

FAMILIES  
EDUCATION  
PRESCHOOL  
& PROMISE



# YEAR 2 REPORT

2020-2021:  
Charting Our Course  
in a New Landscape



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a letter from  
**DIRECTOR  
CHAPPELLE**

During the 2020-2021 school year, COVID-19 laid bare systemic inequities in our education system, and we found ourselves navigating a new landscape filled with challenges, including some of the most radical changes to education in our history.

Schools transitioned from the established format of in-person learning to remote, online learning. Many of our partners in the CBO community serving children and youth also moved to remote or hybrid learning environments. Students and families grappled with unknown educational processes, all while adapting to the effects of a global pandemic on a social, economic, and personal level.

The results from our second year of FEPP implementation, detailed within this report, reflect the impact of the many challenges students experienced during this tumultuous year, including frequent disruptions to learning caused by COVID-19 case counts, technology obstacles underscoring the reality of the digital divide, and socio-emotional challenges as they dealt with anxiety about the pandemic and physical distance from friends and school. Communities of color and lower-income families were most likely to be impacted by the health and economic impacts of the pandemic and less likely to have reliable internet access or parents working from home helping their children navigate online learning. When students began returning to the classroom near the end of the school year, many of the challenges families had been facing were still at play, leaving too many of our youth treading water.

All these persistent difficulties challenged our progress toward educational equity across the preschool to postsecondary continuum. Not all the news was grim—we saw promising results and new innovations in preschool, K-12, and postsecondary—but the urgency toward equity initially felt at the start of FEPP Levy investments was only heightened in Year 2 by the pandemic's impact. We don't know yet what the full impact on student learning from COVID-19 will be; it will likely be felt for years to come. What

we do know is that the FEPP Levy focuses its efforts on the very populations who experienced the greatest hardships during the pandemic, a focus that will persist as we continue our recovery.

Our work ahead requires continued commitment to address the losses experienced in the 2020-2021 school year and a renewal of efforts to close opportunity gaps and build educational equity, even as COVID-19's impact continues to be felt. It is our collective commitment to this work that remains our strongest asset.

As I invite you into the FEPP Levy Year 2 report, I am compelled to first take a moment to thank all the FEPP Levy partners you'll see listed on the following page, who were unwavering in their commitment to Seattle's children and youth throughout the most challenging school year any of us have likely ever seen. In addition to our students themselves, these were the heroes of FEPP Year 2—the educators, community partners, and leaders represented on this list—who stood together with us in navigating this new landscape, supporting students and families, and creating new opportunities for our children that we know will lead them to brighter days ahead.

In partnership,

**Dr. Dwane Chappelle**  
Director, Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning



## PARTNER LIST

### Thank you, FEPP Levy Partners!

FEPP Levy investments and results are made possible by dedicated community, school, and institutional partners who provide direct services to Seattle's children, youth, families as well as professional development and systems-building support to our providers. The list below reflects our funded partners who bring this levy to life.

- |  |   |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| 1st Start Learning Family Home Center          | Association                             | Madrona Elementary   | Scott RJ, LLC                           | West Seattle High School                             |
| Academy for Creating Excellence (ACE)          | Denise Louie Education Center           | Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary                            | Seattle Colleges*                       | Wing Luke Elementary                                 |
| Alliance for Education                         | Denny International Middle School       | Mauric Dolberry/A Line in the Sand Consulting                | Seattle Human Services Department       | YMCA of Greater Seattle                              |
| Aki Kurose Middle School                       | Dunlap Elementary                       | Meany Middle School  | Seattle Indian Health Board             | <i>*Included in this report's partner spotlights</i> |
| Innsha Allah Family Childcare (Anaji Aman)     | East African Community Services         | Mentoring Urban Students and Teens (MUST)                    | Seattle Parks and Recreation            |  |
| Associated Recreation Council (ARC)            | Edmund S. Meany Middle School           | Mercer Middle School   | Seattle School District #1              |  |
| Aster Blossom Child Care (Aster Weldemichael)  | El Centro de la Raza                    | Nathan Hale High School                                      | Seattle World School*                   |  |
| Atlantic Street Center*                        | Emerson Elementary                      | Neighborcare Health  | Seed of Life Early Learning Center      |  |
| Bailey Gatzert Elementary                      | Empowering Youth and Families Outreach  | Neighborhood House   | Sound Child Care Solutions              |  |
| Ballard High School                            | Experimental Education Unit at UW       | Northgate Elementary   | South End Stories                       |  |
| Beacon Hill International School               | First Place                             | Northwest Center   | South Shore PreK-8                      |  |
| Bella's Creative Learning Center (Bella Richi) | Franklin High School                    | NW Education Access  | STEM Paths Innovation Network (SPIN)    |  |
| Boys and Girls Club of King County             | Friends of the Children Seattle         | Nova High School   | Students and Family Support Program     |  |
| BRAVE  | Garfield High School                    | Odessa Brown Children's Clinic (Seattle Children's Hospital) | Swedish Medical Center                  |  |
| Catholic Community Services                    | Hearing, Speech and Deafness Center*    | Olympic Hills Elementary                                     | Teaching Strategies                     |  |
| Causey's Learning Center                       | HighScope Foundation                    | WACC/One Family Learning Center                              | Team Read                               |  |
| Center for Linguistic and Cultural Democracy   | Highland Park Elementary School         | Page Ahead Children's Literacy Program                       | Technology Access Foundation            |  |
| Chief Sealth High School                       | Hilltop Children's Center               | Primm ABC Child Care Center                                  | The Breakfast Group                     |  |
| Child Care Resources                           | Imagine Institute                       | Public Health - Seattle & King County                        | The Good Foot Arts Collective           |  |
| Children's Home Society                        | Ingraham High School                    | Puget Sound ESD  | Thurgood Marshall Elementary            |  |
| Chinese Information Service Center             | Interagency Academy                     | Rainier Beach High School*                                   | Tiny Tots Development Center            |  |
| Clear Moon Consulting (Brock Grubb)            | International Community Health Services | Refugee Women's Alliance                                     | Tiny Trees Preschool                    |  |
| Cleveland STEM High School                     | Kaiser Permanente Washington            | Rising Star Elementary*                                      | United Indians of All Tribes Foundation |  |
| Community Day School Association dba Launch    | Kandelia                                | Robert Eagle Staff Middle School                             | United Way of King County               |  |
| Community School of West Seattle               | Kimball Elementary                      | Roosevelt High School  | University of Washington                |  |
| Concord Elementary                             | King County                             | Roxhill Elementary   | University Tutors of Seattle            |  |
| Country Doctor Community Health Centers        | Launch                                  | Safe Homes   | Voices of Tomorrow                      |  |
| Coyote Central                                 | Leschi Elementary*                      | Sand Point Elementary  | WA-Bloc                                 |  |
| Creative Kids Learning Center*                 | Lincoln High School                     | Sanislo Elementary   | Washington Middle School                |  |
| Dearborn Park Elementary                       | Lowell Elementary                       | School Readiness Consulting                                  | Wellspring Family Services              |  |
| Delridge Neighborhood Development              | Madison Middle School                   |  | West Seattle Elementary*                |  |



# ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report covers the second year of implementation of the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise (FEPP) Levy and provides highlights of select FEPP investment strategies, information on who received FEPP-funded services, data on investment results and racial equity outcomes, and a budget summary. This report shares key performance indicators using the best and most recent data available but does not purport to be a comprehensive or formal evaluation of the Levy. Consistent with DEEL's commitment to Results Based Accountability, data shared in this report will highlight population-level results, racial equity trends, and disaggregate participant data by race/ethnicity, gender, and other demographic indicators where available. More information about changes to data collection and analysis that occurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic is included throughout this report.

Throughout this report, you will see interchangeable terms that refer to FEPP Levy focus populations. As outlined in the FEPP Levy Implementation and Evaluation Plan, the FEPP Levy focuses investments on students in historically underserved groups, including African American/Black, Hispanic and Latino, Native American, Pacific Islander, underserved Asian populations, other students of color, refugee and immigrant, homeless, English language learners, and LGBTQ students, with the desired outcome that they are achieving academically across the preschool to postsecondary continuum. Terms used throughout this report to refer to these populations include Black, Indigenous, and People of Color—or BIPOC students—students furthest from educational justice, students of color, or historically underserved students. These terms are used interchangeably with the intent to center the experiences of those who have historically faced systemic barriers to academic progress.

For media inquiries and other questions about this report, please contact [education@seattle.gov](mailto:education@seattle.gov).

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2020-2021 school year marked the second year of implementation for the seven-year Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise (FEPP) Levy, passed by Seattle voters in November 2018. It also marked the most radical change in education service delivery in Seattle history, as public schools discontinued traditional in-person learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and many education services and community-based programs moved to remote or hybrid platforms for much of the school year.

The results from the 2020-2021 school year that are highlighted in this report reflect the myriad of challenges students experienced throughout this most unusual school year with all its interruptions to learning—from technology obstacles and social-emotional challenges to spiking COVID-19 case counts and the staffing shortages they caused. In the spring, students who had been remote since September were asked to return to the classroom for the final two and a half months of the school year, and assessments that would typically have been administered during this time were postponed until fall of 2021, following the summer break. The altered form and timeline in which assessments were conducted could also be considered to have affected outcomes and complicate historical analysis for this year's results.

COVID-19 created a new landscape for Seattle education that challenged progress toward educational equity. Kindergarten-readiness scores for Seattle Preschool Program participants improved overall between 2021 and the previous assessment in 2019; however, the race-based **opportunity gap** increased. Four-year graduation rates for high school seniors at levy-supported schools rose, while the percentage of students meeting 3rd and 8th grade standards in language arts and math fell. Three-year completion rates for the 2018 Seattle Promise cohort exceeded national averages for all race and ethnicity groups but fall-to-fall persistence levels indicate significant challenges for 2019 and 2020 cohorts enrolled during the pandemic.

## OPPORTUNITY GAPS

Refers to the impacts of race, ethnicity, language, socioeconomic status, community wealth, or familial situation on rates of success in educational achievement, career prospects, and other life aspirations. DEEL calculates race-based opportunity gaps by comparing the rates of the racial group with the lowest outcome with those of the racial group with the highest outcome and determining the difference between the two.

The challenges to academic progress experienced by Seattle students are similar to results seen both statewide and across the nation—significant drops in English Language Arts (ELA) scores, even larger for math, and greater impact on younger students and those from communities of color. A true picture of the long-term impact of COVID-19 on our students, and of how FEPP Levy investments may have helped mitigate learning losses, remains to be seen in future years' reports.

All these challenges from the 2020-2021 school year required us to provide our school and community partners with flexibility to respond to student and family needs while staying the course toward our collective goals. Many obstacles lined the path, but the innovative, community-led solutions that emerged along the way have helped to cultivate a renewed energy for long-term progress. Many of those solutions are highlighted throughout this report.

The Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) worked closely with school and community partners throughout the 2020-2021 school year to adapt how levy-supported services were delivered to students and families and respond to urgent needs for FEPP Levy focus populations:

- Preschool classrooms, many operated by community-based partners, offered families remote, in-person, and hybrid programming options, as well as increased supports and lower tuition levels.
- Levy-funded tutors supported students online to achieve at higher levels, at times joining students in real-time in their remote classrooms.
- School-based health services shifted their focus to telehealth options, mental health supports, and COVID-19 vaccine education, access, and administration.
- Family support workers provided technology resources, meal distribution, and other basic needs assistance for families most adversely impacted during the pandemic.
- College campus tours, including those to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), became accessible to more high schoolers by moving to virtual visits.
- Seattle Promise scholars were given flexibility to enroll part-time or defer enrollment during the pandemic.



