



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

Beneficiaries in 2021-22 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	0
Number of Schools:	0
Number of Students:	395
Number of Educators:	0
Other:	N/A

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 0

Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 0

FY22 Funding:	State Appropriation:	\$362,000
	Federal Appropriation:	\$0
	Other Fund Sources:	\$0
	TOTAL (FY22)	\$362,000

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

No

5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2022	\$362,000	\$362,000
2021	\$181,000	\$181,000
2020	\$181,000	\$179,000
2019	\$179,000	\$178,795
2018	\$178,000	\$178,000

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

Fiscal Year	Number of Grants
2022	1
2021	1
2020	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.

8. Evaluations of program/major findings:

The 2021 AIM year grant set out to serve 395 kids across 12 different Boys & Girls Club locations under nine organizations with a minimum of 30 academic tutoring sessions per Club year, while incorporating social and emotional learning principles, either as an integrated mentoring/tutoring approach, or as a stand-alone program. Clubs refocused on the tutoring aspect of the grant, ensuring that Club kids had access to academic role models besides Club staff who they regularly interact with. Finally, behavior metrics were collected to understand the impact of AIM activities on overall attendance and discipline of AIM participants while at school. All sites have collected participant demographics and pre-intervention measurements of academic and social and emotional development, utilizing a variety of approaches. All sites are on track to complete a minimum of 30 AIM sessions over the course of the grant period. All of the Clubs reported on observed progress in ELA and Math measures for program participants, to be verified and presented in the December legislative report. All Clubs reported seeing greater levels of engagement in academic activities from grant participants. And all sites witnessed a significant improvement in student engagement and outcomes once the programs were able to return to in-person support.

9. Major challenges faced by the program:

Due to significant staff turnover triggered by the pandemic, some of the Clubs experienced challenges with program participant retention, as well as recruitment of additional volunteer tutors. Programs experience a level of disruption when a staff member leaves, with Club member engagement taking a hit, as well as established community relations suffering or ceasing to exist. All Clubs affected by these transitions reported some level of setbacks in program implementation, and sought out suggestions or best practices from their grant cohort. As a result, they will implement cohort-wide webinars at least once or twice during the grant period that helps local Clubs seek out solutions from other cohort participants, and problem solve similar challenges together.

10. Future opportunities:

The 2021–23 programming includes a particular focus on social emotional learning, as most students continue to struggle with the long-term effects of pandemic

isolation, health and social impacts, and learning interruptions impacting academic proficiency.

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 Aim program).

12. Other relevant information:

N/A

13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:

See [OSPI's grantee list](#).

14. Program Contact Information:

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