



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

## **Building Bridges Programming**

### 1. **Purpose:**

Funding is provided for statewide Building Bridges programming. Building Bridges programming is defined in RCW 28A.175.025 as supporting local partnerships between schools, families, and communities to create a system to identify students at risk of dropping out and provide timely prevention, intervention, and reengagement programming for such students. Funding is also specifically provided for the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program.

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

- Implement Graduation: A Team Effort (GATE) programming, including monthly webinars and quarterly advisory committee meetings focused on dropout prevention, intervention, and reengagement practices and policies.
  - Over the course of the year, Building Bridges staff hosted and created monthly webinars that drew 300+ viewers each month on topics around graduation equity and strategies for increasing equity in schools through attendance, career and college readiness, and more. These sessions were recorded and have been viewed widely on YouTube.
  - The GATE Advisory group is made up of cross-agency membership from youth serving organizations across the state. The group met twice and collaborated on community partnerships and substance abuse as well as hope, mentoring, and youth voice.
- Develop and update tools for district/school use for improving student outcomes.
  - Staff have worked in partnership with Gonzaga University staff to implement a pilot program with ESD 123 region schools that were identified for improvement. The pilot was created to support schools in providing timely supports to students using a multi-tiered framework of supports through regular data review and using a collaborative team approach to evaluate the success of supports.
  - Staffing paid out of this proviso raise awareness of evidence-based practices and processes, including identification of exemplar efforts to serve as local models, support comprehensive dropout prevention, intervention, and reengagement system development.

- Reengagement programming supports provide technical assistance and supports to districts offering, or considering offering, reengagement programs such as Open Doors.
- Districts that offered JAG received grants to offset the cost of programming. JAG programming includes delivering competencies, engaging students in leadership activities, and working with local employers to create strategies and partnerships that are healthy and supportive to JAG students. JAG Specialists do this while blending three key approaches: Project Based Learning; Trauma Informed Care; and Employer Engagement. In Washington, most Specialists are also CTE teachers.

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

Building Bridges and GATE resources can be accessed by all schools but were specifically directed toward schools identified for supports through Washington’s accountability framework (Washington School Improvement Framework).

Districts that offer JAG are eligible for grants. Students are eligible for JAG services if they face graduation challenges or barriers such as chronic absenteeism, low academic performance, lack of motivation, lack of transportation, history of suspension, lack of family support, incarcerated parents, poverty, are on government assistance, etc. Once identified as potentially eligible by an advisor, teacher, counselor, or building administrator, each student is interviewed to determine their barriers, whether they would benefit from the program, and whether they want to be an active participant.

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

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Number of School Districts:</b> | All district can access GATE/Building Bridges tools and resources. 11 districts (JAG grants) |
| <b>Number of Schools:</b>          | 13 (JAG grants)  |
| <b>Number of Students:</b>         | 366 (JAG)  |
| <b>Number of Educators:</b>        | 0  |
| <b>Other:</b>                      | 0  |

**Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs):** 3.0

**Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding:** 2.0

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>FY20 Funding: State Appropriation:</b> | \$802,000        |
| <b>Federal Appropriation:</b>             | \$0              |
| <b>Other fund sources:</b>                | \$0              |
| <b>TOTAL (FY20)</b>                       | <b>\$802,000</b> |

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

- No
- Yes, please explain.

5. **State funding history:**

| <b>Fiscal Year</b> | <b>Amount Funded</b> | <b>Actual Expenditures</b> |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| FY20               | \$802,000            | \$692,182                  |
| FY19               | \$795,000            | \$679,228                  |
| FY18               | \$923,000            | \$899,965                  |
| FY17               | \$511,000            | \$512,064                  |
| FY16               | \$251,000            | \$235,424                  |

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

| <b>Fiscal Year</b> | <b>Number of Districts</b> |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| FY20               | 295 (5 directly)           |
| FY19               | 295                        |
| FY18               | 295                        |
| FY17               | 295                        |
| FY16               | 295                        |

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

N/A

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

No program audits were conducted in FY20 for JAG programming.

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

N/A

10. **Future opportunities:**

We will be reconvening the GATE Advisory group to revisit the reboot with new staff over the next year and provide updated recommendations for dropout prevention, intervention, and reengagement. The pilot with Gonzaga will be scaling up with more schools involved.

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

ESSB 6168 Sec. 501 (4)(h)(i) - \$280,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020, \$280,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021, and \$1,052,000 of the dedicated marijuana account—state appropriation are provided solely for dropout prevention, intervention, and reengagement programs, including the Jobs for America's graduates (JAG) program, dropout prevention programs that provide student mentoring, and the Building Bridges statewide program. Students in the foster care system or who are homeless shall be given priority by districts offering the Jobs for America's graduates program. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction shall convene staff representatives from high schools to meet and share best practices for dropout prevention. Of these amounts, \$522,000 of the dedicated marijuana account—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020, and \$530,000 of the dedicated marijuana account—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for the Building Bridges statewide 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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