## CHARTING OUR COURSE IN A NEW LANDSCAPE

### DEEL Results: Our Destination



All Seattle families have access to high-quality, affordable child care.

### FEPP INVESTMENTS



All Seattle children are ready for kindergarten.



All Seattle students graduate from high school college and career ready.



All Seattle students attain a postsecondary certificate, credential, or degree.

### Educational Equity: Our North Star



Partnering with families and communities to advance educational equity, close opportunity gaps, and build a better economic future for Seattle students.

### Guiding Strategies for the FEPP Levy



Equitable Educational Opportunities



Student and Family Supports



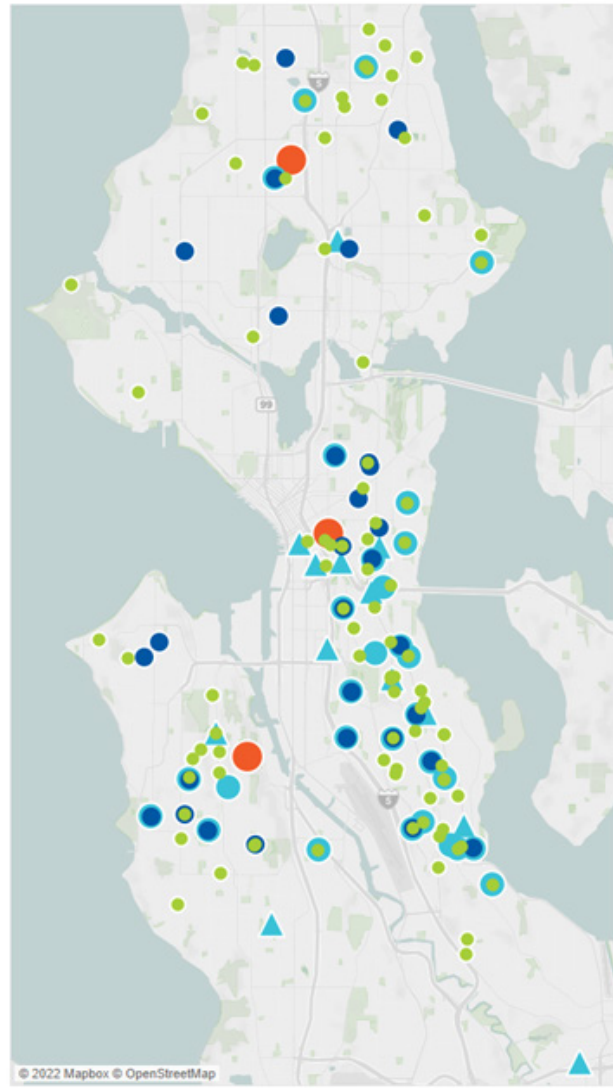
High-Quality Learning Environments

### Focus Populations for FEPP Levy Investments

The FEPP Levy focuses investments on students in historically underserved groups, including African American/Black, Hispanic and Latino, Native American, Pacific Islander, underserved Asian populations, other students of color, refugee and immigrant, homeless, English language learners, and LGBTQ students, with the desired outcome that they are achieving academically across the preschool to postsecondary continuum.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (CONT'D)



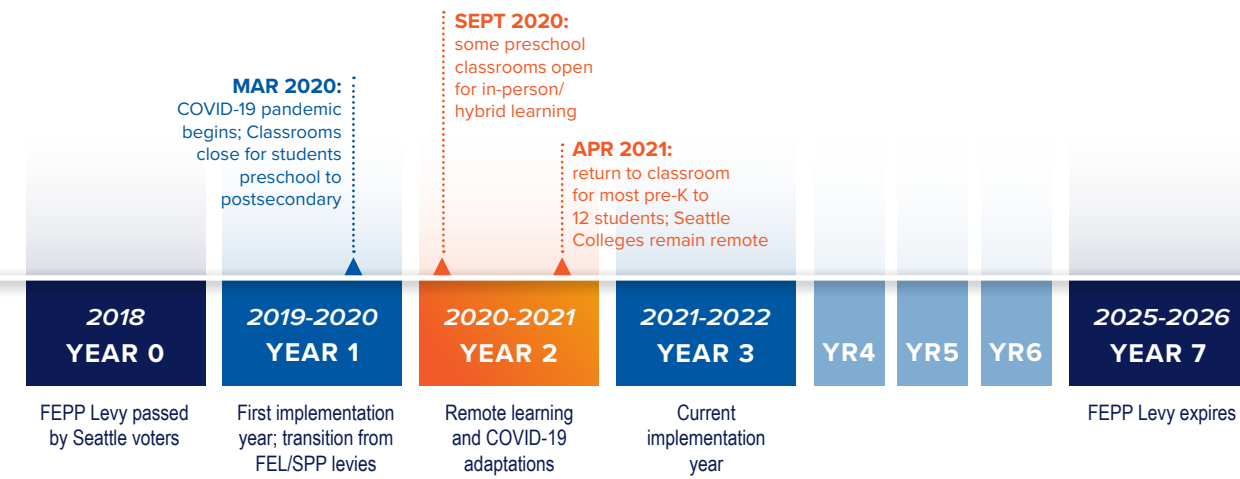
In total, DEEL invested \$110.4 million in FEPP Levy resources during the 2020-2021 school year, representing 95% of planned spending. One hundred twenty-seven community and school partners provided services to more than 22,500 young people.

In Year 2 of the levy, services began for new FEPP strategies focused on school and community-based supports for students. These strategies, School-Based Investments (SBI) and community-based Opportunity & Access (O&A) investments, together represented nearly \$95 million in awards over a multi-year period. Thirty schools and 14 community partners were selected for funding during competitive processes completed during FEPP Year 1. DEEL then worked with these partners throughout the spring and summer of 2020 to adapt workplans to a remote

learning model and promote access to academic enrichment and college and career readiness activities for students furthest from educational justice during the 2020-2021 school year.

The FEPP Year 2 Report celebrates the innovative and dedicated work that our partners accomplished under the extraordinary circumstances of the 2020-2021 school year. It also spotlights nine such partners who made a difference in the lives of Seattle children and youth during this pandemic year, as well as one Seattle Promise scholar who persevered toward a postsecondary degree during the pandemic. These educators and leaders bring FEPP Levy investments to life and inspire us with their commitment to work together to achieve educational equity, close opportunity gaps, and build a better future for Seattle students.

## LEVY TIMELINE



■ Report Marker: FEPP Year 2 (2020-2021)

## YEAR 2 HIGHLIGHTS AND EQUITY RESULTS

### FEPP LEVY OVERALL

**22.5K** children and youth served overall  
**77% BIPOC**

**127** community and school partners

**104 BIPOC** educators on pathway to degree/certification

**1500+** Pre-K to Promise students served by enhanced summer programming

### KINDERGARTEN READINESS

**1,672** children served in Seattle Preschool Program  
**77% BIPOC**

**40%** from refugee and immigrant families

**63%** scored as kindergarten ready  
*(4% increase over 2018-2019)*

**10% INCREASE** in opportunity gap during COVID-19

**Black/African American and Asian SPP children MORE LIKELY** to meet kindergarten readiness standards than non-SPP peers

### COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

**17K** youth served by School and Community-Based Investments  
**82% BIPOC**

**Baseline graduation rates** for five levy-supported high schools **trail district graduation rates**  
**85% to 87%**

**762** Students received family support services: food, technology, clothing, housing assistance, case and care management

**29** School Based Health Center sites

**30%** students accessing SBHCs are from **refugee and immigrant families**

### POSTSECONDARY ACCESS AND COMPLETION

**837** Promise scholars (2019 and 2020 Cohorts)  
**67% BIPOC**

**689** Promise scholars from 17 SPS high schools enrolled for their first year, **THE LARGEST PROMISE COHORT TO DATE**

**2020 Cohort had higher percentage of white students** and those from higher-income families than previous years, due to expansion to all SPS high schools

**MORE THAN 30%** of 2019 and 2020 Cohorts were **first-generation college goers**

Across all races and ethnicities, three-year completion rates for **Seattle Promise scholars met or exceeded** the national average, while **fall-to-fall persistence fell by 7%**





# KINDERGARTEN READINESS



## PRESCHOOL AND EARLY LEARNING INVESTMENTS

2021 FEPP Levy Spending

**\$46.3M** 42% of 2021 FEPP Levy spending

7-year FEPP Levy Spending Plan (through 2026)

**\$341.8M** 54% of planned spending

The FEPP Levy's largest investment area is Preschool and Early Learning. The goal of this investment area is to provide all Seattle children access to high-quality early learning services that promote success in kindergarten and yield better outcomes throughout their educational journey. In total, \$46.3 million was invested in preschool and early learning during 2021, representing 42% of FEPP spending for the year.

The Seattle Preschool Program (SPP) is the primary vehicle for FEPP Levy investments in Preschool and Early Learning. SPP provides a comprehensive approach to supporting Seattle children that includes preschool services and tuition, quality practice and professional development supports for early learning educators, comprehensive classroom supports including behavioral and developmental supports, organizational and facilities development, and child care subsidies for families participating in SPP. The Seattle Preschool Program is provided in partnership with community-based organizations, family child care, and Seattle Public Schools.

In 2020-2021, the Seattle Preschool Program served 1,672 students, 77% of whom were students of color. A majority of SPP participants (74%) qualified for free preschool tuition (families earning below 350% of the Federal Poverty Level or FPL), and 40% percent of students were from refugee and immigrant families. Forty-two students experiencing homelessness were served in the program during 2020-2021.

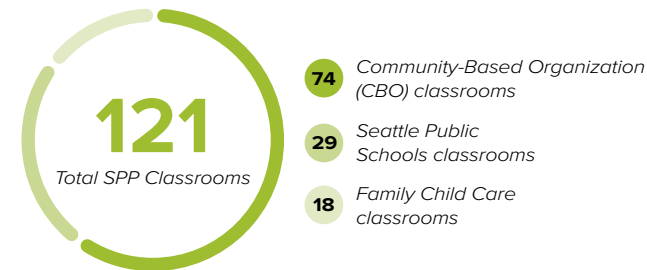
### COVID-19 Adaptations to Preschool and Early Learning Investments

At the start of the 2020-2021 school year, SPP providers were given the flexibility to offer three different programming models in response to COVID-19: in-person, family-directed remote learning, or a hybrid model with both in-person and remote learning. Seattle Public Schools, SPP's largest provider agency, offered 100% remote services for its 29 classrooms between September 2020 and March 2021, in alignment with the school district's K-12 programming. For community-based SPP providers, the majority (21 out of 23 providers) opted to provide either in-person or hybrid programming. The multiple programming options gave both providers and families more flexibility to respond to individual needs and circumstances during the pandemic.

