

Advocacy Week Prep Webinar

Educating Policymakers on Support for and Investment in Youth Development



Youth Development Strategy Table
January 21, 2021

Welcome and Intros

- ▶ Attendees are muted.
- ▶ Please use the chat and/or Q&A functions for questions or thoughts.
- ▶ Brianna Kirschenbaum can help with technical questions during the session.



Presenters Today



James Miles, Executive Director
[Mentor Washington](#)



Kyle West, Chief Executive Officer
[Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Inland Northwest](#)



Jeannie Nist, Associate Director
[Communities In Schools of Washington State](#)

What is included in Youth Development?

- Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELOs)
 - *Afterschool and Summer Programs, School-Age Child Care*
 - *Example: Boys & Girls Clubs; YMCA; culturally-based programs*
- Mentoring
 - *Example: Big Brothers, Big Sisters; Friends of the Children*
- Wrap-Around Supports
 - *Example: Communities In Schools*

Join Us! Youth Development Strategy Table

- Monthly Full Table Mtg. / Bi-Weekly Session Updates
- Planning Committee
- Legislative Committee
- School-Age Child Care Comm. (*Pending Approval*)
- Program and School Re-Opening Comm. (*TEMP*)

Why Advocacy - What Does It Mean



- ▶ Advocacy is a core component of supporting youth and providers.
- ▶ Advocacy includes lobbying (*most can do this*): asking for something specific to an elected official or public agency.
- ▶ Advocacy includes public education (everyone can do this): providing information on what the program is, whom it serves, and what programs needs generally.

Washington State Legislature

- ▶ *49 Legislative Districts*: Each with 1 senator and 2 representatives
- ▶ *Biennial Budget Process*: Meets 105 days in odd numbered years and 60 days in even numbered years
- ▶ *Bill Process*: Introduction → Bill Hearing(s) → Rules Comm. → Chamber Floor → Same Process in Other Chamber → Must Go Back to Original Chamber if Changes Were Made → Agreed to and Passed by Both Chambers → Governor Signs or Vetoes (part or all)
- ▶ *Budget Process*: Still a Bill, but a long and winding road to passage. New Biennial Budget Doesn't pass until the last month of session.

Session 2021



- ▶ Democrats have full control.
- ▶ *Overarching Issues:* pandemic-related funding and policies
- ▶ *Education Issues:* racial equity; learning acceleration; behavioral and mental health; school counselors and nurses
- ▶ *Child Care Issues:* Fair Start Act; role of child care to support K12 learning

Focus Committees

- ▶ *House Policy: Children, Youth, and Families* (Senn); **Education** (Santos)
- ▶ *House Funding: Appropriations* (Ormsby); **Capital Budget** (Tharinger); **Finance** - revenue policy (Frame)
- ▶ *Senate Policy: Early Learning and K12 Education* (Wellman)
- ▶ *Senate Funding: Ways and Means* - operating budget, capital budget, revenue (Rolfes)

Goals of Advocacy Week

- ▶ Share the legislative priorities of the YDST
- ▶ Build awareness of the critical supports that youth development programs are providing during the pandemic and beyond
- ▶ Get inspired to ensure all young people have access to expanded learning, mentoring, and wrap-around supports that help them reach the future they envision



How Did We Get Here?

- ▶ Process to Identify Legislative Priorities led by YDST Legislative Committee:
 - ▶ Survey of Coalition Members
 - ▶ Legislative Priorities Screen
 - ▶ Discussion & Adoption by YDST
 - ▶ Youth & Provider Focus Groups
 - ▶ Sign on Opportunity



YDST 2021 Legislative Priorities

- ▶ LAP Funding and Policy
- ▶ Seek School-Community Partnership Opportunities
- ▶ Protecting Existing YD and SACC Funding
- ▶ New Revenue

LAP Funding & Policy

- ▶ LAP is a supplemental state-funded program designed to assist students in grades K-12 who score below standard in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics.
- ▶ The goal of LAP is to provide additional services to students focused on accelerating student growth to make progress towards grade level and addressing barriers preventing students from accessing core instruction.
- ▶ LAP also includes Readiness to Learn programs, focused on academic and non-academic supports for students at risk of not being successful in school.

