

# Advocacy Day

## 2025 Legislative Agenda

### Funding for the Youth Development Sector in Washington

Investing in afterschool, summer, and mentoring programs means investing in Washington's future. Young people spend most of their time outside school, yet access to high-quality youth programs remains limited, especially in BIPOC and rural communities.

Youth development programs provide crucial services that can help keep young people out of the juvenile legal system, support workforce development, and promote positive mental health. These programs can often move faster than our public school and human service systems, provide wrap around services, and are generally rooted in cultural competence and community.

We acknowledge the financial stress that the Legislature is facing these upcoming years and want to name that we need public funding to invest in the youth development sector as a whole so that programs operating throughout Washington state—especially those in rural areas and those serving students furthest removed from youth development opportunities—have the resources they need to continue this important work.

### Progressive Revenue

We need our Legislature to invest in progressive revenue options as we are expecting a budget deficit of \$12–\$16 billion in the upcoming four years. So far, our legislators have mainly focused on cuts to reconcile this upcoming deficit. At the end of February, Governor Ferguson's office proposed cutting a total of \$7 billion in existing services and investments throughout Washington without plans for creating new revenue. A lot of these cuts are investments in preventative services, including investments in young people.

Without these services, we are setting ourselves up to deal with greater inequity and harm, along with higher costs in upcoming years. We must pursue progressive revenue options so we can responsibly navigate this budget crisis while continuing crucial public programs that people rely on. Furthermore, without new revenue, it will be very difficult to secure public funding in the youth development sector in Washington state. When meeting with legislators, we encourage you to advocate for new progressive revenue and ask what options legislators are exploring related to this.

## HB 1391 / SB 5426

### *Improving developmentally appropriate alternatives for youth outside the formal court process*

This bill is meant to improve the process of youth diversions from the juvenile justice system—a process that already exists. If a person under the age of 18 is charged with a crime and prosecutors have determined that probable cause exists, the young person may enter a contract to complete certain requirements to avoid prosecution in juvenile court.

Such a contract is called a **juvenile diversion agreement** and is only guaranteed if the youth has committed a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor, and it is their first alleged offense. Prosecutors have discretionary power to offer a diversion agreement for other alleged offenses if the offense is not a violent/sex offense, assault in the second degree, or robbery in the second degree.

Juvenile diversion agreements are limited to the following:

- Community restitution not to exceed 150 hours
- Restitution limited to the amount of actual loss
- Attendance of up to 10 hours of counseling and 20 hours of positive youth development, educational, or information sessions at a community agency
- Requirements to remain during certain hours at home, school, or work, and restrictions on leaving or entering certain areas
- Upon request of any victim or witness, requirements to refrain from contact with such victims or witnesses

#### **The bill primarily accomplishes the following:**

- Prohibits parents/guardians from declining a diversion agreement on behalf of a young person.
- The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), in consultation with DCYF and juvenile court administration, must develop common definitions, outcome measures, and data collection methods for diversion programs. An annual report is due and data points, disaggregated by age, race, ethnicity, and tribal affiliation (if known) include:
  - The number of diversion agreements that youth enter into
  - The number of successfully completed diversions (and the rate)
  - The types of alleged offenses referred to diversion
  - The number/rate of refused diversions and whether it was refused by the youth or the court

## HB 1296

### *Promoting a safe and supportive public education system*

This bill relates to student protections, student rights, parent/guardian rights, and protecting teachers from retaliation. There is a lot packed into this bill.

#### **Some things to highlight are that the bill:**

- Instructs OSPI (our state department of education) to develop technical assistance for, and enforcement of, currently existing policies and procedures related to student safety and access to public education. Districts found violating such policies may be sanctioned by OSPI until they are in compliance.
- Amends parent/guardian rights related to school reporting and access.
  - Examples of additional rights: Receiving annual notice of the school's language access policies and services; accessing their student's classroom and school sponsored activities to observe class procedure, teaching materials, and class conduct
  - Example of an eliminated right: Schools are not required to release records or information regarding a student's health care, social work, counseling, or disciplinary records to a parent/guardian who is the subject of an investigation of abuse or neglect where the student is named the victim
- Requires all school districts (by January 31, 2026) to, at minimum, follow OSPI's rules and guidelines to stop discrimination based on gender identity/gender expression.
- Directs school districts to publicly name/display the statement of student rights which includes the freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and right to peaceably assemble, etc.
- Requires school employees/contractors, if they have knowledge/reasonable cause to believe that a student is being physically/sexually abused, to immediately report the abuse to parents/guardians and an appropriate school administrator.
- Underscores that school district employees and directors may not use their position of power to retaliate against another employee for supporting students in the exercise of their legal rights, including their right to a learning environment with historically and scientifically accurate information.