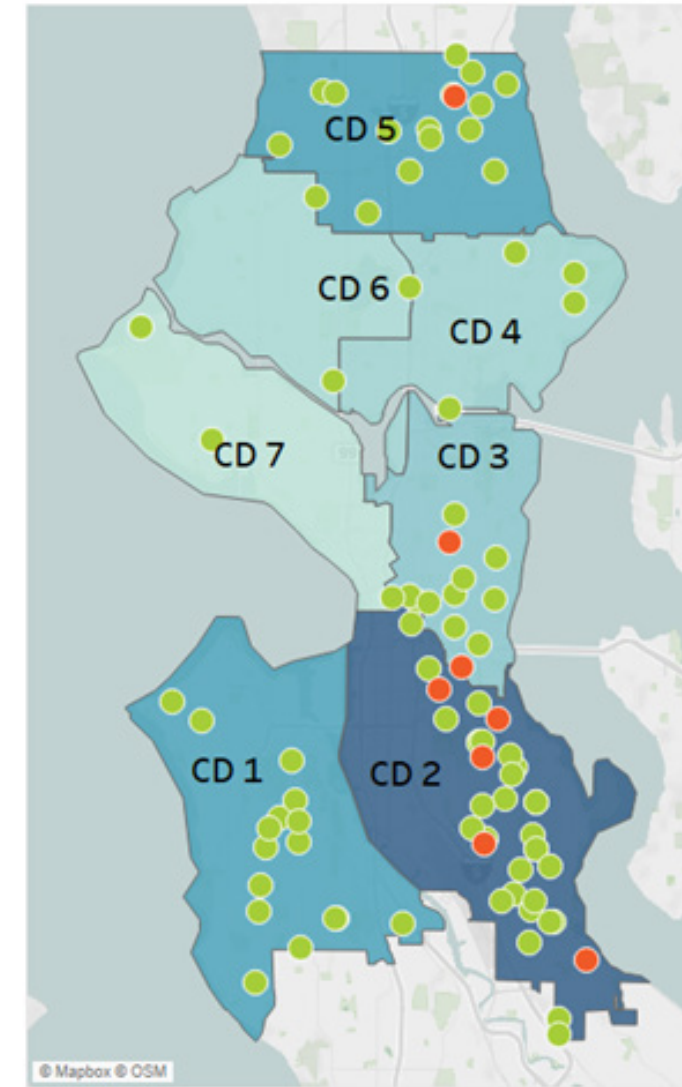
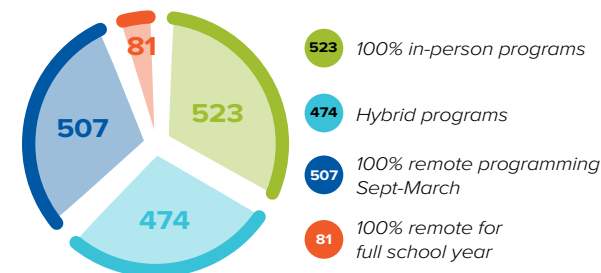
As part of a commitment to providing high-quality early learning environments, DEEL provides Quality Practice and Professional Development (QPPD) services to SPP teachers. This includes individualized instructional coaching by DEEL's team of early learning coaches, who support teachers and classroom staff with culturally responsive instructional coaching and tools and resources for improving learning environments to help improve child outcomes. DEEL's Early Learning training team provides year-long professional development opportunities for educators and directors on a variety of topics including curriculum,

culturally responsive pedagogy, and trauma-informed care. During the 2020-2021 school year, DEEL's early learning coaches developed home learning resources and take-home kits that facilitated parent engagement and supported sensory exploration and other important foundations for learning that students typically receive in SPP classrooms. Throughout the school year, a total of 4,329 home learning kits were delivered to SPP providers to support family-directed learning at home and help prepare children for kindergarten. DEEL's QPPD team also pivoted to virtual platforms for their ongoing coaching for SPP teachers and administrators as well as access to curriculum and assessment trainings, content training, and educator wellness resources.

### SPP CLASSROOMS BY PARTNER TYPE



### STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY PROGRAMMING TYPE

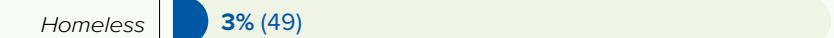
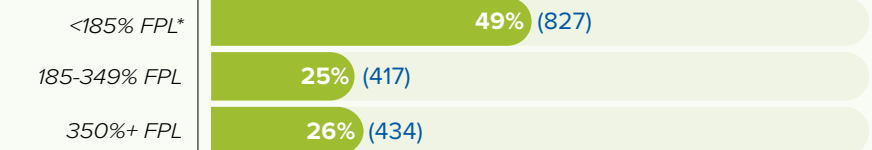
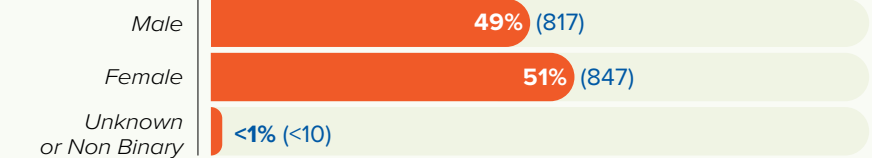
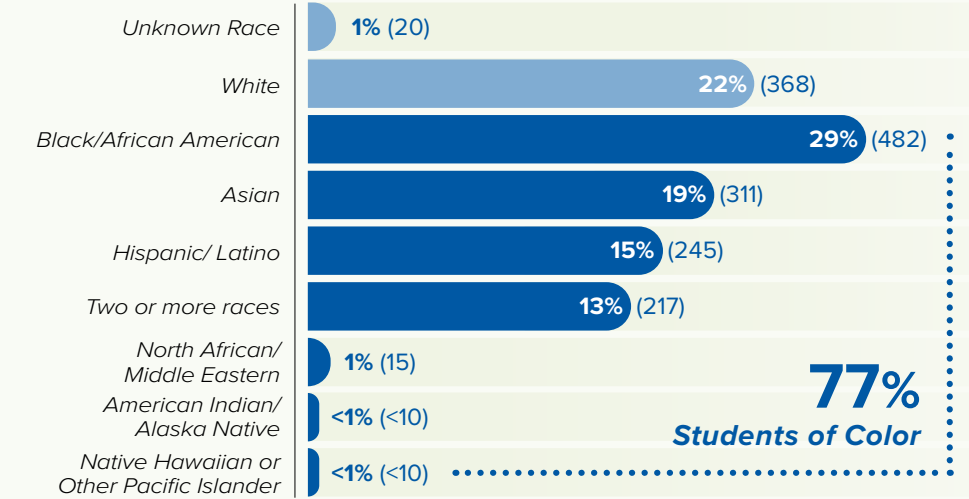


Orange dots are new sites in 20-21. Darker shades of blue indicate more SPP children served in that council district. CD = Council District

## SEATTLE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM WHO DID WE SERVE?

# 1,672

STUDENTS OVERALL THROUGH 24 PROVIDER AGENCIES AT 74 SITES



\* FPL = Federal Poverty Level





partner spotlight

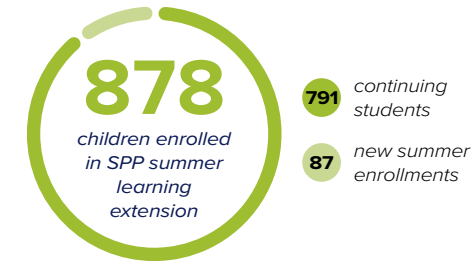
## DEVIN DUANGPRASERT

Parent, Seattle Preschool Program  
SPS Rising Star Elementary

Strategy Area:  
Seattle Preschool Program

*“We noticed a lot of changes from our child’s participation in SPP—increased vocabulary, a desire to read more books, excitement from making new friends, pride in navigating school apps during remote learning, and an eagerness to tell us about classroom routines and activities. SPP’s affordability has also been a tremendous help to our family, and the hours of operation give my wife enough time to pursue fulltime credit courses while our children are in class. This program has meant so much to us.”*

### SEATTLE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM SUMMER PROGRAMMING



With funding designated under the Comprehensive Supports Strategy, DEEL provided Family Support dollars to SPP providers—\$23,000 per classroom and \$60,000 per Family Child Care Hub—to facilitate responsive supports for specific family and community needs resulting from COVID-19. Preschool providers offered innovative solutions and supports to families, including internet connectivity resources and devices to better facilitate hybrid/remote classroom participation, parent education classes, COVID-19 home testing kits for families, and transportation support. One community-based provider, Causey’s Learning Center, transformed a bus originally purchased for field trips into a mobile classroom. Causey’s “Classroom on Wheels” was used to conduct home visits and provide preschoolers with early learning lessons, student assessments typically done in the classroom, social-emotional wellness supports, and delivery of essential food and resources for families experiencing hardships.

To further mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on learning, SPP providers were also given the option to extend programming through the summer months to further support kindergarten readiness for preschoolers, a change from the normal SPP school year schedule of September through June. In-person summer programming was offered at a reduced rate for tuition-paying families to help accelerate learning for rising kindergarteners and children impacted by extended months of

remote learning. In total, 20 providers provided extended summer programming, serving 878 children through the months of July and August.

#### SPP Growth and Sustainability

Under the seven-year FEPP Levy Implementation and Evaluation Plan, the Seattle Preschool Program is on a growth path to serve 2,500 students by 2026. The 2020-2021 school year marked the first time since SPP’s launch in 2015 that enrollment numbers dropped from the previous year (1,672 served in 2020-2021 vs 1,771 in 2019-2020). This was due to reduced classroom ratios that ensured social distancing and family hesitancy around congregate care for much of the school year. Despite this, 16 classrooms were added to the SPP roster for the 2020-2021 school year with 1,747 total seats available, and enrollment numbers for the 2021-2022 school year are expected to exceed pre-pandemic levels.

Another part of the growth and sustainability strategy for the Seattle Preschool Program is Organizational and Facilities Development investments. This funding is designed to help providers build, upgrade, and renovate spaces for use in Seattle Preschool Program, providing increased and sustainable access

to high-quality preschool for Seattle families. In February 2021, DEEL announced four awardees for the fourth-consecutive SPP Providers Facilities Fund, with awards totaling \$727,000 for the capital improvement and expansion of facilities. The awards—all distributed to programs owned by women and persons of color serving linguistically and culturally diverse children in south and central Seattle—will contribute 20 new slots for children to attend SPP as well as improvements for existing classrooms and buildings—including critical upgrades to one program’s HVAC system that will allow for improved air circulation and safer in-person learning.

#### 2020-2021 SPP FACILITIES FUND AWARDEES

**Hearing, Speech, and Deaf Center (HSDC)**  
Council District 3

**Voices of Tomorrow**  
Council District 2

**Tiny Tots Development Center**  
Council District 2

**West African Community Council**  
Council District 2





“The Seattle Preschool Program Provider Facilities Funding allowed HSDC to update our Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system, which improved air circulation in the building, brought in more fresh air, and made it safer to operate during the pandemic. It will also allow us to install child-safe windows that further improve ventilation. These improvements to our building allow teaching and learning to happen in a comfortable, safe environment for our children and staff.”



