

Dropout Prevention, Intervention

Budget Language

\$280,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024, \$530,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025, \$593,000 of the dedicated cannabis account—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024, and \$618,000 of the dedicated cannabis account—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for dropout prevention, intervention, and reengagement programs, dropout prevention programs that provide student mentoring, and the building bridges statewide program. The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall convene staff representatives from high schools to meet and share best practices for dropout prevention. Of these amounts, the entire dedicated cannabis account—state appropriation is provided solely for the building bridges statewide program and for grants to districts for life skills training for children and youth in K-12.

Proviso Purpose

Funding is provided for statewide Building Bridges programming. Building Bridges programming is defined in RCW 28A.175.025 as supporting local partnerships between schools, families, and communities to create a system to identify students at risk of dropping out and provide timely prevention, intervention, and reengagement programming for such students.

Services Provided

OSPI uses this funding to support staffing, contracts and grants.

Staffing

Staffing paid out of this proviso lead the following work:

- Raises awareness of evidence-based practices and processes through communication (ENGAGE Newsletter) and webinars ([GATE Equity Webinars](#))
- Statewide management of the [Open Doors "1418" Youth Reengagement](#) program which includes technical assistance, program review and approval, data reporting, and implementation supports to districts.
- Management of [Building Bridges grant program](#)
- Staffing and facilitation of the [GATE Advisory](#)

Grants to School Districts

The Building Bridges Grant program supported grantee districts to hold community conversations on Early Warning Systems barriers and opportunities.



Criteria for Receiving Services/Grants

Beneficiaries in the 2024-25 School Year – SB2

Number of School Districts:	295
Number of Schools:	N/A
Number of Students:	N/A
Number of Educators:	N/A

Beneficiaries in the 2024-25 School Year – CW2

Number of School Districts:	295
Number of Schools:	N/A
Number of Students:	N/A
Number of Educators:	N/A

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No.

State Funding History

SB2 – Dropout Prevention, Intervention

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2025	\$530,000	\$367,268
2024	\$280,000	\$280,000
2023	\$280,000	\$171,440
2022	\$280,000	\$126,515
2021	\$280,000	\$233,250

CW2 – Dropout Prevention, Intervention

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2025	\$618,000	\$537,407
2024	\$593,000	\$580,574
2023	\$550,000	\$540,267
2022	\$520,000	\$317,377
2021	\$530,000	\$529,920

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

Fiscal Year	Number of Community Partners	Number of Districts	Number of Schools	Number of Students
2025	N/A	N/A	N/A	295
2024	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2023	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2022	30	34	78	2,851

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

The funding and grants, and their purposes, for this grant have changed over time. We've offered grants for a variety of innovation projects. Building Bridges has had grants to study and support highlight districts, to provide leadership training, to provide funding for youth-serving community-based organizations, and to schools involved in ninth grade success holding community conversations. Each grant has offered innovations in systems change and built off of previous grants. OSPI uses portions of the proviso to fund staff to manage dropout prevention, intervention, and reengagement programming.

Program(s) Evaluation or Major Findings

School community members identified several bright spots related to EWS. Participants agreed that 9th grade success teams are making an impact. Some educators reported that relationships between students and educators are improving and students are receiving timely support. In addition, schools are increasingly aware of the need to partner with families and the community. Although not a widespread practice, certain schools and regional efforts are engaging the community as EWS decision-makers.

Major Challenges Faced by Program(s)

Districts, particularly small and rural districts, continue to struggle to afford data dashboards or tools that help them easily review aggregate early warning indicator data (attendance, behavior, and course performance); dashboards and graphs that are not typically available in their foundational Student Information System. Without this access, schools are missing opportunities to efficiently assess the health of their whole system and know which areas need more intervention.

Future Opportunities

The Building Bridges Project is concerned with serving students that are furthest from educational justice. With insights from the Early Warning Systems Grant project, we believe we

will see additional opportunities to fine tune student supports systems and reduce barriers to graduation with continued grant funds and staff funding to offer meaningful system support.

Other Relevant Information

- [OSPI Building Bridges Program](#)
- [OSPI Open Doors Reengagement Program](#)
- [OSPI GATE Equity Webinars](#)

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

[Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2025 Fiscal Year.](#)

Program Contact Information

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