

Our work in Washington state



Overview

Everyone should have access to the opportunities they need to design the future they want. That core belief drives the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's work around the world and in our home state of Washington, where we work at the local, regional, and state level.

Across the state, we focus on education, which we believe is essential to giving young people control over their own lives today and into the future. Nearly 90 percent of Washington's high schoolers say they want to continue their education after high school, but only 50 percent enroll in apprenticeships or two-year and four-year degree programs after graduation.

Together with the local schools, colleges, and organizations that know their communities best, we believe we can help close that gap.

Our Washington State team works with partners to help students see a clear path to success after high school, with an emphasis on young people who face the highest barriers—including students from low-income and rural communities, and Black, Latino, and Indigenous students. Through all our work, we strive to listen to the needs, dreams, and perspectives of students and give them a say in decisions about education programs and policies.

Three ways we're working to help students:

Supporting local partnerships that are empowering local students

We partner with local organizations who know their communities best to understand how we can support on-the-ground efforts to improve the high school to postsecondary transition for students in their region. We launched two programs to support these locally led solutions: the Limitless Learning Network and our Horizons Regional Grants (more on page 3).

Expanding evidence-based solutions across the state to reach more students

We work to advance policies and programs that give students the opportunities they need to design their own futures. In Washington state, that means supporting statewide efforts to help students pursue college and career pathways—like expanding high-quality advising programs, increasing FAFSA completion to unlock financial aid, and providing equitable access to dual credit programs.

Bringing education leaders together to support student success

Partners have shared that they value the Gates Foundation's ability to convene people to work toward common goals and solutions. That's why we launched a statewide funders network and an education roundtable to bring students, educators, education leaders, and philanthropy together to identify common goals and priorities to support students in Washington state.

Supporting Local Partnerships

The Gates Foundation is investing \$30 million over four years to support locally led solutions to help more students continue their education after high school and achieve their goals.



30M



Horizons Regional Grant Program

Our Horizons Regional Grant Program is supporting four regional partnerships that are ready to expand programs to help more students transition from K-12 into postsecondary education.

Each Horizons region features a “backbone” organization—which could be a school district,

educational service district (ESD), or nonprofit—that coordinates the partnership. Other partners include K-12 school districts, higher education institutions, and workforce, government, and community-based organizations (CBOs).

Horizons Regional Partnerships

■ ESD 112 Postsecondary Readiness Partnership

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Ocean Beach, Naselle-Grays River Valley, Wahkiakum, Castle Rock, Toutle Lake, Kalama, Hockinson, Trout Lake, Glenwood, Stevenson-Carson, White Salmon Valley, Klickitat, Lyle, Wishram

COLLEGES

WSU Vancouver, Lower Columbia College, Clark College

OTHER PARTNERS

Two workforce partners, three economic development councils and chambers of commerce, multiple CBOs

■ Elevate / United Way of the Blue Mountains

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

College Place, Dayton, Prescott, Walla Walla

COLLEGES

Walla Walla Community College, Whitman College

OTHER PARTNERS

ESD 123, Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce, Communities in Schools of the Blue Mountain Region, Port of Columbia

■ Puget Sound ESD

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Highline, Federal Way, Tukwila

COLLEGE

Highline College

CBOS

Becoming a Man, College Possible, Communities In Schools



■ West Sound STEM Network

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Cape Flattery, Quileute Tribal, Suquamish Tribal Education Department, Crescent, Sequim, Port Angeles, Port Townsend, Quilcene, Brinnon, Quillayute Valley, North Kitsap, Bainbridge Island, South Kitsap, Central Kitsap, North Mason

COLLEGES

Peninsula College, Western Washington University

OTHER PARTNERS

Three economic development agencies, multiple workforce partners, and multiple CBOs

Horizons Technical Assistance Partners

In addition to grant funding, each region will receive technical assistance to learn more about high-quality advising strategies and other programs proven to help students take the next step after graduation.

Technical assistance providers will also help regions measure the impact of their partnership and build their capacity to access, analyze, and apply data so they can refine programs to meet student needs.

WASHINGTON STEM

As the Horizons partnership manager, Washington STEM will oversee the program and provide technical assistance around data and partnership capacity-building to support each region's efforts.

CURRENT TECHNICAL ASISTANCE PROVIDERS

College Access: Research & Action (CARA)

High-quality advising solutions

Scholar Fund

Continuous improvement and student voice best practices

Sankofa Consulting

Measurement, learning, and evaluation

Horizons Implementation Planning

As a first step, each Horizons region will receive an initial planning grant from the Gates Foundation to work with the technical assistance providers to finalize their partnership's goals and implementation plan.

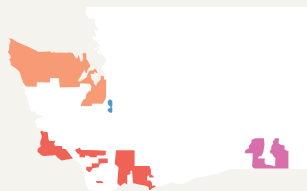
Each region will receive additional funding when their implementation plan is finalized this fall.

Horizons Funding Commitment

The foundation will provide \$19 million in grant funding and technical assistance to help the four Horizons partnerships implement or expand programs so that more students take the next step after high school.