partner spotlight

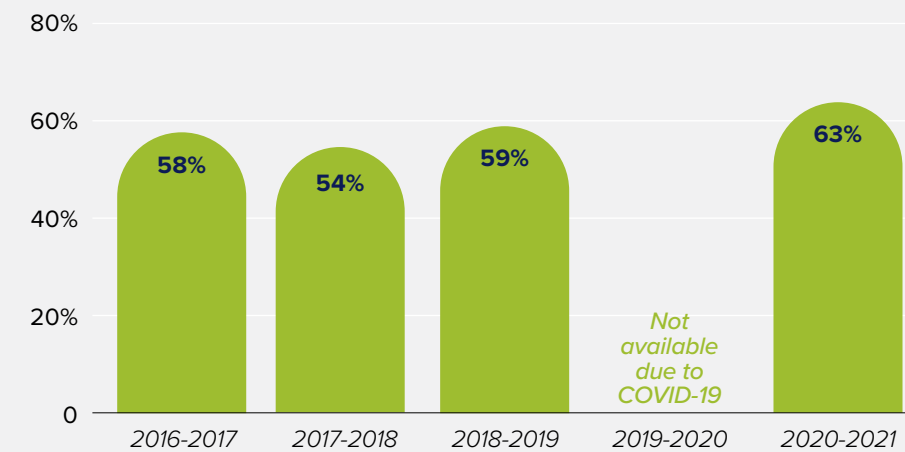
## PAMELA GROSSMAN

Preschool Director, Rosen Family Preschool – Hearing, Speech, & Deaf Center

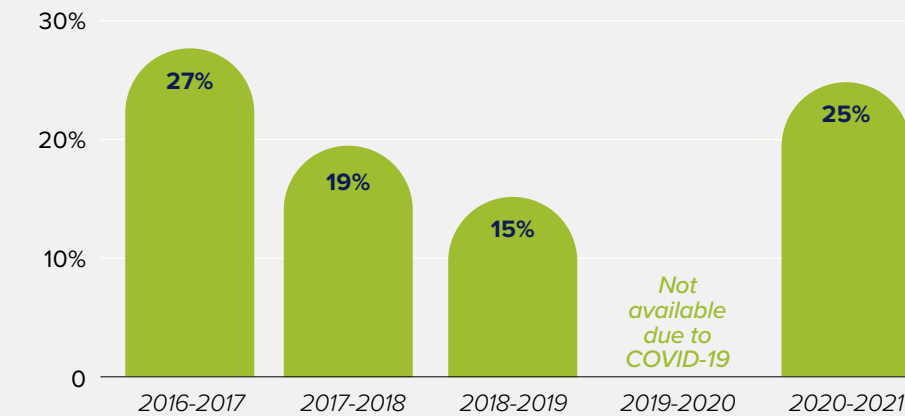
Strategy Area:  
Organizational and Facilities Development



### SPP STUDENTS MEETING WaKIDS READINESS STANDARDS FROM 2016-2017 THROUGH 2020-2021



### RACE-BASED OPPORTUNITY GAPS IN KINDERGARTEN READINESS FOR SPP PARTICIPANTS FROM 2016-2017 THROUGH 2020-2021



## RACIAL EQUITY FINDINGS

SPP participants improved overall in kindergarten readiness standards (+4% over 2018-2019)

However, race-based OPPORTUNITY GAPS WORSENE

**10%** during COVID-19.



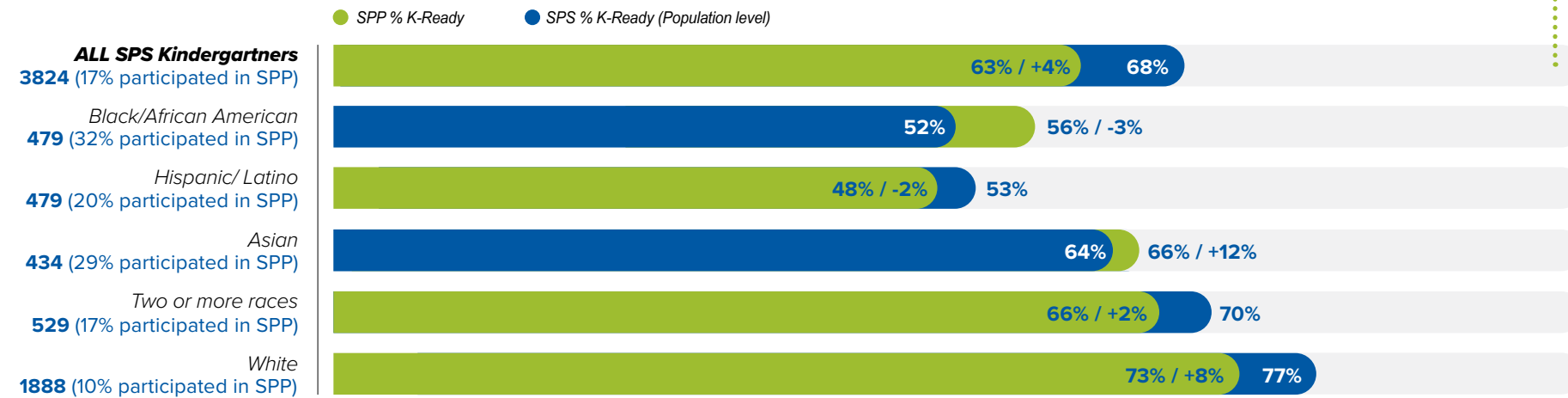
BLACK AND ASIAN SPP PARTICIPANTS were more likely than their non-SPP peers to be kindergarten ready.





## KINDERGARTEN READINESS GAPS 2020-2021

How SPP participants compared to all Seattle Public Schools (SPS) kindergarteners in kindergarten readiness standards, broken down by race/ethnicity. Percentage changes over FEPP Year 1 results are indicated with +/- below. For example, 63% of SPP participants in 2020-2021 assessed as kindergarten ready, four points higher than Year 1 results.



\* Fewer than 10 former SPP students who identified as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander or as American Indian/Alaska Native received a WaKIDS assessment. Their results have been excluded from view due to privacy and reliability concerns.



partner spotlight

## D'ONNA SMITH

SPP Teacher,  
Creative Kids Preschool

Strategy Area:  
Seattle Preschool Program



## CHILDREN, RACE, AND RACISM INSTITUTE

On June 2– 4, 2021, DEEL's Quality Practice and Professional Development team, part of the Early Learning division, hosted the sixth annual Children, Race, and Racism Institute for educators across the birth to secondary educational spectrum. The theme of the 2021 institute was Elevating the Brilliance of Black Boys, which focused on shifting the narratives in education that too often define Black boys and communities by their struggles, rather than their assets, achievements, and abilities. The three-day virtual event was co-hosted by DEEL Director Dr. Dwane Chappelle and Dr. William White, Director of My Brother's Teacher at the University of Washington. More than 600 educators from Seattle and the larger Puget Sound region, as well as attendees from other districts across the country, learned from national and local leaders who shared research, policy and practice to help educators support the genius and potential of Black boys. The event also included a youth panel from Seattle Public Schools' African American Male Achievement (AAMA) Student Leadership Council who shared their personal experiences within educational systems, reflections on the work to be done, and wisdom on how to get there.

Seattle Public Schools students pictured clockwise, starting with top left: August Diggs, Trevon Mitchell, Kevin Myrtill, Ajani Wilson, LeManuel Donaldson, and Tijar Amanuel



*The pandemic changed Creative Kids' preschool programs drastically. We transitioned to a hybrid model, alternating in-person and remote learning for our children. Our amended contract with the City allowed us to purchase necessary supplies to support remote learning, acquire personal protective equipment for our staff, retain our teachers, and compensate them for working in person during the height of the pandemic. DEEL also provided us with weekly updates with representatives from King County Public Health. Being part of SPP has helped us to continue to provide and implement best practices for supporting each child's social, emotional, and academic needs."*



# COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS



The FEPP Levy promotes on-time high school graduation and college and career readiness by funding School and Community-Based Investments and School Health with a focus on closing opportunity gaps for historically underserved students, schools, and communities. Levy-funded K-12 programming and services supplement students' public school experience by providing both academic and non-academic supports, including expanded learning opportunities, social-emotional skill development, college readiness programming, career exploration experiences, and access to medical and mental health services that address health-related barriers to learning. Services are provided using culturally and linguistically responsive approaches in partnership with families and communities.

Strategies that contribute to college and career readiness include School-Based Investments, Opportunity & Access, Wraparound Services, Culturally Specific and Responsive Investments, and School Health. Within these strategies are a

variety of funding areas including Homelessness and Housing Supports, Family Supports, and Sports and Transportation Services (Wraparound Services); Educator Diversity and Culturally Specific Programming and Mentoring (Culturally Specific and Responsive Investments); and School Based Health Centers, School Nursing, Oral Health, and Health System Enhancements (School Health).

During the 2020-2021 school year, K-12 School and Community-Based Investments served nearly 17,000 students in Seattle Public Schools, 82% of whom identified as students of color. Sixty-one percent of levy-supported students qualified for free and reduced lunch, 37 percent were from refugee and immigrant families, and 24 percent were English Language Learners. More than 1,200 students experiencing homelessness were served by K-12 School and Community-Based Investments during the 2020-2021 school year. Access data for K-12 School Health investments is covered on [page 26](#).



