

# Summer Open Doors Pilots

## Statutory and/or Budget Language

\$1,250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$1,250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for the office of the superintendent of public instruction to conduct summer open doors pilots with up to 12 dropout reengagement programs to support summer programming. To select pilot participants, the office must prioritize schools and programs that work with post-resident youth as defined in RCW 28A.190.005. Amounts provided in this subsection must be used to support programming during the summer months and are in addition to funding generated by enrollment under state funding formulas.

## Purpose

This proviso funds the provision of Open Doors “1418” Youth Reengagement during the traditionally unfunded summer months. It enables the annual average full-time equivalent (AAFTE) funding to increase from 1.0 (ten months) to 1.2 (12 months), allowing piloting programs the opportunity to access and make student apportionment claims in July and August. The summer pilot project prioritized programs with high enrollment rates of post-resident youth, as directed by the legislature.

## Description of Services Provided

The ten summer pilot programs coordinated and implemented all aspects of Open Doors programming during July and August, including maintaining staff (certificated teachers and case managers), venue, materials, and resources. Funding was provided to ten selected programs to participate in the summer pilot by specifically offering instructional and career development opportunities in the summer months. Summer pilot program activities were done in partnership with community or industry partners and offered as part of the scheduled school day by participating Open Doors Youth Reengagement programs. Summer pilot programs assisted students with barrier reduction support. Barrier reduction supports maximized access to, and persistence in, summer programming by addressing the root causes of life-based interruptions to student attendance relative to housing stability, food insecurity, transportation, and other necessities.

## Criteria for Receiving Services and/or Grants

Selected programs were eligible for this funding based on their service rates of post-resident youth students. Programs with higher-than-state-average rates of service of post-resident students were eligible to participate in the pilot. The following activities were required for the program to qualify for the summer pilot funding:

- Enroll and serve students in July and August



- Develop or expand partnerships with community/industry partners to offer unique and rigorous learning opportunities for students
- Provide basic needs supports to students that reduce barriers to engagement
- Participate in project evaluation activities, including data collection and submission

### Beneficiaries in the 2023-24 School Year

<b>Number of School Districts</b>	3
<b>Number of Schools</b>	10
<b>Number of Students</b>	607
<b>Number of Educators</b>	N/A
<b>Other</b>	7

### Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No

### State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2024	\$1,250,000	\$1,248,591

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

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2024	10

### Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

To support district and ESD participation in the summer pilot funding opportunity, OSPI provided project-specific communication and technical assistance, including:

- Launched the initial five pilot programs in summer 2023,
- Provided technical assistance related to the grant application process,
- Assisted programs in identifying expansion opportunities designed to motivate and engage students,
- Established routine meeting schedule for pilot grantee monitoring and support,
- Increased number of pilot programs from five to ten, by identifying and onboarding an additional five grantees during the 2022-2023 academic year,
- Offered multiple professional development training courses on proviso-directed service to improve services for post-resident youth,
- Provided technical assistance related to the grant application process, common pitfalls, and ways to identify expansion opportunities for new and existing programs,

- Issued implementation and procedural guidance documents including barrier reduction guidance, pilot implementation timelines, comprehensive pilot project descriptions, statewide roster of potential partners, examples of successful partnerships for student success, and informational briefs,
- Provided technical assistance for district staff on both reporting enrollments and procedures for claiming 1.2 AAFTE,
- Clarified purpose for expanding partnerships within summer pilot programs and utilized various strategies to scale student engagement and partnerships processes, and
- Facilitated regular meetings to address cross-system communications, problem-solving, and continuous improvement with Employment Security Department, OSPI's Institutional Education team, and the contracted project evaluators.

## Program Evaluation or Evaluation of Major Findings

The summer pilot project experienced several major successes across our two priority goals.

### Priority Goal 1: Improve student access to education during the summer

The pilot project enabled Open Doors programs to claim student apportionment funding during the traditionally unfunded summer months of July and August.

#### Outcomes

- The pilot programs increased their summer month student apportionment claims by 291 percent, growing from 170 claims in summer 2021-2022 to 666 claims in summer 2022-2023, when compared to the previously unfunded year.
- Nearly half (49 percent) of the students who were enrolled in pilot sites during the regular academic year persisted into the summer months.

### Priority Goal 2: Prioritize schools and programs that work with post-resident youth

In 2022-23, Open Doors programs served **19 percent** (793 students) of the 4,207 post-resident high school youth in Washington state (approximately one-in-five). A higher proportion of post-resident youth students are served by Open Doors educational service district (ESD) partners (13 percent) and community-based partners (12 percent), compared to all other provider types including districts, colleges, and for-profit entities – each of which showed service rates of six percent or less.

#### Outcomes

The project evaluation findings specific to this priority include the following:

- On average, the summer pilot programs served a higher proportion (13 percent) of post-resident youth in school year 2022–23 compared with non-pilot programs (7

percent). Summer 2023 pilot programs included three ESDs, one district, and one community-based organization, reflecting the providers who serve the highest percentage and proportion of post-resident youth students statewide. This finding confirms that OSPI met the proviso directive and selected schools and programs with higher-than-average rates of service to post resident youth.

- Among all post-resident youth in the summer 2023 pilot, 15 percent were *newly enrolled* during July or August indicating that summer programming can increase first-time enrollments and re-engagement in school for post-resident youth. This supports the pilot's premise that when funded to operate during the summer, Open Doors programs can engage post-resident youth who otherwise are deferred until September and who may become disconnected while awaiting the next academic year to begin.
- Over half (53 percent) of the post-resident youth students who were enrolled in pilot sites during the regular academic year persisted into the summer months.

### Other Findings

Data from a statewide survey of all Open Doors programs conducted during the pilot revealed that insufficient resources and lack of funding were the most frequently identified barriers to serving post-resident youth.

### Major Challenges Faced by the Program

The proviso funding immediately coincided with the summer launch, leaving the initial five pilot programs with little preparation and planning time. OSPI identified this inherent timing barrier and adjusted post-summer to design a mid-year onboarding process. During mid-academic year, an additional five programs were recruited. By November, all ten programs were preparing and completing activities to support the coming 2023-24 summer pilot.

### Future Opportunities

OSPI finds that summer month apportionment results in improved student access to learning, and that increasing the AAFTE from 1.0 to 1.20 will provide improved continuity for post-resident students and all students.

OSPI has identified that ample funding for Open Doors Youth Reengagement results in increased student access among post-resident youth students and all students. To support student access to learning, OSPI has requested legislative action for supporting students with their basic needs by offering barrier reduction. The budget request for the 2025 legislative session is \$4.8M in barrier reduction funding to improve student-staff relationships, program connectedness, and student goal persistence.

Additionally, the program can provide a more diverse array of student-engagement opportunities when funding exists to launch intensive partnerships with industry and community-based professionals.

The evaluation of the summer pilot project will continue next year. A culminating report on findings will be issued in 2024-2025 to inform improvement strategies and identify future opportunities.

## Other Relevant Information

Three categories of service emerged relative to delivering summer programming. Some programs implemented the summer pilot as a continuation of the traditional year, complete with full staffing and hours – we termed this category year-round. Another portion of summer pilot programs offered uniquely designed and specialized opportunities for students – we termed this category special summer programming. Lastly, a portion of the summer pilot programs offered reduced program activities or hours, which we termed limited summer programming.

## Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

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

## Program Contact Information

<b>Name</b>	Mandy Paradise
<b>Title</b>	Associate Director of Reengagement
<b>Phone</b>	360-725-4958
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:mandy.paradise@k12.wa.us">mandy.paradise@k12.wa.us</a>