GRANT FUNDING COMMITMENT FOR HORIZONS PARTNERSHIPS

- ESD 112 Postsecondary Readiness Partnership
- Elevate / United Way of the Blue Mountains
- Puget Sound ESD
- West Sound STEM Network



19M

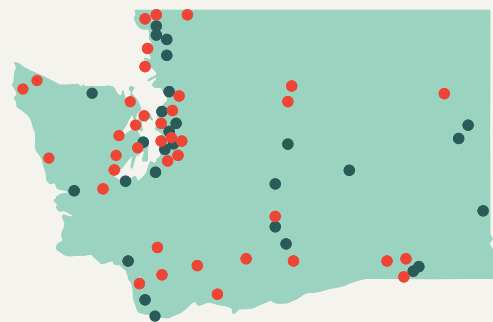


Limitless Learning Network

The Gates Foundation has committed \$11 million over four years to support the collaboration happening within the Limitless Learning Network.

Through the Limitless Learning Network, practitioners at 26 local partnerships across Washington state have an opportunity to connect with other teams of local K-12 and higher education partners—creating space to share information, explore new ideas, and develop best practices together. All four Horizons regions will participate in Limitless, which reaches about one-quarter of all high school students in the state.

11M



LIMITLESS PARTNERSHIPS

- K-12 school districts
- Higher ed institutions

Limitless Partnerships

COUNTIES	SCHOOL DISTRICTS	HIGHER ED INSTITUTIONS	OTHER PARTNERS
• Chelan	• Lake Chelan School District • Manson School District	• Wenatchee Valley College	• Apple STEM Network • ESD 171
• Clark • Klickitat • Skamania	• Hockinson School District • Stevenson Carson School District • White Salmon Valley School District	• Washington State University Vancouver	• ESD 112
• Cowlitz	• Castle Rock School District • Toutle Lake School District • Woodland Public Schools	• Lower Columbia College • Clark College	• ESD 112
• Grant	• Quincy School District	• Big Bend Community College	• Apple STEM Network • ESD 171
• Grays Harbor	• Elma School District	• Clover Park Technical School • Grays Harbor College • WSU School of Medicine	• AJAC – Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeships
• Island	• Oak Harbor Public Schools	• Skagit Valley College	• Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation / Sno-Isle Libraries
• King	• Why Not You Academy (charter) governed by Cascade Public Schools	• College Unbound • Washington State University	• Girls on the Rise
• King	• Kent School District • Renton School District • Seattle Public Schools	• Green River College	• Washington Alliance for Better Schools
• King	• Seattle Public Schools	• Seattle Colleges District	
• King	• Federal Way Public Schools • Highline Public Schools • Tukwila School District	• Highline College	• Puget Sound ESD
• Kitsap	• Bremerton School District	• Olympic College	• Kitsap Strong
• Mason	• Shelton School District	• The Evergreen State College	• ESD 113
• Skagit	• Northwest Career & Technical Academy Skills Center (Mount Vernon School District)	• Bellingham Technical College • Skagit Valley College	
* Horizons partnerships in the Limitless Learning Network are bolded			Continued on next page

Limitless Partnerships

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COUNTIES	SCHOOL DISTRICTS	HIGHER ED INSTITUTIONS	OTHER PARTNERS
• Snohomish	• Edmonds School District	• Edmonds College	• Foundation for Edmonds School District
• Snohomish	• Everett Public Schools	• Everett Community College	• College Success Foundation
• Spokane	• Spokane Public Schools	• Eastern Washington University	• College Success Foundation
• Spokane	• Spokane Public Schools	• Gonzaga University	
• Stevens	• Mary Walker School District	• Spokane Community College • Spokane Falls Community College	
• Walla Walla	• College Place Public School • Walla Walla Public Schools	• Walla Walla Community College • Whitman College	• United Way of the Blue Mountains • ESD 123
• Whatcom	• Ferndale School District	• Western Washington University	
• Whatcom	• Mount Baker School District	• Whatcom Community College	• College Success Foundation • Mount Baker Scholarship Foundation
• Whatcom	• Meridian School District	• Bellingham Technical College	• Boys & Girls Clubs of Whatcom County
• Yakima	• Yakima School District	• Central Washington University	
• Yakima	• Mount Adams School District	• Heritage University • Perry Technical Institute	
• Yakima • Franklin	• Granger School District • Selah School District	• Yakima Valley College	• College Success Foundation • ESD 105
• West Sound STEM	• South Kitsap School District • Quillayute Valley School District • Cape Flattery School District • Port Townsend School District • Quilcene School District • Chief Kitsap Academy • North Mason School District • North Kitsap School District	• Peninsula College	• West Sound STEM Network • College Success Foundation

* **Horizons partnerships** in the Limitless Learning Network are **bolded**

Fast Facts



Nearly 90% of Washington's high schoolers say in surveys that they want to continue their education after high school.

90%

Source: Washington STEM

Just 50% of high school students in Washington state enroll in a postsecondary program immediately after graduation—whether that's an apprenticeship or two- or four-year degree program.* That's lower than the national average of 62%.**

50%

*Source: ERDC **Source: NCES

Fast Facts

Only 40% of Latino students, 33% of Indigenous students, and 37% of students from low-income backgrounds enroll in a postsecondary program immediately after graduation.

40% Latino students

33% Indigenous students

37% Low-income students

Source: ERDC

Washington state is 46th in the country in direct postsecondary enrollment after high school.

46th

Source: IPEDS/NCES

Washington state is 47th in the country in FAFSA completion but did have the third-best year-over-year improvement last year.

47th

Source: NCAN

Fast Facts

Washington state is first in the nation for providing need-based financial aid for college or career training.

1st

Source: National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs



There are 373 students for every counselor in Washington's K-12 schools, which makes it hard for schools to offer personalized support.

373/1

Source: American School Counselor Association

Nearly 70% of jobs in Washington state require some kind of post-high school education, and that percentage continues to increase.

70%

Source: WSAC