## K-12 SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY-BASED INVESTMENTS

2021 FEPP Levy Spending



7-year FEPP Levy Spending Plan

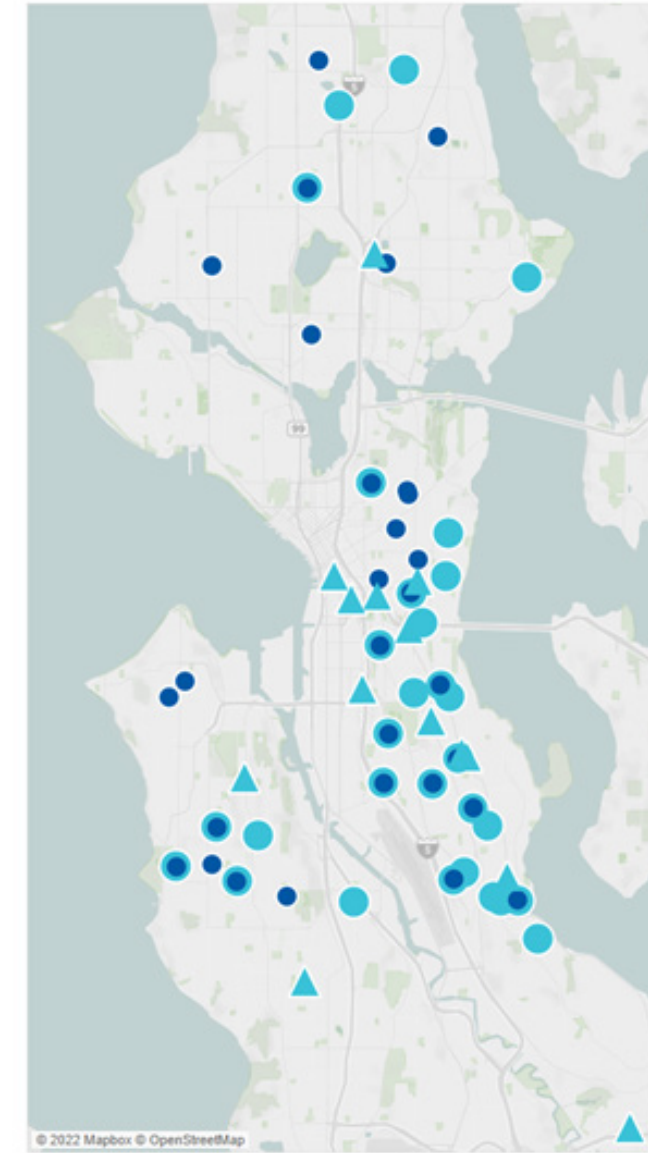


## K-12 SCHOOL HEALTH INVESTMENTS

2021 FEPP Levy Spending



7-year FEPP Levy Spending Plan

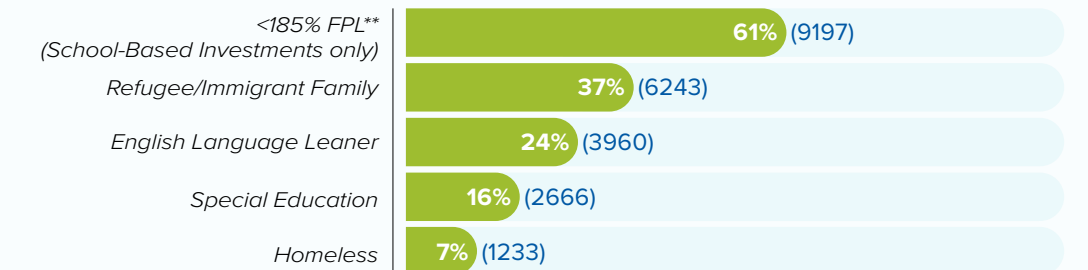
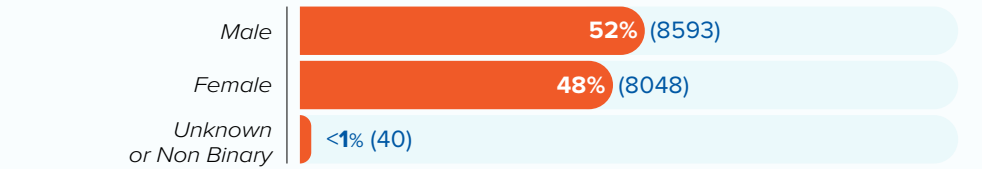
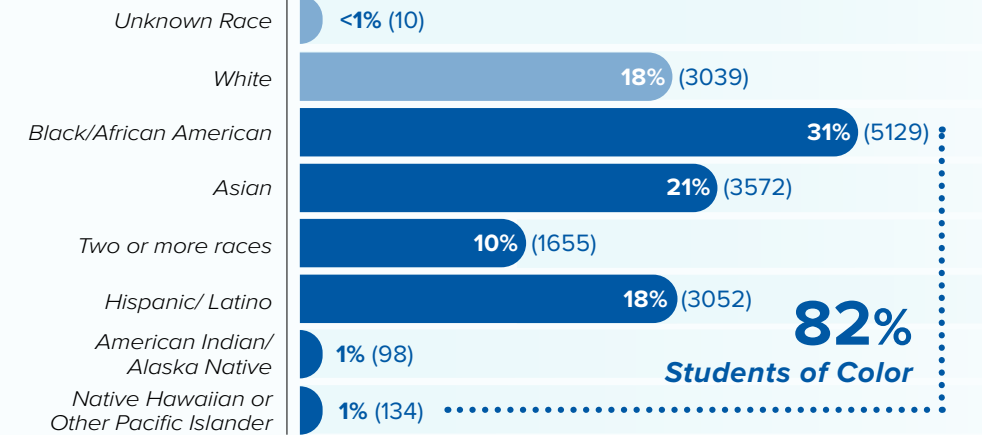


Light blue circles = Levy partner schools,  
Dark blue circles = SBHC sites  
Triangles = Community partner (O&A) sites

## K-12 SCHOOL & COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

# WHO DID WE SERVE?

**17K\*** STUDENTS OVERALL  
THROUGH 30 School Partners  
AND 30 Community Partners



\* Includes approximately 400 students served by programs that did not provide individual identifiers. Demographic data is included for 16,681 unique students.  
\*\* Federal Poverty Level





partner spotlight

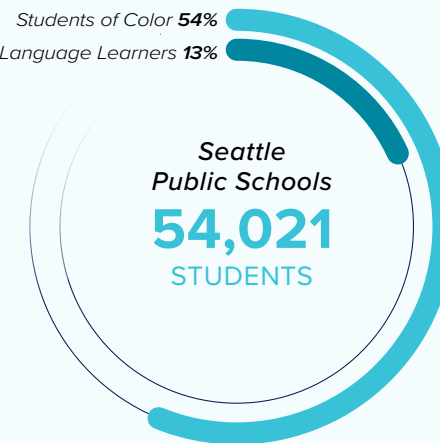
# HANNA ORY

Levy Coordinator,  
West Seattle Elementary

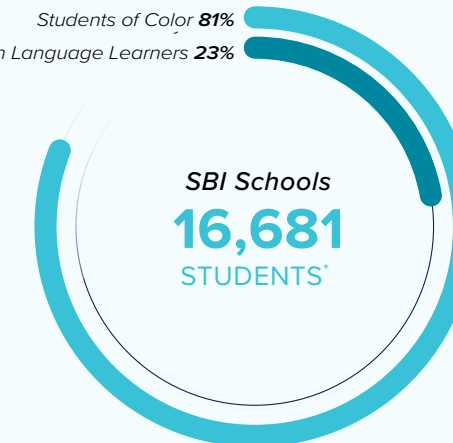
Strategy Area:  
School-Based Investments

## LEVY-PARTNER (SBI) SCHOOLS WITHIN SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Students of Color **54%**  
English Language Learners **13%**



Students of Color **81%**  
English Language Learners **23%**



LEVY PARTNER (SBI) SCHOOLS ENROLL **55% OF ALL BLACK MALES WHO ATTEND SPS SCHOOLS, WHILE MAKING UP 30% OF ALL SPS K-12 ENROLLMENT.**

\* Number of students for whom DEEL received demographic data



Source: DEEL

The 2020-2021 school year was the first year of implementation for the FEPP Levy's School-Based Investments (SBI) strategy, following completion of a Request for Investment (RFI) process during the previous school year and the announcement of awards for 30 Seattle Public Schools—20 Elementary/K-8 schools, 5 middle schools, and 5 high schools. School-Based Investments under the FEPP Levy provide intensive, supplemental support for select schools in Seattle Public Schools with higher concentrations of historically underserved populations and greater opportunity for improving student performance in areas such as English language arts and mathematics proficiencies, on-time promotion to the next grade level, engagement in expanded learning experiences, and on-time graduation.

By investing in services supplemental to what schools provide through state and district funding, FEPP Levy school-based investments focus on ensuring that students who need more support get more support as they pursue high school graduation and the postsecondary pathway of their choice. In comparison to the previous Families and Education Levy (FEL), FEPP Levy School-Based Investments focus on fewer schools and serve fewer students overall but offer greater levels of support in areas of higher need and more intentional prioritization of students and communities who have experienced systemic inequities in educational

achievement. And while FEL funded only through ninth grade, the FEPP Levy expanded investments through 12th grade and place a greater focus on college and career readiness. With the addition of Seattle Promise to the FEPP Levy as well, this creates a full spectrum of services and support for students from preschool to postsecondary.

The SBI strategy uses an outcomes-based approach that empowers schools to develop their own innovative solutions to improve outcomes for Seattle students. Schools develop their own plans for providing expanded learning and academic enrichment or college and career readiness programming for their students; for example, the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Rainier Beach High School ([see partner spotlight on page 25](#)) uses levy funding to engage more students in IB's specialized college preparatory programming, with the goal of higher college enrollment rates. More than half of the FEPP Levy's K-12 School and Community-Based spending is planned to go toward School-Based Investments over the life of the levy, about \$95 million over six years.

Also launched under the K-12 School and Community-Based investments during the 2020-2021 school year were Opportunity and Access (O&A) investments, following a previous-year RFI

process that awarded 14 community-based organizations with awards totaling \$4.9 million over 3 years. O&A investments provide students with access to and engagement in expanded learning experiences with the goal of improving student performance and increasing the number of students graduating prepared for college and career. Programs and activities are offered both during school-time and out of school-time, including during the summer. O&A partners served a total of 908 students during the 2020-2021 school year, 90% of whom identified as students of color. The majority of these students participated in expanded learning opportunities (723 students) and 269 students participated in college and career readiness programming.

Within the Culturally Specific and Responsive strategy of the FEPP Levy, Educator Diversity investments during the 2020-2021 school year supported 104 educators of color in pursuing either an associate degree, bachelor's degree and teaching certification, or master's degree. Educator Diversity initiatives are aimed at increasing the number of linguistically, racially, and culturally diverse educators within Seattle Public Schools (SPS), in partnership with SPS and their Academy for Rising Educators, Classified to Certificated Program, and Seattle Teacher Residency certification pathways.

**“Levy funds allowed WSE to leverage new and existing community partnerships to meet the unique and diverse needs of our students and families throughout the pandemic. We were able to hire a full-time crisis counselor, academic tutors, high school reading coaches, and an academic interventionist. During remote instruction, we quickly learned students were most engaged in small groups; having the support of tutors and interventionists working with classroom teachers and instructional assistants meant every student in the school could be part of a small group for both reading and math.”**





Source: Unsplash/Julia M. Cameron



Source: SPS



partner spotlight

# GERALD DONALDSON

Family Support Worker,  
Leschi Elementary

Strategy Area:  
Wraparound Services

## COVID-19 Adaptations to School and Community-Based Investments

DEEL began working with school and community partners in spring of 2020 to adapt programming and workplans to a remote learning model and better support access to academic, enrichment, and college and career readiness activities for students furthest from educational justice during the 2020-2021 school year. Building from the lessons they learned from initial school closures in March 2020, schools modified their instructional delivery plans, incorporated more small-group work, set up synchronous (live) and asynchronous (self-directed) learning experiences, and expanded case management support to ensure students had access to necessary technology and connections to caring adults and peers. Community partners selected during 2020 RFI processes also submitted plans for COVID-19 adaptations and received supports for preparing to serve students in remote contexts.

Family Support Services investments, part of the Wraparound Services strategy under K-12 School and Community-Based investments played a pivotal role in helping students and families navigate the challenges of a pandemic year. Family support service investments are designed to remove barriers to student learning by meeting students' basic needs through access to financial resources and community supports. During the 2020-2021

school year, 762 students and their families benefited from meal distribution, technology resources and support, food, clothing, and housing assistance options, as well as case management and care coordination intended to support student learning throughout the year. Services were concentrated in 15 elementary schools, Rainier Beach High School, and SPS's Native American Program, all selected based on levels of student need.

In addition to adaptations within these existing FEPP investment strategies, new partnerships were forged during COVID-19 and funded by levy savings acquired in spring of 2020 when school buildings first closed. One such partnership was with the Seattle Office of Arts and Culture (ARTS), who provided high-quality arts materials for students attending SBI partner schools to use at home, as well as arts education through virtual platforms. FEPP funding provided arts kits for over 9,000 students, including all students at SBI elementary schools and students enrolled in arts classes at SBI middle and high schools.

DEEL also partnered with TeamRead, a community-based organization who also partners with Seattle Public Schools, to create the Neighborhood TeamRead program, a virtual extension of their dual-impact reading and tutoring program for public housing communities and students attending schools without an existing

TeamRead partnership. Neighborhood TeamRead provided an after-school, extended day program pairing elementary school students with trained teen reading coaches from their community for one-on-one reading support. Teen tutors and elementary readers both experienced the social-emotional benefits that come from the near-peer relationships between Team Read pairs.

FEPP Levy resources were also leveraged to provide remote learning support and in-person access at Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) citywide teen hubs for middle and high school students during the pandemic year. Participating students benefited from in-person academic support and enrichment experiences, including support accessing SPS remote classrooms. Approximately 70 students a week participated at eight teen hubs from October through June.

Additionally, DEEL issued a new \$1 million funding opportunity for community-based organizations to expand or enhance summer programming in 2021, in response to extended time in remote learning environments and the expressed needs of students and families for added support over the summer. Seventeen organizations were awarded funds to provide more than 600 students with academic, health and wellness, and college and career readiness enrichment activities June through August.



*Calls from families sharing their needs were coming in from early morning until evening. We were able to support financial needs like rent and energy bills, provide a weekly food distribution at Leschi, and connect students to other resources they needed, such as transportation for housing-insecure students, emotional support and counseling referrals, and access to before- and after-school programs."*



partner spotlight

# MICHELLE MITCHELL-BRANNON

Director of Youth and Education Support,  
Atlantic Street Center  
Strategy Area:  
Opportunity & Access



Enrichment programming is essential because learning shouldn't be limited to the traditional classroom. Not all youth learn and develop their skills in that way. By giving youth a space to express themselves and explore their interests, we're providing opportunities for all our youth. At ASC, our goal is to provide daily interaction with community members of color working in various fields, so youth can begin to picture themselves in these careers or educational settings as they get older. Exposure to BIPOC business owners and local entrepreneurs helped one of our youth write a business proposal and build a successful online shop with her own line of lip gloss."



