

Youth Mentoring

Through state-funded efforts, OSPI contracts with multiple organizations that provide direct services to middle and high school students through a one-to-one volunteer mentoring program. The goal of the mentoring program is to provide career-integrated mentoring for disadvantaged high school students facing academic and personal challenges with the goal of keeping them on track for graduation and post-high school success. The mentoring program includes a focus on college readiness, career exploration and social-emotional learning.

Why mentoring?

In the 2023 Healthy Youth Survey, an average of **12%** of students self reported that they do not have a trusted adult or person to turn to when they feel sad or hopeless.

Mentoring youth is a powerful way to positively influence their personal, academic, and social development. It provides young people with guidance, encouragement, and a supportive relationship that helps them navigate challenges and seize opportunities.

Statistics from [MENTOR National](#) highlight the profound benefits of mentoring relationships:

- **Community Involvement:** 92% of mentored youth are more likely to volunteer in their community, fostering a sense of civic responsibility and engagement.
- **Leadership Development:** 75% of young people with mentors are more likely to take on leadership roles in clubs, sports teams, or other organizations, showcasing the role mentoring plays in nurturing future leaders.
- **Long-Term Success:** 74% of individuals who had a mentor credit that relationship as a significant factor in their later success, underlining the lifelong impact of mentorship.
- **Educational Support:** 85% of mentored youth report that their relationship helped them address school-related challenges, improving their academic outcomes and aspirations.

These figures demonstrate that mentoring is not just about guidance; it fosters personal growth, leadership, and a commitment to giving back, setting young people on a path to achieve their full potential.

One-to-one Mentoring in Washington

OSPI currently contracts with [Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound](#) (BBBS), [Community for Youth](#) (CfY), and [Life Enrichment Group](#) (LEG) to provide one-to-one mentoring to disadvantaged students. The goals of the program is to:

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- Recruit and enroll mentors
- Provide training and support for mentors
- Match volunteer mentors with students for career-integrated mentoring
- Provide ongoing match support to student mentoring matches

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound

As of June 2024, BBBS has enrolled 341 middle and high school students in their statewide mentoring program. BBBS served 99 middle school students and 242 high school students.

Community for Youth

CfY served a total of 55 high school students in the South Seattle/King County area during the 2023-24 school year.

Life Enrichment Group

LEG served a total of 54 high school students in the South Seattle area during the 2023-24 school year.

Overall outcomes:

Connectivity and Growth of Match Relationships: 100% of students identified that their mentor was someone they could talk to when they are frustrated with their situation and who could help them make positive decisions.

Student Engagement and Attachment to School: 96% of students reported this program taught them how to use technology to gather information about or for school, work, and/or personal use. 98% feel more confident in practicing the skills that they have learned

Socio-Emotional Competency:

- **Higher Aspirations:** 100% of students understand the next steps to reach their goals. 94% of students reported that this program taught them how to feel confident and knowledgeable about at least 2 kinds of jobs/careers of their interest.
- **Greater Confidence:** 100% of students are more comfortable in standing up for what they think is right. 100% of students have a strong sense of belonging to my own cultural and ethnic identity.
- **Better Relationships:** 98% of students developed supportive connections with my community.