



# Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

## **Seattle Education Access Program**

### 1. **Purpose:**

The funding in this proviso is passed through directly to Northwest Education Access (NWEA) [formerly Seattle Education Access] in order to provide comprehensive and individualized support to help low-income young people, including highly mobile homeless youth ages 16–29 build their own path to higher education and beyond. NWEA supports homeless and low-income young people who are disconnected from traditional education pathways to overcome life and academic barriers and succeed in higher education.

### 2. **Description of services provided:**

These funds have expanded services into Pierce and Snohomish Counties, with workstreams falling into three main categories: partnership development in Pierce County, direct service with young people in Pierce County, and capacity building with other service providers in Snohomish County.

Partnership development in Pierce County:

- Participate in Graduate Tacoma's Community Learning Cohort
- Establish partnerships and new referral channels with Tacoma College Housing Assistance Program, Tacoma Community College, and Fresh Start
- Enhance capacity at Tacoma Community College for student navigation services

Direct service with students served through these funds includes:

- Providing the personal attention, mentorship, technical assistance, and moral support that low-income young people need to navigate the complex systems of higher education and financial aid
- Connecting low-income young people with information and resources and support them in creating an individualized plan to meet their higher education goals
- Advocating for and with low-income young people and empower them to develop their own voices as they pursue their higher education
- Providing financial resources that help low-income young people access higher education and meet their basic needs while in school

Capacity building with other service providers in Snohomish County:

- Established new relationship with Cocoon House, a community-based organization servicing youth experiencing homelessness
- Conducted needs assessment with Cocoon House to identify priority areas of interest and gaps
- Co-created annual training plan to address identified areas of need
- Developed and facilitated session on critical elements of intake process and student educational goal setting and planning
- Shared tools for Cocoon House to adapt to their context for serving youth with postsecondary intake and planning

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

Student participants must meet the following requirements:

- be between the ages of 16-19 at the start of programming;
- qualify as low-income (as defined by HUD data); and
- express a strong motivation to reconnect with education and earn a postsecondary credential.

Part of these funds support capacity building with other community-based organizations. Eligibility for organizations partnering with NWEA are minimal, yet include; interest in developing or enhancing postsecondary transition support for youth or young adults, willingness to provide feedback on draft tools and trainings so that NWEA can continue to improve development of service and delivery, and have adequate staff capacity committed to investing in organizational learning.

**Beneficiaries in 2019-20 School Year:**

<b>Number of School Districts:</b>	1
<b>Number of Schools:</b>	3
<b>Number of Students:</b>	14
<b>Other: Capacity Building Recipients:</b>	5

**Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs):** 0.0

**Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding:** 1.0

<b>FY20 Funding: State Appropriation:</b>	\$250,000
<b>Federal Appropriation:</b>	\$0
<b>Other fund sources:</b>	\$0
<b>TOTAL (FY20)</b>	\$250,000

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

No

Yes, please explain.

*If state funds are not available, the state will not be eligible...*

5. **State funding history:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Amount Funded</b>	<b>Actual Expenditures</b>
FY20	\$250,000	\$250,000

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

Outcomes achieved for the recipients of the services provided for through this funding include the following:

Pierce County Partner Development and Student Services

- Partners: 3
- Total students served: 14
  - 6 pre-college students (students who have not yet entered postsecondary education)
  - 8 College Success students (College Success students were already enrolled in postsecondary when referred to NWEA for services)
- 9 FAFSA/WASFA completions
- 3 students referred to basic needs resources
- 3 students who accessed NWEA COVID emergency funds
- 5 students awarded NWEA Gap scholarships
- 1 student awarded outside scholarship
- 1 student transitioning to postsecondary from pre-college
  - Due to COVID in the 2019–2020 school year, most students did have to pause their transition to postsecondary and needed additional time to navigate barriers and access additional resources

Snohomish County Capacity Building

- 1 partner
- 5 employees received NWEA training

9. **Major challenges faced by the program:**  
COVID closures of campuses and community sites initially impacted NWEA's ability to forge partnerships and establish robust student referral pipelines, but we are adjusting remotely to these challenges.
10. **Future opportunities:**  
N/A
11. **Statutory and/or budget language:**  
ESSB 6168 Sec. 520 (25) - \$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and \$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for the Seattle education access program to ensure students on nontraditional educational pathways have the mentorship and technical assistance needed to navigate higher education and financial aid. The office may require the recipient of these funds to report the impacts of the recipient's efforts in alignment with the measures of the Washington school improvement framework.
12. **Other relevant information:**  
N/A
13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**  
See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)
14. **Program Contact Information:**  
Name: Dixie Grunenfelder  
Title: Director, K12 Systems of Support  
Phone: 360-725-0415  
Email: [dixie.grunenfelder@k12.wa.us](mailto:dixie.grunenfelder@k12.wa.us)