



## WASHINGTON AFTERSCHOOL NETWORK 2010-2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### THREE-YEAR GOALS

*Goal 1:* Foster statewide, regional, and local partnerships (especially school-community partnerships) at all levels.

*Goal 2:* Secure resources needed to sustain new and existing afterschool programs.

*Goal 3:* Ensure programs are of high quality.

### SUMMER LEARNING POLICY

School's Out Washington was selected as one of three states to participate in a special project led by the National Summer Learning Association. Over the course of this past year, we received technical assistance to develop and implement a plan to raise awareness among local and state leaders of the benefits of summer learning, engage afterschool and summer providers in public will building efforts and develop policy recommendations to support summer learning programs.

Some accomplishments from this project include:

- Creating a Summer Learning Policy Brief which can be accessed from SOWA's website: [http://www.schoolsoutwashington.org/1045\\_198/SummerLearningResources.htm](http://www.schoolsoutwashington.org/1045_198/SummerLearningResources.htm). The policy brief includes sections that address:
  - research demonstrating the positive impact of summer learning in impacting young people's academic, social/emotional and overall well-being;
  - the current landscape of summer learning in Washington State;
  - characteristics of a high-quality program;
  - the existing funding streams that support summer learning;
  - the cost of running a summer learning program;
  - and School's Out Washington's policy recommendations to address issues of accessibility and quality of programs.
- Posting blog entries and other social media highlighting summer learning programs across Washington State to celebrate Summer Learning Day throughout the month of July.
- Focusing on summer learning at our spring Washington Afterschool Network partnership group meeting with a presentation from Matthew Boulay, interim Director of the National Summer Learning Association.
- Organizing two summer learning mini-conferences (one on the Westside and one on the eastside of the state) including a workshop on making the case for summer learning focused on building partnerships and raising awareness in local communities around the importance of summer learning.

As part of our project workplan, we will disseminate the summer learning policy brief to state legislators at the start of the 2012 legislative session and will continue to incorporate summer learning into our overall policy agenda.

## HEALTHY YOUTH, HEALTHY FUTURES WASHINGTON

In 2009, WAN launched a new initiative to raise awareness about the role that afterschool programs play in supporting healthy behaviors in youth. This initiative was modeled after our prior work providing communities with seed grants to build public will among educators and municipal leaders around the role of afterschool programs in supporting academic success. Due to growing health concerns in our state and nation including rising rates of obesity, food insecurity, and lack of physical activity, WAN decided to focus on health and how afterschool programs promote healthy youth behaviors.

### **LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS: HEALTHY YOUTH, HEALTHY FUTURES**

This was our second year of awarding mini-grants of up to \$4,000 to five communities across the state to plan and organize a campaign to mobilize their community around the importance of afterschool and youth development programs in supporting healthy behaviors among youth. Recipients needed to work in partnership with a school, a health agency, and an afterschool or youth development program. The grantees implemented a range of projects including: creating community gardens; working with immigrant and refugee students to develop audio spots promoting health and nutrition; outreach to maximize the delivery of oral health screenings; and raising awareness in one rural community of the potential dangers of energy drinks.

## AFTERSCHOOL HALL OF FAME AWARDS

The Afterschool Hall of Fame Award Ceremony was organized to recognize those individuals and organizations that have provided dedicated leadership to the advancement of the field of afterschool in Washington State. For the second year, our Afterschool Hall of Fame Awards were presented at our annual Bridge Conference. The 2010 award recipients were:

- Honorable Mary Verner, Mayor, City of Spokane
- Joel Vanderyacht, Principal, Nooksack Valey School District
- Vicki Prendergast, Principal, White Salmon Valley School District
- The School-Age Rewrite Group, members include: Mandy Aaberg, Debi Boyd, Susan Brown, Doug Chidgey, Diana Comfort, Jennifer Cooke, Doug Coppinger, Gregory G. Falk, Joe Garza, Emilia Holbik, Heather Irmer, Cheryl Iverson, Jean Kasota, Aaron Norikane, Kuray Oman, Beth Pitts, Carrie Prudente-Holden, Cathy Reed, Connie Reynolds, Karen Rose, Ron White.

## COMMON CORE STANDARDS

Over the past two years, the National Governor's Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) facilitated the development of the Common Core State Standards for grades K-12 in English/Language are and mathematics. The Common Core include descriptions of knowledge, skills and dispositions that children and youth need to be successful with academic content. A variety of stakeholders including afterschool and youth development professionals participated in the voluntarily led effort.

Superintendent Randy Dorn formally adopted the Common Core Standards in 2011 along with 40 other states. Now states are moving toward implementation and assessment of these new standards and the Washington Afterschool Network is working hard to ensure that the ideas and innovative ideas of the afterschool and youth development field are incorporated into implementation plans. These "habits of mind" are the skills and abilities that all high quality afterschool and youth development programs offer such as helping kids learn problem solving skills, understand others and their perspectives, build independence and many other skills.

Members from the team at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction have presented at several Network meetings and have engaged in additional conversations with programs who are interested in this work. WAN members will continue to engage in conversations with the development team and to keep others informed as these standards are fully implemented and assessed.

## **ENDING CHILDHOOD HUNGER: SUMMER & AFTERSCHOOL MEALS**

Through a partnership with the Children's Alliance, SOWA has been a key partner in developing and implementing strategies to end childhood hunger in Washington State by 2015. Our commitment focuses on increasing participation in the federally-subsidized Summer Feeding Service Program and At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program. SOWA participates in statewide workgroups for each strategy. Through Washington Afterschool Network meetings and communication methods including our email alert system, we are both informing the process to achieve these goals and mobilizing people around this issue and the role afterschool and summer programs play in ending childhood hunger.

This past summer, as fewer school districts offered the summer meal program, we saw community based organizations step up to the plate to start filling the gap. We will continue working with the statewide summer meals workgroup to encourage new sponsors and sites next summer. We are just beginning our work in partnership with Children's Alliance and our state education agency to raise awareness among afterschool programs across the state of the expanded afterschool meal program which now reimburses programs for a full meal in addition to a snack.

## **PANEL OF 50 UPDATES**

The Washington Afterschool Network's *Panel of 50* is a group of prestigious and well-connected business leaders, funders, educators, and public officials that lend their support to afterschool issues. This past year, we enlisted several new members including Washington State Attorney General Rob McKenna.

The concept of a high level advisory committee to call upon as needed to help with public policy and to work with us in our efforts to raise awareness around afterschool related issues has proven a successful model to engage officials. This model is appealing in its flexibility requiring a low-level of commitment from members and offering us the opportunity to strategically ask for targeted assistance. It also serves as a replicable model for other afterschool networks across the country to consider in developing an advisory committee.

## **WASHINGTON AFTERSCHOOL NETWORK GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

SOWA continued to coordinate four partnership group meetings for the Washington Afterschool Network throughout the state. Average attendance at each meeting was 30-40 people. This group functions as the working group of the Network and has been working on a variety of activities including providing input on creating a professional development system, helping with a supply and demand study, providing input for policy changes in afterschool and other issues as they arise.

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For more information on the Washington Afterschool Network,  
or to find out how to join the effort, visit [www.schoolsoutwashington.org](http://www.schoolsoutwashington.org)  
or contact Janet Frieling at 206-323-2396 or email  
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