

Pierce, King, Snohomish Opportunity Youth

Statutory and/or Budget Language

\$750,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$750,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for the office of the superintendent of public instruction to contract with a nonprofit organization serving opportunity youth in Pierce, King and Snohomish counties. The organization must assist traditionally underrepresented students on nontraditional educational pathways by providing mentorship and technical assistance in navigating higher education and financial aid. The office may require the recipient of these funds to report the impacts of the efforts in alignment with the measures of the Washington school improvement framework.

Purpose

The funding in this proviso is contracted to Northwest Education Access (NWEA) [formerly Seattle Education Access] to provide comprehensive and individualized support to assist traditionally underrepresented students to build their own path to higher education and beyond. NWEA is a nonprofit organization serving youth in Pierce and Snohomish Counties.

Description of Services Provided

Built and maintained 15 partnerships in Pierce and Snohomish County collectively with community and technical colleges and community-based organizations, both for referrals and resource mapping.

Meet with partners to establish access points for youth reengaging in education to access services, including specific referral requirements, timelines for accessing education programming, and supplemental support programming.

Build and expand partnerships to expand direct service to youth including documenting previous educational achievements, establishing current education goals, creating educational pathways to reach the preferred goal, and providing guidance and support to follow pathway through ongoing check ins and progress monitoring.

Provide capacity building to organizations in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties to enhance local supports available to opportunity youth.



Criteria for Receiving Services and/or Grants

- Serve at least 900 students each year.
- At least 60% of college prep students will either complete their high school degree or take a college entrance exam.
- At least 65% of post-secondary students will remain enrolled from year to year.

Beneficiaries in the 2023-24 School Year

Number of School Districts	N/A
Number of Schools	N/A
Number of Students	1,040
Number of Educators	N/A
Other	N/A

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2024	\$750,000	\$747,951
2023	\$500,000	\$500,000
2022	\$500,000	\$500,000

Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2024	1,040
2023	903
2022	825

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

N/A

Program Evaluation or Evaluation of Major Findings

2024 showed great progress in Snohomish County. There was an increase in student referrals and participation in workshops in the county. This is attributed to their Snohomish County Education Advocate's intentional work in cultivating new relationships and providing workshops in Spanish to the community.

Major Challenges Faced by the Program

Pierce County continues to have a growing need for services. The direct service team consisted of 1.5 FTE and was referred to more students than they could serve on their caseloads. This resulted in pausing new referrals. NWEA is seeking funding opportunities in Pierce County to add to their team to serve more students.

Future Opportunities

NWEA has been in contact with Puyallup Open Doors, The REACH Center and Tacoma Community House, and Gates High School in Franklin Pierce School District to provide direct services to students once funding becomes available.

Other Relevant Information

N/A

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

[Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2024 Fiscal Year.](#)

Program Contact Information

Name	Francesca Matias
Title	Youth Engagement Program Supervisor
Phone	360-584-0262
Email	francesca.matias@k12.wa.us