June & July

- Provide access to eighth grade data

August & September

- Ninth grade orientation

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Orientation & Summer Bridges Considerations

Orientation & Summer Bridge Considerations: One Day Format

One Day Format

- Date for maximum attendance
- What adults & student helpers will participate
- Parent engagement session
- Connection activities

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Orientation & Summer Bridge Considerations: Multi-Day Format

Multi-Day Format

- Dates for maximum attendance
- Funding: How will you pay for it?
- Scope and sequence of activities
- Parent engagement
- Staffing
- Data gathering

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Orientation & Summer Bridge Considerations: First Week of School Format

First Week of School Format

- Scope & sequence of activities
- Data gathering
- **Modified schedule? Building-wide?**
- **No academics or a relationship building focus**
- Use of student leaders

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Orientation and Summer Bridge Considerations: Summer Bridge

Summer Bridge

- Student recruitment
- Staffing
- Funding
- Instructional
- Social emotional learning
- Data collection
- Progress monitoring

Quick Wins to Get Started

Create an orientation planning committee

Set clear objectives

Engage student leaders

Communicate with stakeholders

Create a plan for parent engagement

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Q & A

What Does it Look Like in Real Life? Foundations of Our Practices

Panelists

Jennifer Wiley

Coach

Center for High School Success

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Derek Anderson

Principal

Grandview High School

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Jenny's Slide

Considerations

Discuss your ideas with leadership

Share ideas with your professional learning community

Lead a discussion with students

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Resources

Resources

Funding

- Unlocking Federal & State Program Funds to Support Student Success

Tools & Videos

- Read & Subscribe to the Engage Newsletter
- Leadership Team Activities Care Package
- Engage Ninth Graders in Community Building
- Planning document
- <Virginia's links>

