

What is the Washington Regional Afterschool Project?



THE WASHINGTON REGIONAL AFTERSCHOOL PROJECT (WRAP), created in 1999, is a collaborative of agencies that provides a regional approach to enhancing a system aimed at increasing the quality and availability of afterschool, youth development and summer programs in Washington State. WRAP enhances program quality by meeting the programs' particular needs by whatever means is appropriate: one-time or ongoing on-site assistance, professional development or resources.

Where does WRAP TAKE PLACE?

WRAP serves all of Washington, dividing the state into six geographic areas:

- **Northeast** – Asotin, Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman Counties
- **Southeast** -- Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Kittitas, Klickitat, Walla Walla, and Yakima Counties
- **North Central** -- Adams, Chelan, Douglas Grant, and Okanogan Counties
- **Central** – King County
- **Northwest** – Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom Counties
- **Southwest** – Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, and Wahkiakum Counties

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Why is WRAP important?

Research shows that the number one indicator of a high-quality afterschool and/or youth development (AYD) program is well-trained staff. While all young people deserve access to high quality, affordable AYD opportunities, many communities in Washington State do not have the resources and support to provide quality AYD programs. WRAP provides support for child and youth development professionals statewide through on-site technical assistance, training and professional development opportunities. Quality AYD programs create quality places for children and youth to learn and grow.

We also know that access is a critical issue. Children and youth only spend 20% of their waking hours in school. How they spend the remaining 80% of their time has a profound impact on their safety and well-being. WRAP not only works on improving the quality of programs, but also raising awareness at the local level around the importance of ensuring young people have access to programs and increasing their availability.



Who is involved in WRAP?

Each WRAP region has a lead agency that coordinates workshops, trainings, technical assistance and quality support for AYD programs. All six regions have a WRAP specialist based at the partner agency. **School's Out Washington** serves as the administrative lead for WRAP, and houses the specialist for the Central region. **Spokane Public Schools Express Child Care Program** is the WRAP agency lead for the Northeast region. The lead agency for the North Central, Southeast, and Southwest WRAP regions is **Washington State University Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development**. In the Northwest region, **Volunteers of America Western Washington Child Care Resource and Referral** coordinates WRAP efforts.

How does WRAP impact AYD programs?

The WRAP system, with its community-based specialists, enhances AYD programs by:

- Bringing together key local individuals to develop a plan for ensuring that young people have safe places to go when not in school;
- Coordinating workshops, conferences, and networking opportunities as well as distributing funding information;
- Working one-on-one with new and expanding programs to assist in meeting goals, encouraging self-assessments and implementing program improvement processes;
- Educating community members (educators, law enforcement officers, business owners, social and public health workers, elected officials and others) about the importance of quality AYD activities.

What are the outcomes of WRAP?

WRAP supports the only statewide infrastructure for AYD programs. By sharing resources and strategies with programs across the state, WRAP connects all the people involved in AYD opportunities. Across the state, WRAP strengthens the network necessary to help children and youth learn and grow in safe places during the out-of-school time hours.

School's Out Washington, the lead agency for WRAP, provides services and guidance for organizations to ensure all young people have safe places to learn and grow when not in school. School's Out Washington is dedicated to building community systems to support quality out-of-school time programs for Washington's 5-18 year olds through training, advocacy, and leadership.

For questions about WRAP, please contact School's Out Washington at (206) 323-2396 or toll-free in Washington State at 1-888-419-9300.



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