

Foster Youth Outcomes

1. **Purpose:** Youth impacted by the foster care system experience among the lowest high school graduation and postsecondary completion outcomes compared to any other population of youth. The purpose/objective of this program is to provide services to dependent youth (age 13–21) to improve their educational outcomes by providing individualized education services and monitoring to support completion of their educational milestones, remediation needs, and special education needs.

The programs at three (3) demonstration sites must facilitate the educational progress, high school completion, and postsecondary plan initiation of eligible youth, with a stated goal of improving the graduation rates and postsecondary plan initiation of foster youth by two percent (2%) per year over five (5) school years.

2. **Description of services provided:** Education specialists work with youth to create a student centered plan for their education and their future, in consultation with DCYF caseworkers. These plans help to create student centered planning goals for each youth with a set of action plans for achieving those goals. Education specialists review the student centered planning goals and action plans with youth on a monthly, sometimes weekly, basis.

In addition to graduation rates, the program tracks three academic indicators known to impact academic outcomes – attendance, behavior, and course performance. When an issue arises, education specialists advocate for youth at school to eliminate barriers to education access and success. These interventions are divided into four categories: enrollment issues, discipline related issues, barriers to accessing service, and barriers to educational progress.

3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:** This is the third (3rd) demonstration site and consists of districts in Pierce and Spokane Counties, as well as two (2) districts in Snohomish County. School districts were selected due to their high population of high school aged foster youth in those areas.

Beneficiaries in 2018-19 School Year:

# of School Districts:	20
# of Schools:	49
# of Students:	257
Other:	N/A

# of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs):	0.0
# of contractors/other staff associated with this funding:	1

FY 19 Funding:	State Appropriation:	\$684,000
	Federal Appropriation:	\$0.0
	Other fund sources:	\$0.0
	TOTAL (FY19)	\$684,000

4. Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding? If yes, explain. No.

5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY19	\$684,000	\$684,000
FY18	\$684,000	\$684,000

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

Fiscal Year	# of Districts
FY19	20
FY18	10

7. **Programmatic changes since inception (if any):** The initial pilot was a single demonstration site with school districts in King County. Since then, the first site has expanded to all school districts in King County. Two (2) additional demonstration sites, including this one, were added in other regions of the state. In addition, this contract was moved from DSHS/CA to OSPI for contract management. The transition has allowed the state education agency to facilitate better working relationships with school districts, and better communication with the providers intended audience.

8. **Evaluations of program/major findings:** The goal is to increase graduation rates for students in foster care in the three demonstration sites. Although 2019 graduation rates are not yet available, we have seen an overall average of 5% increase in graduation rates from 2017 – 2018.

9. **Major challenges faced by the program:** Initially there was a difference in how the contractor and OSPI calculated graduation rates, creating a discrepancy in outcomes. We've since been able to agree on a shared calculation baseline and this issue has been resolved.

OSPI and DCYF have established a data exchange which allows us to identify all students who are in out-of-home care under the authority of DCYF. This information is used to identify foster care students for purposes of reporting and service delivery. Graduation rate is based on a cohort of students. The cohort is made up of all students who start 9th grade together. Students who transfer into or out of a school are added or removed from the cohort. If students stop attending school, they are counted as 'drop outs'. If students have met graduation requirements, they are counted as 'graduates'. If students don't graduate but are still attending, they are considered 'continuing'. The four year graduation rate includes students that graduated in 4 years. For reporting, we use the rule that if a student is ever in out-of-home care in grades 9th through 12th, they are designated as foster care.

10. **Future opportunities:** The contractor continues to expand throughout the state, using private funding to supplement costs. Due to the knowledge and expertise gained in the

implementation of this first demonstration site, expansion to additional sites has been fluent. The contractor's ongoing partnership with OSPI and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families has allowed the contractor to implement protocols, policies, and procedures for the maintenance and expansion of the program.

With shared understanding and an improved method of data collection and reporting, we hope to examine the intersection of foster care with other subcategories, such as juvenile justice, in an effort to address the impact of cross-system involvement.

11. **Statutory and/or Budget language:**

Budget Proviso: ESSB 6032 Section 501(36) - \$2,145,000 of the general fund--state appropriation for fiscal year 2018 and \$2,145,000 of the general fund--state appropriation for fiscal year 2019 are provided solely for a contract with a nongovernmental entity or entities for demonstration sites to improve the educational outcomes of students who are dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW pursuant to chapter 71, laws of 2016 (Fourth Substitute House Bill No. 1999 foster youth educational outcomes). (a) Of the amount provided in this subsection, \$446,000 of the general fund state appropriation for fiscal year 2018 and \$446,000 of the general fund state appropriation for fiscal year 2019 are provided solely for the demonstration site established pursuant to the 2013-15 omnibus appropriations act, section 202(10), chapter 4, Laws of 2013, 2nd special session. (b) Of the amount provided in this subsection, \$1,015,000 of the general fund state appropriation for fiscal year 2018 and \$1,015,000 of the general fund state appropriation for fiscal year 2019 are provided solely for the demonstration site established pursuant to the 2015-17 omnibus appropriations act, section 501(43) (b), chapter 4, Laws of 2015, 2nd special session, as amended.

12. **Other relevant information:** Over the last decade, legislative leadership has sparked innovation and development of an array of services to improve educational outcomes. This coordinated, intensive, and intentional program proactively supports youth to complete high school and successfully implement their own plans for their future.

13. **List of schools/districts receiving assistance:** See OSPI [website](#).

14. **Program Contact Information:** Peggy Carlson
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