## K-12 SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY FINDINGS

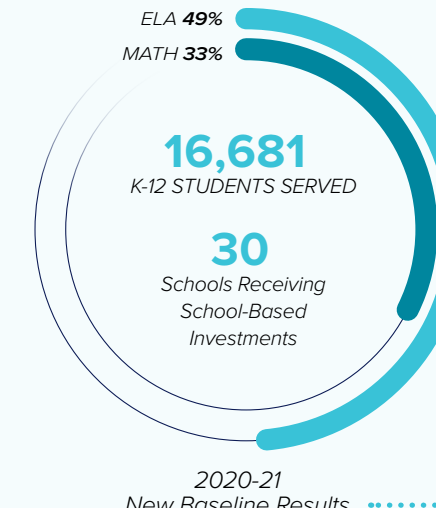
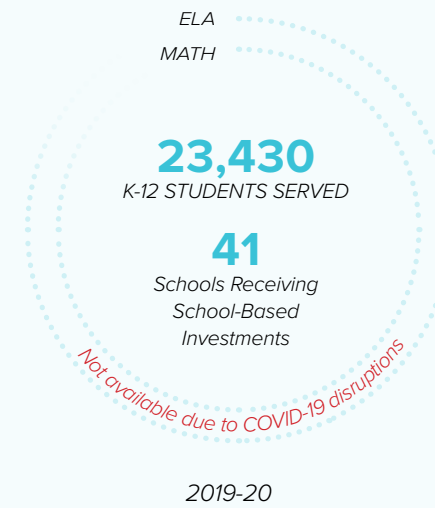
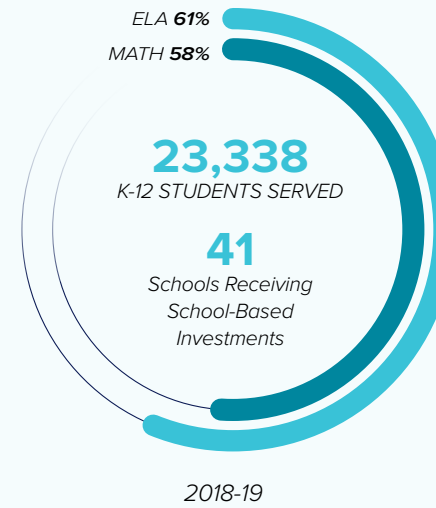
3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math proficiency **DROPPED BY 25%** and ELA proficiency **DROPPED 12%**

among FEPP-supported students, similar to losses seen on the district and state level  
(Source: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction)

Four-year graduation rates continue to rise for Seattle Public Schools overall. At baseline, graduation rates for the five levy-supported high schools trail District graduation rates **85% vs. 87% respectively**



Source: DEEL



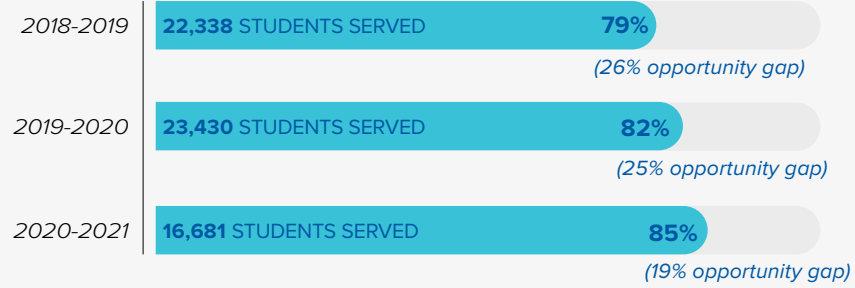
The transition in K-12 investment strategy from the Families and Education Levy to the FEPP Levy beginning in the 2020-2021 school year resulted in fewer overall schools receiving funding, but greater investments in high-school aged students, as well as a more intentional focus on students and communities furthest from educational justice and an increased emphasis on college and career readiness. This, along with changes in how and when state assessments were conducted for the 2020-2021 school year, means that **K-12 results from this school year are better viewed as new baseline data for assessing future levy results than as an accurate analysis of historical trends.**

\* Results are from Smarter Balance Assessments conducted in Fall 2021 instead of the standard springtime assessment.





### ON-TIME, FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATES for Partner Schools Receiving School-Based Investments\*



\*The number of schools funded and the number of students served changed between 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years and the transition from Families and Education Levy (FEL) and the FEPP Levy. Numbers above reflect data from SBI schools only and exclude FEL schools no longer funded under FEPP.



*Our levy supports have enabled us to expand our school's International Baccalaureate program to more students and tailor it to their needs and dreams. As a result, we're putting more students on a pathway to college and a higher paying career. One of my students last year told me that he never envisioned himself going to college because he couldn't afford it and he wasn't 'that kind of kid.' He's at UW this year on a full-ride scholarship and loving it."*



partner spotlight

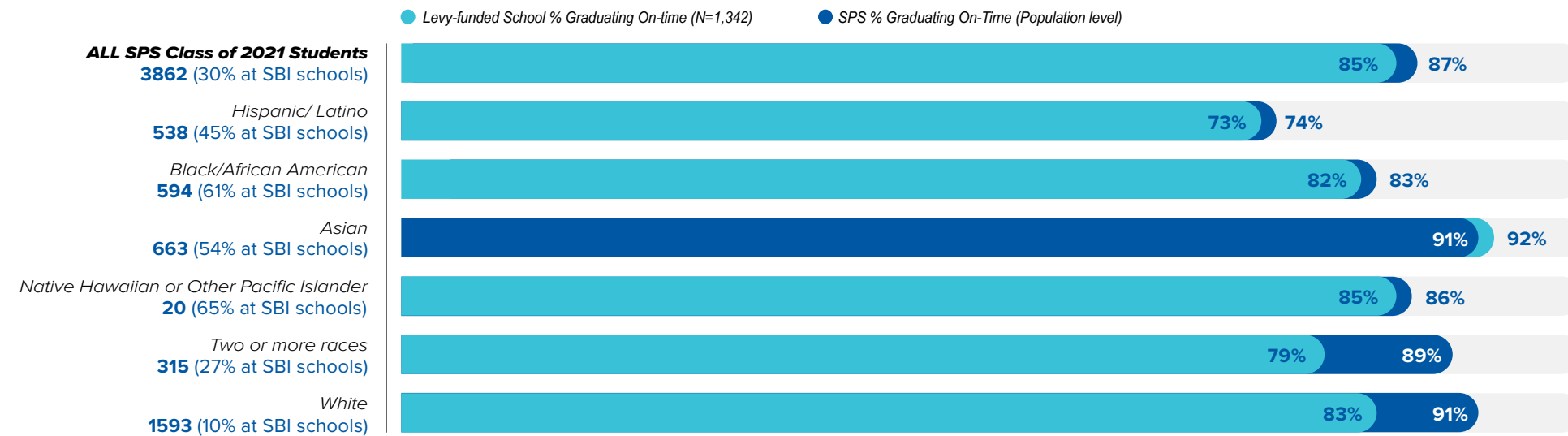
## STEVEN MILLER

**International Baccalaureate Program Coordinator,**  
Rainier Beach High School

**Strategy Area:**  
School-Based Investments

### 4-YEAR GRADUATION OPPORTUNITY GAPS School-Based investments, Class of 2021\*

How K-12 students at Levy-supported schools compared to Seattle Public Schools students overall, broken down by race/ethnicity



Fewer than 10 students who identified as American Indian/Alaska Native were served at SBI schools. Their results have been excluded from view due to privacy and reliability concerns.

\*The five SBI schools contributing to the data in the two tables above—Chief Sealth International, Interagency Academy, Cleveland STEM, Rainier Beach, and Franklin—were chosen during the Request for Investment process precisely for their demonstrated need for greater supports. The graduation rates seen here provide baseline numbers for future years' analysis of levy results.





# SCHOOL HEALTH

K-12 School Health investments provide an important bridge between health and education that promotes school attendance and improved academic performance by providing direct health services to students. Services include preventive care and immunizations, comprehensive primary and acute health services, oral health services, mental health services, age-appropriate reproductive health care, and health insurance enrollment assistance. In the 2020-2021 school year, \$16.4 million was spent on K-12 School Health investments, representing 15% of total FEPP Levy spending for the year.

Access to School Based Health Centers is available for all Seattle Public Schools students regardless of the presence of an SBHC on their school campus. While services are universally accessible to all SPS students, outreach and referrals for services are focused on students with the greatest need such as those experiencing non-academic barriers to learning, students not yet meeting grade-level learning standards, students less likely to access care in

the community, and other historically underserved student groups, including students experiencing homelessness and LGBTQ students.

## Public Health Seattle & King County



DEEL partners with Public Health—Seattle & King County (PHSKC) to administer comprehensive medical and mental health services in 29 School Based Health Centers (SBHCs) across the city. PHSKC's role includes managing SBHC contracts with healthcare providers, overseeing Request for Application processes, and providing direct services at three SBHCs within Seattle Public Schools (Cleveland, Ingraham, and Rainier Beach high schools).

SBHC providers quickly adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of school buildings in spring of 2020 to offer telehealth services and expand access to community-based clinics. These adapted services continued into the 2020-2021 school year through

a combination of in-person services, telehealth, and community-based care for students and families. Following the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) emergency authorization of the Pfizer vaccine for 12–15-year-olds, SBHCs also began supporting youth vaccine education and access.

In total, 6,787 students received health services at 29 SBHCs citywide from seven SBHC clinical sponsors during the 2020-2021 school year.

### SBHC Clinical Partners

- Country Doctor Community Health Centers
- International Community Health Services
- Kaiser Permanente
- Neighborcare Health
- Odessa Brown Children's Clinic
- Public Health—Seattle & King County
- Swedish Medical Center



partner spotlight

## ANA SHORT

International Community Health Services Behavioral Health Provider, Seattle World School SBHC

Strategy Area:  
School-Based Health



## ON-TIME GRADUATION TRENDS

For Seniors Receiving SBHC Services Compared to Overall Seattle Public Schools Rates

- Overall SPS % Graduating On-Time
- Students who received SBHC services % Graduating On-Time (N=1,250)

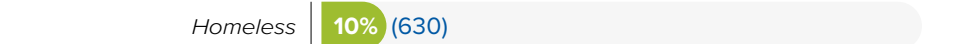
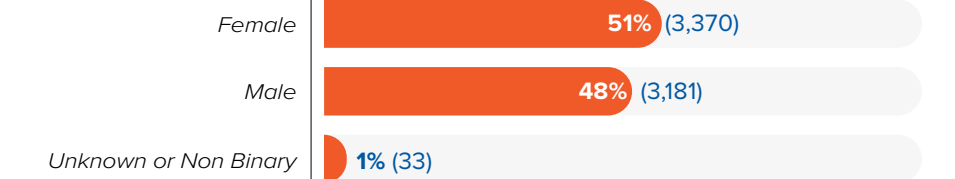
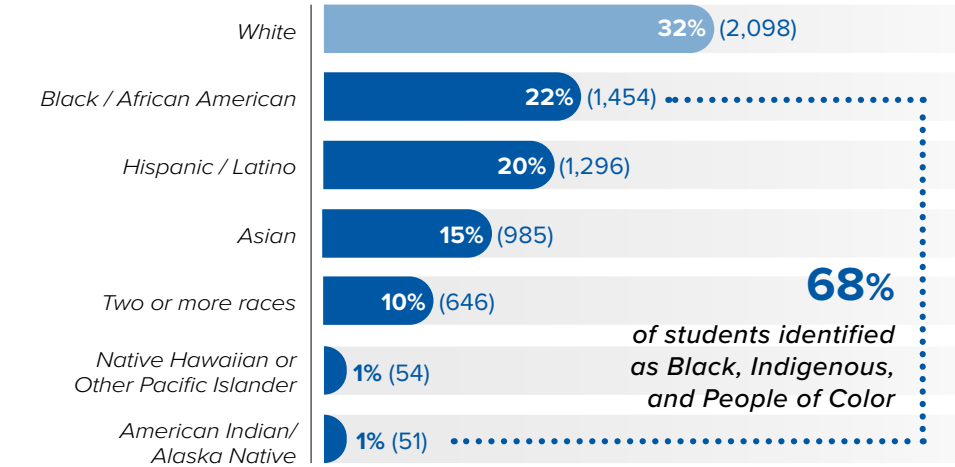


\* Fewer than 10 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander students served; results excluded

“There is an enormous need for behavioral health services and families face long waits to schedule a behavioral health intake. School-based clinics can and have provided an immediate response to this need. In September 2020, we began offering both in-person and telehealth mental health appointments, in-language outreach, social and emotional learning supports, and group activities like gardening and cooking that taught coping strategies as a counseling alternative.”

