Student Support for Academic Success: Dropout Prevention, Intervention, and Reengagement

Superintendent Dorn requests $18.5 million to increase dropout prevention, intervention, and reengagement efforts across the state.

- In 2011, the GATE Initiative (Graduation: A Team Effort) was started by OSPI to work together with state partners, including the Department of Social and Health Services, Department of Health, Department of Commerce and Department of Early Learning, to prevent youth from dropping out, intervene in instances where students are at risk of leaving school, and re-engage those youth that have dropped out. Through this work, OSPI has identified the need to create a statewide collective impact structure to build a common understanding of the dropout problem and a shared vision across sectors in each of the 295 districts around the state.

Background

- 14,045 students in Washington State dropped out of high school during the 2010-11 school year; equates to 78 students each school day.
- There are multiple factors that contribute to youth dropping out of school including: lack of food or shelter, loss of a parent due to incarceration, death, or military deployment, unsafe and unprepared school and communities, early pregnancy or other physical health issues, and substance abuse or mental health challenges. Federal and state funding for these services have been significantly cut over the last few years.
- The consequences of not graduating from high school are serious for both individuals and society as a whole. $10,500 per year can be saved for every dropout that is prevented.
- The Stanford Social Innovation Review has introduced the collective impact concept of highly structured collaborative efforts that have achieved substantial impact on a large scale social problem. Successful collective impact initiatives revolve around five principles: a common agenda, shared measurement systems, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication and backbone support organizations.
- Students cannot achieve without basic life skills. Life skills cannot be developed without the security granted by basic health and safety needs.

Recommendation: FY14 - $6,365,000  FY15 - $12,165,000  13-15 Total - $18,530,000

Superintendent Dorn requests funding to:

1. Deploy a comprehensive needs assessment tool for use by ESDs and school districts to determine student support needs.
2. Design a comprehensive action plan with school and community partnerships to maximize existing resources in each school community, based on the specific needs identified by the assessment.
3. Provide grants to school districts for the needs assessment and implementation of a plan of action.
4. Provide 21 graduation coaches across the state; monitoring academic progress, providing guidance and support communicating with families, and connecting with community resources.
5. Increase funding for Building Bridges, Jobs for America’s Graduates, College Success Foundation and the Opportunity Internship Program.

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