



Student-Athletes in STEM

1. **Purpose:**

Student-Athletes in STEM is a program that supports student athletes by providing specific academic instruction and mentoring in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) fields.

2. **Description of services provided:**

OSPI funded two non-profit contractors to provide STEM learning experiences to student athletes in the form of classes, programs, and/or scholarships, with the aim to improve school performance and advancement across diverse communities.

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

Non-profit with staff training in STEM instructional strategies and experience instructing and mentoring K-12 student athletes.

Beneficiaries in 2020-21 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	5
Number of Schools:	22
Number of Students:	78 elementary and 13 high school
Number of Educators:	N/A
Other: non-profit contractors	2

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

Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 2

FY21 Funding: State Appropriation:	\$125,000
Federal Appropriation:	\$0
Other fund sources:	\$0
TOTAL (FY21)	\$118,350

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

No

Yes, please explain.

5. **State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY21	\$125,000	\$125,000
FY20	\$125,000	\$118,350

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

Fiscal Year	Number of School Districts	Number of Schools	Number of Students	Number of Educators	Number of Other
FY21	5	22	91	n/a	2
FY20	1	1	16	n/a	1

7. **Programmatic changes since inception (if any):**

For SY 2020-2021, OSPI awarded Starfire Sports as our primary funder for STEM support, and also awarded ULMS for a 2nd year with funding (reduced from the previous year).

8. **Evaluations of program/major findings:**

Starfire Sports was awarded \$80,000 to offer educational enrichment after-school programming and scholarships in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) content to K-5 student athletes in the greater South King County area. Starfire Sports showed positive student STEM learning in their 78 total students (winter session with 56 students and spring session with 68 students). Starfire boasted a student attendance of 89% and a retention of 86% of students carrying over from winter to spring session; roughly 80% of their students are from low-income families.

The Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle (ULMS) was awarded \$38,350 to offer educational enrichment after-school programming and mentorship in STEM content to high school student athletes at Garfield High School. The selected proposal from ULMS aimed at closing the access gap for STEM education to improve school performance and advancement across diverse communities of student athletes. ULMS recruited a cohort of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) high school students. Their program concluded with 16 weeks of instruction and mentoring to 13 student athletes completing the program. Through a pre and post assessment of their program, ULMS documented most students reported feeling 'more confident about entrepreneurship, design, and marketing'.

9. **Major challenges faced by the program:**

Both Starfire Sports and Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle (ULMS) faced several hurdles in their implementation of their contract through January-June 2021. The constant flux of COVID rates across King County had providers originally planning

for in-person mentoring, then transitioning to distance learning and then (some) back to in-person instruction as schools grappled with reopening. ULMS worked intensely with 13 students; however, had low attendance with 3 of their students in May and June. Starfire and ULMS were the only applicants and only awardees for this fiscal year and were focused in the Seattle-South King County area.

10. **Future opportunities:**

N/A

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

ESSB 5092, Sec. 1518 (14) \$125,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and \$125,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to provide learning experiences for student-athletes in the science, technology, engineering, and math sectors. The Office must contract with a nonprofit to offer student-athlete classes, programs, and scholarships to improve school performance and advancement across diverse communities.

12. **Other relevant information:**

N/A

13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)

14. **Program Contact Information:**

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