

Mental Health Outcomes Everett

Statutory and/or Budget Language

\$150,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$150,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for the office to contract with a nonprofit organization located in Everett, Washington to provide arts and culture programs to 500 low-income children and youth from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds to close the education achievement gap in Snohomish county by improving student and youth confidence and improving mental health outcomes.

Purpose

The contractor, Mari’s Place for the Arts (MPFA) offers out-of-school arts and culture programs in various school settings throughout the school year (2023–2024) to 500 low-income children and youth in Snohomish County, aiming to help close the educational achievement gap, along with improving students’ mental health outcomes, among diverse racial and ethnic groups.

Description of Services Provided

Drawing, painting, and dancing classes were offered to 500 low-income students from October 2023 – September 2024 in Snohomish County.

Criteria for Receiving Services and/or Grants

- Share course offerings and expected outcomes before each quarter starts.
- Reach out to low-income students from diverse backgrounds yearly to enroll them in programs.
- Provide a schedule of courses by location.
- Offer courses lasting one hour per week for six weeks.
- Track attendance and gather feedback from 250 students or parents to assess program impact annually.
- Identify and address barriers to student access and participation.
- List current partnering institutions and community organizations involved in student recruitment or enrollment.

Beneficiaries in the 2023–24 School Year

Number of School Districts	4
Number of Schools	8
Number of Students	826
Number of Educators	8
Other	33



Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2024	\$150,000	\$146,800

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

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2024	879

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

None

Program Evaluation or Evaluation of Major Findings

Children/youth receive a pre and post survey each quarter to assess the intended effectiveness of MPFA programs. The survey questions represent indicators of improved motivation to do better in school, confidence in educational success, and goals to achieve higher levels of educational attainment. These measures also represent the improved path of their educational goals and thus will result in closing educational achievement gaps.

The attached children/youth report represents approximately 70% response rate of all children/youth in the programs from September 2023 through August 2024. The demographics of these children/youth are almost all low-income or very low-income. Majority are BIPOC with Latinx representing the most significant percent of children and youth.

Overall, this report shows dramatic improvement in all indicators after just one program experience at MPFA. In each survey question, children/youth respondents shift their perspective from never, rarely, and sometimes to usually and always. In many of the questions the shifts show triple or quadruple. For example, in responses to the question "I can do new things," before the MPFA class approximately 20% said usually and always. In the post survey, approximately 80% of the children/youth respond with usually and always.

[Impact Survey - Children Survey - Sheet1](#)

Major Challenges Faced by the Program

Although school district administrators collaborate with MPFA and recognize the significant impact of its programs on underserved students, school sites tend to be less accommodating. At

times, the only spaces provided for these classes are outdoors or on the basketball court. This situation makes it difficult for children to experience the overall benefits of the program.

Future Opportunities

When the school district informs parents about MPFA programs, hundreds of children and youth sign up. However, each class costs MPFA around \$350 per student. Despite efforts to increase revenues, MPFA cannot meet the full demand. This leads to waitlists and delayed enrollments, causing some students to lose interest.

While there's a great potential to meet demand and grow into more schools, MPFA needs more financial backing. Although PSTAA funding aims to close the educational achievement gap, it mainly goes to local schools, colleges, and universities for other budget needs, leaving MPFA without access.

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	Denise Davis
Title	Director – Elementary Education Content
Phone	360-819-6843
Email	denise.davis@k12.wa.us