



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Washington AIM Program

1. **Purpose:**

The purpose of the Academic, Innovation, and Mentoring (AIM) program is to support community-based youth development organizations that deliver educational services, mentoring, connection to positive, prosocial leisure, and recreational activities for youth ages 6–18. The AIM program was designed to provide targeted academic and social emotional development interventions during out-of-school time.

2. **Description of services provided:**

Throughout the program's history, each of the participating AIM operating sites has implemented a range of evidence-based academic mentoring programs designed to improve performance in core subjects, provided experiential learning opportunities, and promoted deeper engagement of social and emotional components. In addition, AIM participants develop mentoring relationships to further sustain and grow academic and social emotional gains.

3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

Eligible entities must meet the following requirements:

- Ensure that sixty percent or more of the academic, innovation, and mentoring program participants must qualify for free or reduced-price lunch
- Have an existing partnership with the school district and a commitment to develop a formalized data-sharing agreement
- Be facility based
- Combine, or have a plan to combine, academics and social-emotional learning
- Engage in a continuous program quality improvement process
- Conduct national criminal background checks for all employees and volunteers who work with children
- Have adopted standards for care including staff training, health and safety standards, and mechanisms for assessing and enforcing the program's compliance with the standards

Nonprofit entities applying for funding as a statewide network must:

- Have an existing infrastructure or network of academic, innovation, and mentoring program grant-eligible entities
- Provide after-school and summer programs with youth development services



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- Provide proven and tested recreational, educational, and character-building programs for children ages six to eighteen years of age

Beneficiaries in the 2022-23 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	N/A
Number of Schools:	N/A
Number of Students:	582
Number of Educators:	N/A
Other:	N/A

4. Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?

No

5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2023	\$362,000	\$362,000
2022	\$362,000	\$362,000
2021	\$181,000	\$181,000
2020	\$181,000	\$179,000
2019	\$179,000	\$178,795

6. Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:

Fiscal Year	Number of Grants
2023	1
2022	1
2021	1
2020	1
2019	1

7. Programmatic changes since inception (if any):

The Academic, Innovation, and Mentoring (AIM) program was created as a pilot program in the 2015–17 Operating Budget. It was then established as a continuing program in 2017 through Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 28A.215.080.



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8. Program evaluation or evaluation of major findings:

Overall, 71% or 413 students across the cohort demonstrated improvement in Reading and/or English Language Arts skills, when pre and post-test were compared.

Overall, 69% or 402 students across the cohort demonstrated improvement in Math skills, according to pre and post-tests implemented by AIM sites.

AIM sites in Vancouver, Snohomish and Thurston County reported the highest rates of improvement in both Reading and Math, with 87%/94% respectively for Vancouver; 86%/87% for the Snohomish Club, and 87%/85% in Thurston County Clubs.

Overall, after consistent participation in AIM activities, most students demonstrated a higher level of self-efficacy, which has been shown in numerous studies to be a critical component of academic success. Specific examples of demonstrated self-efficacy included increased student resilience when faced with challenging tasks, demonstrated facility with requesting help and improved ability to more precisely identify encountered difficulties to their adult mentor.

Many programs reported that a higher frequency of attendance significantly increased participants' educational attainment, as well as improved their chances of gaining better social skills, learning to problem-solve in a positive manner, and building stronger rapport with their adult mentors.

9. Major challenges faced by the program:

None

10. Future opportunities:

As funding has increased over this history of the program, the grant has been able to serve more students in more communities.

11. Statutory and/or budget language:

ESSB 5693, Sec. 522(10)(c) - \$362,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and \$362,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for implementation of chapter 180, Laws of 2017 (Washington Aimprogram).

12. Other relevant information:

None



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13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:

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14. Program Contact Information:

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