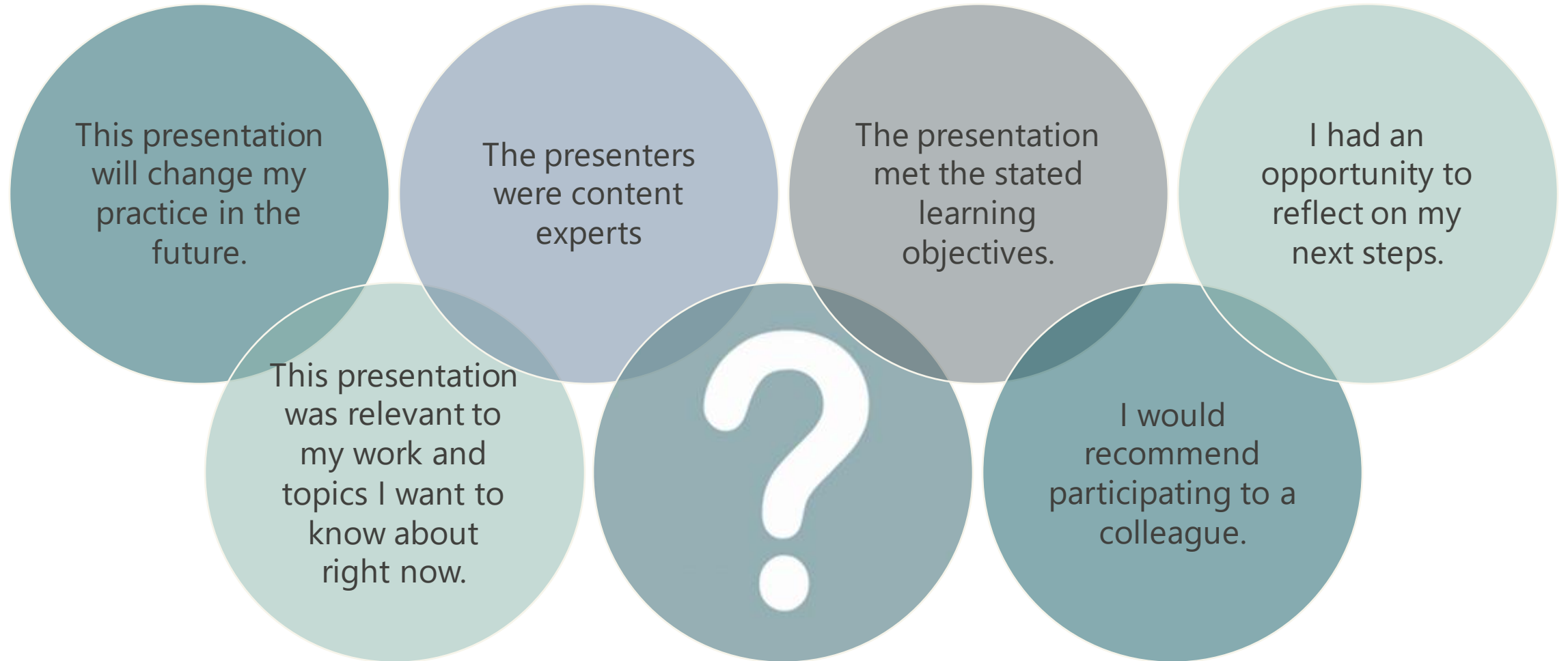## Websites

- Road Map

People

- Connect with OSPI staff

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Next Time

August 14

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Link is live!

Evaluation

This presentation will change my practice in the future.

The presenters were content experts

The presentation met the stated learning objectives.

I had an opportunity to reflect on my next steps.

This presentation was relevant to my work and topics I want to know about right now.

?

I would recommend participating to a colleague.

Do You Need Free Clock Hours?

Watch Live → [Register in Zoom for the year](#) → Register for Clock Hours monthly in pdEnroller → Complete the pdEnroller Evaluation

Watch the Video Later → Register monthly for Clock Hours in pdEnroller → Complete the pdEnroller Evaluation → [Complete the Graduation Equity Webinar Feedback Survey](#)
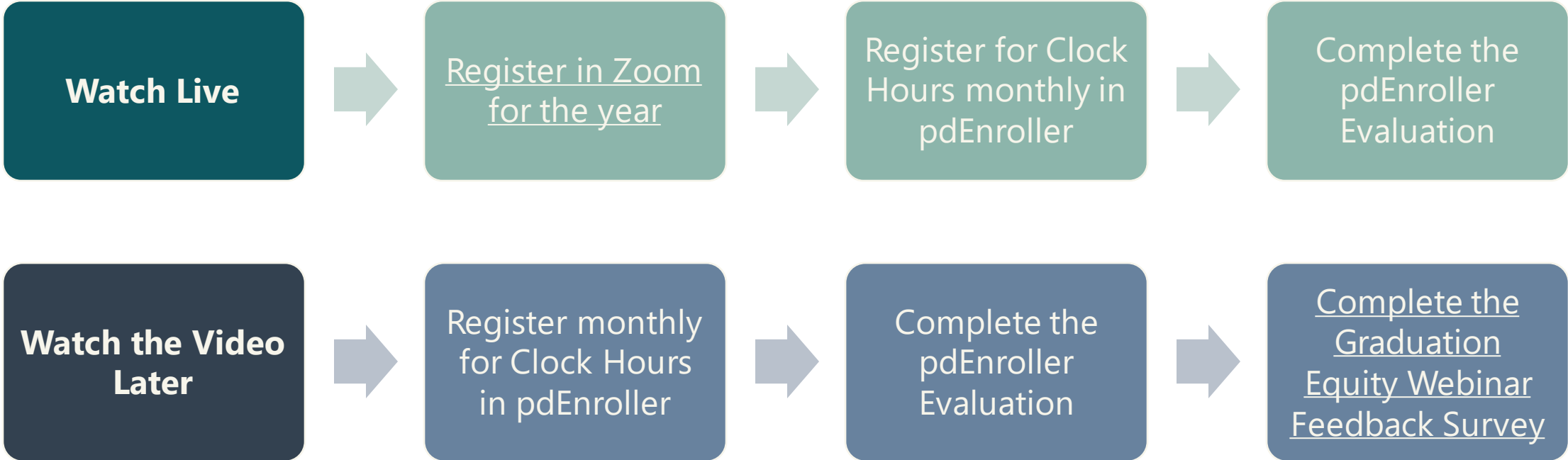
Email Ronnie.Larson@k12.wa.us

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