## HB 1834

### *Protecting Washington children online*

This bill has been requested by the Attorney General’s office. At its core, it is a bill that tightens up regulations around what businesses can do online to gather data, promote addictive behavior, and manipulate underage users. If this passes, it will be a difficult law to enforce but it will be easier to take legal action (i.e. sue) against businesses that violate it.

#### **Some things to highlight in this bill are that it:**

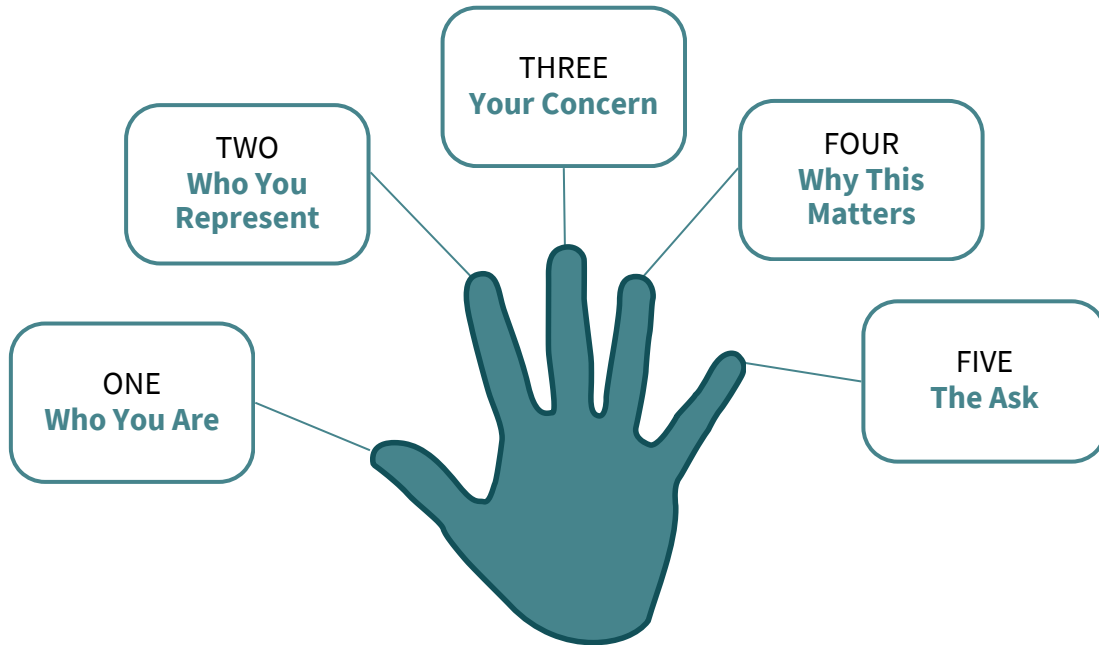
- Makes it harder for online businesses to collect data on users who are underage.
- Prohibits internet-based services/applications from providing “addictive feeds” to users who are underage, starting January 1, 2026.
- Prohibits online businesses from sending notifications to underage users during the following hours: 12:00 AM–6:00 AM and 8:00 AM–3:00 PM (Monday–Friday from September to May). This starts on January 1, 2026. Direct parental consent can overrule this.
- Requires internet-based services/applications providing “addictive feeds” to provide users with ways to limit their access to the feed, limit their ability to view “likes” and other forms of feedback, set their account to private mode, etc.





# Advocacy Day

## 5 Fingers



|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1: Who You Are       |  |
| 2: Who You Represent |  |
| 3: Your Concern      |  |
| 4: Why This Matters  |  |
| 5: The Ask           |  |

## Write a digital message to your legislator!

If you do not have a visit scheduled with your legislators, use this QR code to send your message via email with our easy-to-use action alert:



### Instructions:

1. Open your phone's camera app.
2. Point it at the QR code above.
3. Your device will automatically recognize and display the linked information.
4. Tap the link on your screen to access the linked information.
5. Send your legislator a message to tell them **5 things**:
  - Who you are
  - That you're in Olympia today with the Youth Development Strategy Table
  - Your concern
  - Why this matters
  - What you want them to do

## Post on social media!

Share your day at the Capitol with your online community. Use **#FundYouthDevelopment** on your favorite social media platforms.



### Instructions:

1. Take a selfie or a photo with friends to show you're at the Capitol
2. Post about the day on your favorite social media platform(s)
3. Tag School's Out Washington at @SchoolsOutWA on Instagram, Facebook, and/or LinkedIn
4. Use **#FundYouthDevelopment** to add your post to the conversation





Youth Development Strategy Table

2025

Legislative Session

# Advocacy Day

POWERED BY



## Capitol Map



- Accessible Parking
- Parking
- Food
- Restrooms
- Monument