## K-12 SCHOOL HEALTH WHO DID WE SERVE?

**6,787\*** STUDENTS OVERALL  
THROUGH 7 PROVIDER AGENCIES  
AT 29 SITES



\* Demographic data was unavailable for 203 students.



# POSTSECONDARY ACCESS AND COMPLETION

## PRESCHOOL AND EARLY LEARNING INVESTMENTS

2021 FEPP Levy Spending



7-year FEPP Levy Spending Plan



Seattle Promise is a universal-access college tuition and success program designed to support Seattle students, especially first-generation students and underserved populations, on a direct path from high school to college. Seattle Promise supports scholars in achieving a certificate, credential, degree, or transfer to four-year institution and prepares them for participation in our region's vibrant workforce and economy without taking on overwhelming college debt. The program is implemented by Seattle Colleges, in close partnership with the City of Seattle and Seattle Public Schools (SPS).

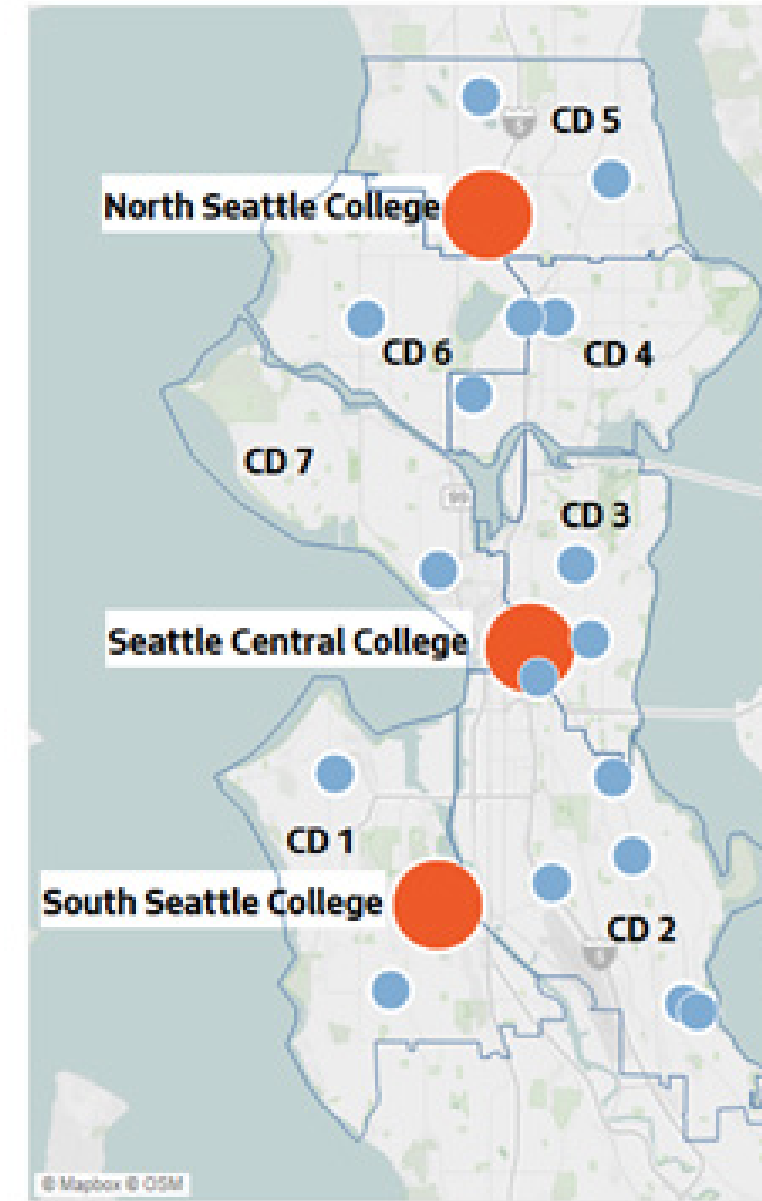
The Seattle Promise program, first established in 2017 as an expansion of the 13th Year program at South Seattle College and adopted as part of the FEPP Levy in November 2018, has



three core components: preparation and persistence supports, a last-dollar tuition scholarship that covers remaining costs of tuition after all other public funding or grants have been applied, and an equity scholarship of \$500 per quarter for students with the greatest financial need. Beginning in their junior year of high school, SPS students receive college and career readiness supports from Seattle Promise outreach specialists assigned to their high school. Upon matriculating to the program, Promise scholars receive persistence supports and are eligible for both tuition and equity scholarships based on financial need. The Equity Scholarship is flexible funding that students can use to pay for non-tuition related expenses such as books, fees, child care, food, housing, transportation, or other expenses.

The 2020-2021 school year marked the first incoming cohort of Promise scholars from all 17 Seattle Public Schools (SPS) high schools, following an expansion of the program from its beginnings at South Seattle College when graduates from only three high schools had access to tuition scholarships. SPS graduates are eligible for the program regardless of grade point average (GPA), income, ability, or country of birth. As a result of expanded eligibility, Seattle Colleges welcomed the largest number of Promise scholars to date at its three campuses (North, Central, and South): 689 first-year scholars (2020 Cohort) and 148 second-year scholars (2019 Cohort). This more than doubled the number of students in the program, with roughly 18% of the SPS graduating class of 2020 participating.

The expansion in eligibility to all 17 SPS high schools resulted in a higher percentage of white students being enrolled in the program as well as more students from higher income families (66% students of color in 2020 cohort vs 76% in 2019 cohort). Almost one-third of Promise students enrolled in 2020-2021 reported being a first-generation college student with neither parent or guardian having completed a bachelor's degree.

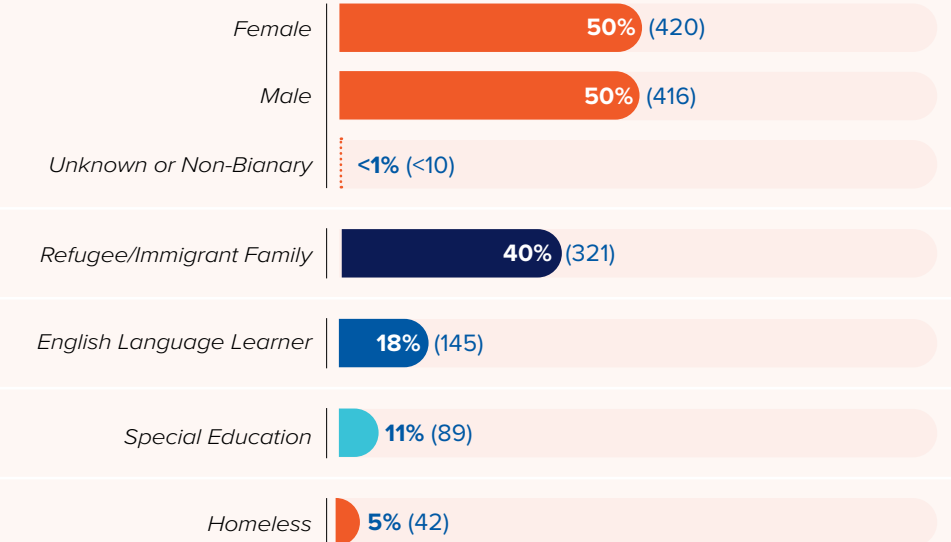
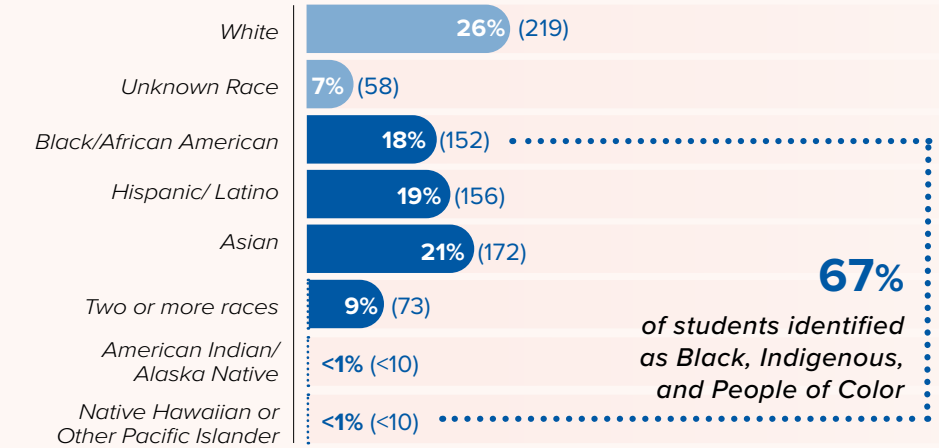


Orange dots: Campuses where Fall 2020 Promise scholars enrolled  
Blue dots: SPS high schools where Fall 2020 Promise scholars graduated

## SEATTLE PROMISE WHO DID WE SERVE?

# 837

STUDENTS OVERALL FROM 17 HIGH SCHOOLS AT 3 SEATTLE COLLEGES CAMPUSES







*Early in the pandemic, I felt overwhelmed with the sadness of not getting into my “dream” school and the cost of college hanging over my head. I came across the Seattle Promise scholarship and decided to take a leap of faith in starting with community college. That was the best decision I’ve made yet in my young adult life. Seattle Promise gave me access to resources and the skills I need to be a successful first-generation college student. I’m transferring in Fall 2022 to Western University to pursue a career as a Speech Language Pathologist.”*



partner spotlight

## MAQUISA SIMS

Promise Scholar, Seattle Central College

Strategy Area:  
Seattle Promise

Over the course of the 2020-2021 school year, DEEL conducted a process evaluation examining Seattle Promise scholar persistence and the advising supports students receive, in order to understand how to increase completion rates and better support students furthest from educational justice. The evaluation found that Promise retention rates decreased after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Focus groups and surveys conducted as part of the evaluation with Promise scholars and Promise retention specialists, employed by Seattle Colleges, revealed a variety of persistence barriers affecting student progress toward a postsecondary degree:

- Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) and full-time enrollment were the most challenging Seattle Promise program requirements for scholars to maintain, impacting their ability to remain eligible for participation in Promise. Full-time enrollment was more challenging for scholars who were struggling academically, experiencing personal hardship, or enrolled in high-credit STEM courses.
- Seattle Promise’s 90-credit or two-year participation limit was challenging for many scholars, especially for those struggling academically, undecided about career goals, or those who started college needing to take developmental courses.
- The top personal persistence challenges participants reported were remote learning, indecision about career goals, and pressures related to family and employment.
- The lack of flexible leave options or a pathway to regain eligibility for Promise after experiencing a persistence barrier.

