

GATE Advisory Meeting #4, June 16, 2026

Introduction

[Padlet link](#)

Ninth Grade Success Comments

- I believe the ninth-grade success program is the best for improving graduation rates.

Priority 1 Feedback

Ideas for community partners to talk to?

- Family resource centers perhaps? Some districts have FRC in their school but there are outside organizations too. [Washington Family Support Network](#).
- Schools Out Washington grants.

Priority 2 Feedback

What's the right geographic scope?

- This is a BIG need! And appreciate that you found models for us to aspire to in WA! I think the city level is too small, county level is still small, ESDs are a bit more helpful. ESDs do well to bring people together to network.

Policy 3 Feedback

- Our civil side has not had the level of investment. While the RCW provides a tiered approach, the court side has a lot more flexibility so the way that's playing out is varied. We are aware of this, and the way forward is to get better organized around this.
- King County had a dedicated truancy court room, but it was so ineffective and harmful for kids that it no longer exists. Some of the judges are very reactionary and see a slight deviation from what they requested results in detention. I don't think there can be a model truancy court like we have model drug courts.
- I do want to add we have been unable to incarcerate children for truancy. They are not being incarcerated under the Becca law. How do we expand and support our community partners?
- One thing we did hear in the Becca training is that a lot of people want to hear my consistency in the training and implementation. People were stating how different the approaches are across the agency. The biggest inconsistency was in response rather than enforcement.



What is Essential to Maintain for Dropout Prevention?

In 2–3 minutes, please share:

1. A program or funding stream your agency supports that directly helps students stay in or return to school
2. What's currently at risk from budget cuts or funding uncertainty
3. One thing you wish legislators understood about this work
 - Specifically for students in foster care, we have the graduate success program. I am worried about the funding for those. Last year the grad success program lost funding, but OSPI was able to help fund it minimally.
 - Office of the Education Ombuds doesn't receive youth-specific funding. We are a very small office within the Governor's office, and we ask questions regarding students in the public K-12 system in WA state. We also collect anonymized data about the issues students face in our state, and I wish legislators would utilize that data and ask more questions to respond to those trends effectively.
 - The ninth-grade success program currently supports 50 schools across the state and by investing early on we reduce for costly interventions later on. Consistent funding will keep this essential program in place to find early warnings to help keep students on track to graduate.
 - I represent the 12 workforce boards. Each workforce board has its own programs its funding and advocating for. The board I represent are direct service providers. One of the funding sources that every board is title 1 funding for out of school youth. This funding does come through the federal and to the state to oversee those grants and what happens to those supports. These are for work-based learning, drop out support, etc. We have an alternative learning program and want to see that continue to be supported.
 - Students need whole child support and working with community organizations is a big part of that support.
 - For DSHS, food assistance to families, educational programing, child study and treatment center in Burien. I am not as familiar with what the funding concerns will be with those programs, but the transition programs are funded by both state and federal funding. So far, the funding is solid for the end of this fiscal year but there are some that are not on solid ground for next year. These are important programs that help students feel a connection to their future.
 - I am in adolescent health, and I am trying to reach out and see what things need to be relayed here. I will get that to you, Krissy, as soon as possible. Everything is stretched thin. How do you choose between funding for teens or young kids, etc.?
 - I will add that Open Doors is not an easy lift for small school districts. And as school funding continues to squeeze district budgets, it is even harder. Some school districts are not serving dropouts but do not want to partner with regional Open Doors partners because they do not want to give up the funding they receive per student.

- The impact of what funding goes to is being able to provide support and stability and not just temporary funding that we need to continue fighting for.