

CONTINUATION OF THE ELO QUALITY INITIATIVE

Learning should continue beyond the school day, and so should young people’s access to high-quality expanded learning opportunities (ELOs) — after school, in the summer and throughout the year. When school is not in session, expanded learning helps parents continue their kids’ education with programs that build lifelong and career skills, improve academic performance, and inspire them to discover their passions.

Research shows that quality expanded learning programs improve attendance, behavior, and grades while building the social-emotional and 21st century workforce skills needed to succeed in school and in life. **For the FY19-21 Appropriations, a \$2 million budget proviso will:**

- Increase the number of youth accessing high-quality programs;
- Create a focus on improving school-age child care to improve youth outcomes; and
- Develop a focus on programs working with youth in foster care, that are homeless, and that have interacted with the juvenile justice system.



DCYF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WORKGROUP

(HB 1644/SB 5665)

Per the Blue Ribbon Commission on the Delivery of Services for Children and Youth, prevention is listed as the top priority. However, in the current structure of the new Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF); there is not a strategy that supports prevention for children and youth over the age of five that:

- Aligns to child and adolescent brain research and best practices;
- Sustains early learning gains;
- Supports classroom learning and social-emotional well-being; and
- Prevents entry into the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

INCREASE SCHOOL-AGE CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

Cost of care far exceeds state reimbursement and these programs need support to best serve our kids.

A strategic workgroup that includes youth, providers working with youth, and other stakeholders working in concert with the department to develop a prevention and promotion strategy is critical to meeting the overall goals of the new department. This work is critical to improving youth outcomes and ensuring Washington’s children and youth are happy, healthy, safe, and thriving.



Legislative Priorities

2019

CAREER CONNECTED LEARNING AND ELOS

(HB 1336/SB 5327)

Washington State is anticipating 740,000 job openings by 2021. However, data suggests that youth are not prepared with the skills needed to fill most of these jobs. Providing high-quality career connected learning is key to equipping our youth with the necessary knowledge and skills to fulfill the needs of a dynamic workforce, take advantage of various opportunities, and pursue a good quality life.

High-quality expanded learning opportunities (ELOs), offered after school and in the summer, are a great mechanism to meet this challenge. ELOs work with youth from elementary through high school helping to deepen exposure to exciting content and develop essential 'employability skills', also known as 21st Century workforce skills such as communication, critical thinking, teamwork, problem solving, and perseverance. Tapping into the potential of ELOs is a valuable way to enhance career connected learning and provide youth with different career options and pathways to get there.

Working in partnership with the Career Connect Washington Initiative as well as the OSPI Work-Integrated Advisory Committee, **we seek funding, improved policies, and partnerships with business and key state agencies to create more afterschool and summer career and work-based exploration and pathway opportunities in middle school and early high school.**



OSPI EQUITY IN EXPANDED LEARNING

(HB 1163/SB 5188)

Washington students only spend 20% of their waking hours in the classroom. Partnerships with community-based expanded learning programs can create more time during the day and year to provide enriching experiences for students with activities that complement and amplify classroom-based instruction.

We support State Superintendent Reykdal's proposed funding to provide grants for up to four demonstration sites to expand or extend the school day or year with the goal of providing more time for instruction and opportunities for enrichment. Priority will be given to schools that are identified for support through the state's K-12 accountability framework and will link to the ELOs quality efforts and Afterschool and Youth Development Standards to help ensure strong programming and outcomes for our students.