Many of the barriers identified were similar to findings that emerged during the Seattle Promise Racial Equity Toolkit (RET) process that occurred during the 2019-2020 school year. RETs are implemented by City departments as part of the City’s Race and Social Justice Initiative to review existing or planned programs and policies for their impact on racial equity. Recommendations from the Seattle Promise RET influenced policy changes implemented during the 2020-2021 school year, detailed in the COVID-19 Adaptations section below.

### COVID-19 Adaptations to Seattle Promise

As reflected in findings from the 2020-2021 process evaluation report, the impacts of the pandemic on Seattle Promise scholars was significant and presented barriers to both persistence and completion. To mitigate many of these challenges, Seattle Colleges

and DEEL adapted both programmatic and policy components within the program to better support students and their changing needs during the pandemic.

### PROGRAMMATIC CHANGES

During a typical school year, incoming Promise scholars would have attended an in-person Summer Bridge orientation to help them prepare for the start of classes in the fall. Due to COVID-19 and the decision to offer fully remote programming in September 2020, Seattle Colleges provided students with an alternative orientation experience. Students were invited to attend a virtual Summer Bridge where staff focused on surveying students about their technology and academic needs and provided workshops on how to build a class schedule, register for classes, and interact with instructors.

Throughout the year, Seattle Colleges made upgrades to their technology to better support students on virtual platforms. This included alerts that would go to program staff for students who missed regular sign-ins to their learning portals, identifying students who may need greater outreach and supports. Promise outreach and retention specialists were available for either scheduled or pop-in virtual meetings with both enrolled scholars and with high school students considering the Promise pathway.

### POLICY CHANGES

In the fall of 2020, the City and Seattle Colleges acted in response to student requests to enroll part-time or defer enrollment due to challenges of shifting to remote instruction and other COVID-19 circumstances. In December 2020, legislation that temporarily waived the two-year enrollment limit for Promise scholars at the Seattle Colleges was passed with the support of the FEPP Levy Oversight Committee, Mayor’s Office, and City Council. The effect of the policy change was to give Promise scholars enrolled during the early days of COVID greater flexibility to change their enrollment status without losing eligibility.

Toward the close of the 2020-2021 school year, the City of Seattle announced additional funding for equity enhancements to the Seattle Promise program with the support of new federal funding under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Under ARPA, approximately \$10.7 million in Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery funding between 2021 and 2023 will go toward expansion and enhancements to the Seattle Promise program as part of the City’s COVID-19 recovery strategy.

In spring of 2021, it was announced that CLFR would provide financial support to pilot program equity enhancements designed to address racial disparities in Promise retention and completion, including:

- Offering a path to program re-entry
- Extending the two-year/90-credit time to completion
- Increasing the Equity Scholarship award amounts from \$500 to \$1,000 a quarter, and expanding Equity Scholarship eligibility in alignment with federal Pell grant standards to allow more students to receive additional financial support
- Providing more personalized and differentiated staffing supports reflective of student needs
- Supporting transfer pathways and 4-year degree attainment through a new transfer partnership with the University of Washington
- Providing seed funding for a partnership with the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship

## WHY STUDENTS CHOSE SEATTLE PROMISE TOP THEMES

DEEL’s Seattle Promise Process Evaluation report provided insights into scholar motivations for applying to the Seattle Promise program, with the following top themes emerging:

### PATHWAY TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Seattle Promise offered a supportive pathway between high school and a four-year institution for scholars who sought a supportive setting to improve their academic performance and build confidence in their ability to navigate the perceived rigor of a larger university.

### COLLEGE ACCESS

Seattle Promise provided college access to scholars for whom the cost of entering higher education immediately after high school was prohibitive.

### CAREER EXPLORATION

Seattle Promise created opportunity for high school graduates who were undecided about attending college to build a stronger understanding of their career interests and goals without taking on a heavy financial burden.

### COST-SAVING

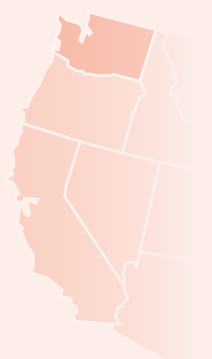
Seattle Promise presented an opportunity for scholars to reduce the financial burden on their families by earning their first college credential tuition-free.



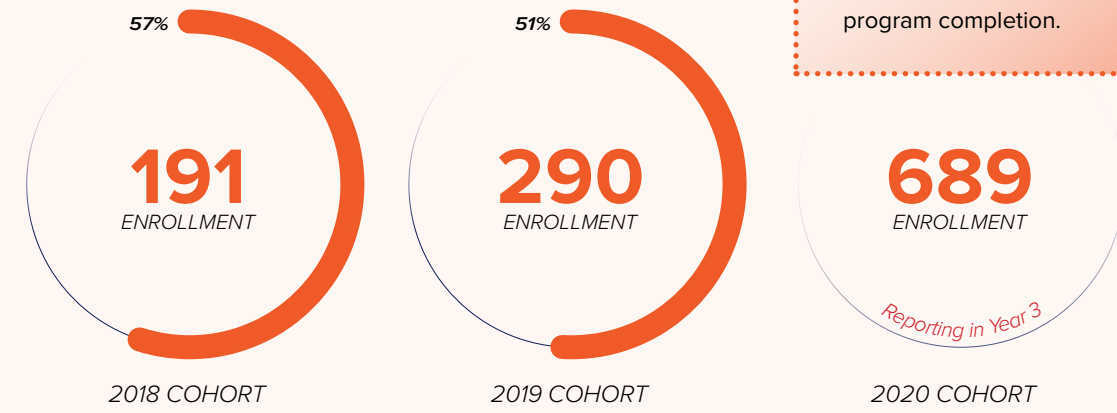


## RACIAL EQUITY FINDINGS

Across all races and ethnicities, 3-year completion rates for **SEATTLE PROMISE MET OR EXCEEDED THE NATIONAL AVERAGE**



### SEATTLE PROMISE PERSISTENCE RATES



#### PERSISTENCE

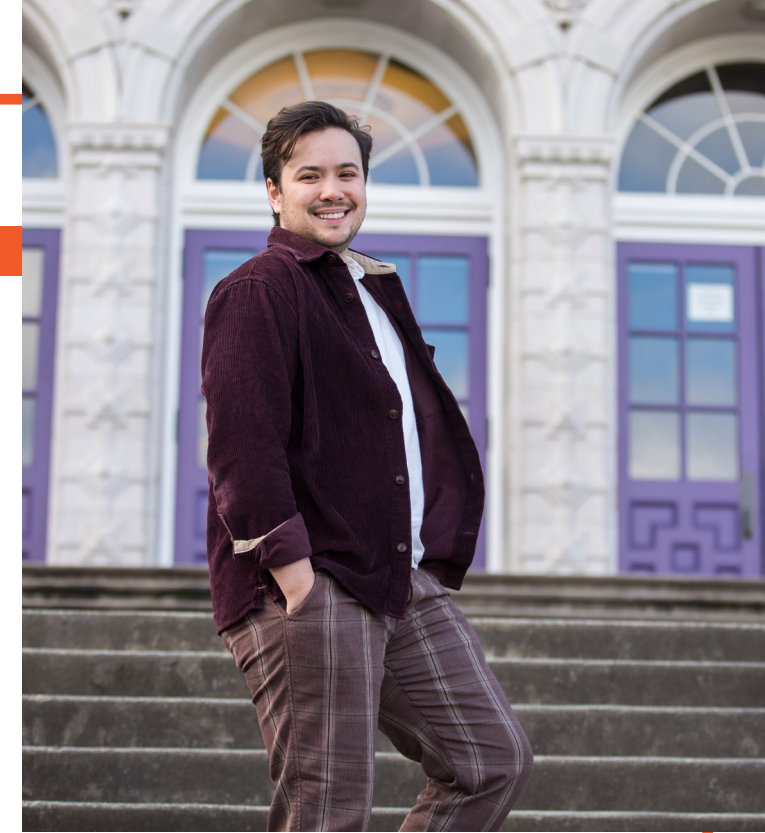
Refers to a student's continued enrollment or program completion.

partner spotlight

## LEE WESTRICK

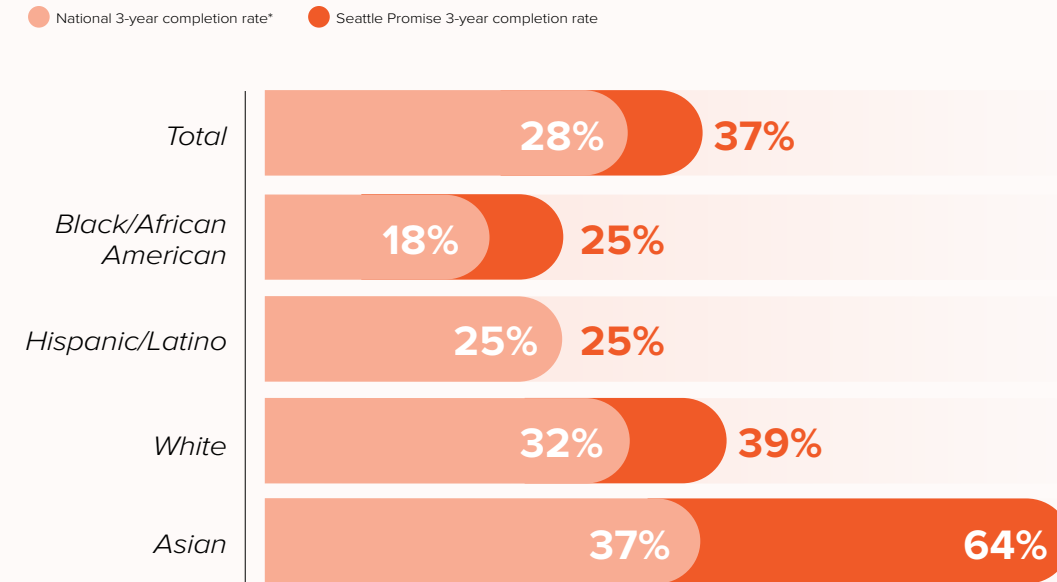
Seattle Promise Outreach Specialist

Strategy Area: Seattle Promise



Seattle Promise's outreach work is about exploring the landscape of future opportunity with students. Sometimes they aren't sure what's out there or have a limited understanding of what can be done after high school. It's our job to listen to what they're excited about and say, "Hey, have you ever heard of this career or degree?" Starting that conversation and walking them through all the steps to get there helps students avoid overwhelm and increases their chance of success."

### SEATTLE PROMISE 3-YEAR COMPLETION RATES 2018 Cohort



\*Data source: National Center for Education Statistics, students entering public 2-year postsecondary institutions in 2016  
 \*\*Fewer than 10 students who identified as American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, or Two or More Races from the 2018 Cohort completed their certificate, credential, or degree within the Seattle Promise program. Their results have been excluded from view due to privacy and reliability concerns.







Source: DEEL

## OUR MISSION

*The mission of the Department of Education and Early Learning is to transform the lives of Seattle's children, youth, and families through strategic investments in education.*



Source: SPS



Source: SPS

## OUR VISION

*We envision a city where all children, youth, and families have equitable opportunities and access to high quality education services, support, and outcomes.*

## OUR COMMITMENT TO WMBE VENDORS

*The City of Seattle and the Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) support the utilization of Women- and Minority-Owned Business Enterprises (WMBE) in City consulting and purchasing contracts.*

*DEEL would like to thank the WMBE consultants who assisted in the production of this report.*

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