

PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE

PROJECT SHEET

What is the Pathway to Excellence Project?

The Pathway to Excellence (PTE) Project is a four year project made possible by a grant awarded to School's Out Washington (SOWA) from The Atlantic Philanthropies. The overarching goal of the project is to plan, implement and evaluate professional development within the field of afterschool and youth development. The main objective of the project is to recruit and develop learning communities from across the Pacific Northwest to participate in SOWA's annual *The Bridge from School to Afterschool and Back Conference (Bridge)* and to receive site-based coaching throughout the year. Program participants will attend content specific sessions at *Bridge*, acquire specific ideas and activities on how to better support children and youth in their programs, and receive on-site coaching on these ideas. Those programs will have training and support through the year to implement what they have learned at the conference. Each year of the PTE Project will focus on relevant content areas to meet the ever-evolving needs of the afterschool and youth development field. The focus has been on English Language Learners in the past two year.

Pathway to Excellence 2009 – 2010

We are currently in the third year of the PTE Project and it is off to a successful start. 36 individual participants from 18 programs came to Vancouver, Washington, to attend School's Out Washington's 2009 Bridge from School to Afterschool and Back conference. Content experts from Healthy Directions facilitated a full day of trainings and workshops on the Healthy Children Healthy Futures (HCHF) curriculum which included health and fitness advocacy, media literacy campaigns, 8 healthy habits, nutritional food and healthy snack ideas and movement activities for afterschool and youth development programs. All participants also led a movement activity for 300 conference attendees alongside local youth performers. Participants are currently at their sites implementing the HCHF curriculum as well as receiving support from coaches and movement experts.



The following programs are 2009-2010 Pathway to Excellence Participants:

Southwest King County	Spokane County	Tacoma Pierce County
New Futures Burien	Girl Scouts of Eastern WA/Northern ID	Little Village Day Care
Mountain View Elementary	YMCA of Spokane	Salishan Homework Club
Tukwila Elementary School	Boys & Girls Club of Spokane	Proyecto Mole Center
Evergreen High School	Odyssey Youth Center	D.A.S.H. Center for the Arts
Concord Elementary School	Northeast Youth Center	South End Community Center
White Center Heights Elementary	Ponytales Youth Center/The Alternative	Mocha Mentoring

Who else is involved in the Pathway to Excellence Project?

In the third year of the PTE Project, SOWA is working with content experts from Healthy Directions, a non-profit organization focused on children and youth health initiatives. Their HCHF curriculum is a healthy eating and physical activity child and parent advocacy program based in New York. The project was originally developed by Strang Cancer Prevention Center and founding supporter, MetLife Foundation. It is also being implemented in Los Angeles, New York City, Houston, Chicago and Dallas. In addition, SOWA is working with Organizational Research Services (ORS), a leading national organization that serves non-profits in the areas of outcome based planning and evaluation. SOWA and ORS coordinated to design a comprehensive evaluation system and are now implementing that system to track child outcomes as a direct result of each site's participation in the PTE Project.

For questions about the PTE Project or other afterschool and youth development resources, please contact Jackie Hyllseth at jhyllseth@schoolsoutwashington, 206.336.6929, or 1.888.419.9300 (toll-free in Washington State)

School's Out Washington 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.



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