LAP Funding & Policy- Goals

1. **Flexibility** for districts while maintaining the intent of supporting academic and social-emotional learning and adding a linkage to the **Washington State Integrated Student Supports Protocol**.
2. **Eliminate the 5% cap** on the amount of funds districts can expend on readiness to learn activities in partnership with community-based organizations.
3. **Sunlight requirements** on how funds are spent at the state and local levels with assurances of no supplantation and clear metrics for student success not limited to assessment scores.
4. **Tiered funding for High-Poverty LAP** to smooth the current High Poverty LAP funding cliff and ensure more students can benefit from additional support in more schools across the state.

Seek School Community Partnership Opportunities

- ▶ Partnerships between schools and youth development organizations are critical in the areas of:
 - ▶ basic needs
 - ▶ building use
 - ▶ data sharing
 - ▶ funding
 - ▶ planning and coordination for school and program reopening
 - ▶ social-emotional learning
 - ▶ technology access and digital navigation
- ▶ School-Community Partnership Framework

Protecting Existing YD and SACC Funding

- ▶ Protect the limited funding streams that currently exist to support the youth development field, including expanded learning, mentoring, and wraparound support programs.
- ▶ Specific budget items include:
 - ▶ Academic-Innovation-Mentoring funding (AIM)
 - ▶ DCYF Adolescent Unit FTEs
 - ▶ Mentorship Funding (Mentor Washington, Mentor U, and Military Student Mentoring)
 - ▶ No Child Left Inside program
 - ▶ School-Age Child Care (sustaining rates)

New Revenue

- ▶ Support equitable state revenue streams that will provide robust, stable, and necessary funding.
- ▶ The YDST recognizes that the economic impact of this pandemic is far reaching and that our state will be facing deep cuts to publicly funded programs that will disproportionately affect children and families of color and those experiencing economic distress.
- ▶ The YDST urges elected officials to address the budget deficit with new revenue that does not create or increase inequities.

Legislative Meetings: What to Expect

- ▶ All meetings are virtual
- ▶ YDST will schedule, may include other constituents from your legislative district
- ▶ Materials will be sent ahead of time electronically
- ▶ Time limited, need to share compelling messaging
- ▶ Pick the key messages you want to convey

Tips & Tricks for Virtual Legislative Mtgs

- Do make an appointment in advance
 - Do be on time (if not early)
 - Do your homework and know your issue and have your story and ask prepared
 - Do thank them for taking time to meet with you
 - Do thank them for considering your viewpoint
 - Do provide the legislator with a persuasive argument
 - Do keep it simple and brief
 - Do let the legislator know why you care about the issue and how it impacts you
 - Do stay on message
 - Do provide an “ask” that is clear and actionable
 - Do be open minded and listen to what your legislator has to say
 - Do cultivate a relationship with both the legislator and their staff
 - Do follow up with a thank you message and any additional information that was promised
- *Virtual session* – Do test your technology in advance
 - *Virtual session* – Do have a ‘plan b’, such as a written statement, in case technology falters
 - *Virtual session* – Do designate a point person to take lead in your group (YDST will do this)
 - *Virtual session* – Do consider sending a list of meeting participants in advance to save time from lengthy and potentially bumpy virtual introductions (YDST will do this)

You can use your hand to help structure your Advocacy Day meeting and make sure you say all you need to say.

The first finger—the thumb—is “Introduce yourself.”

Tell your legislator your name, where you live/serve, and that you are one of his/her constituents.

The second finger—the index finger—is “What is my issue.”

“I’m here to talk with you about _____” or any other issue you’re here for. Outline the basic topic and describe the bill.

The third finger—the middle finger—is “Why I care.”

This is where you share your personal story, and you can begin in many different ways. For example, “I care about this issue because . . .” or “This issue is important to me/the youth I serve because . . .”

The fourth finger—the ring finger—is “Why the Legislator should care.”

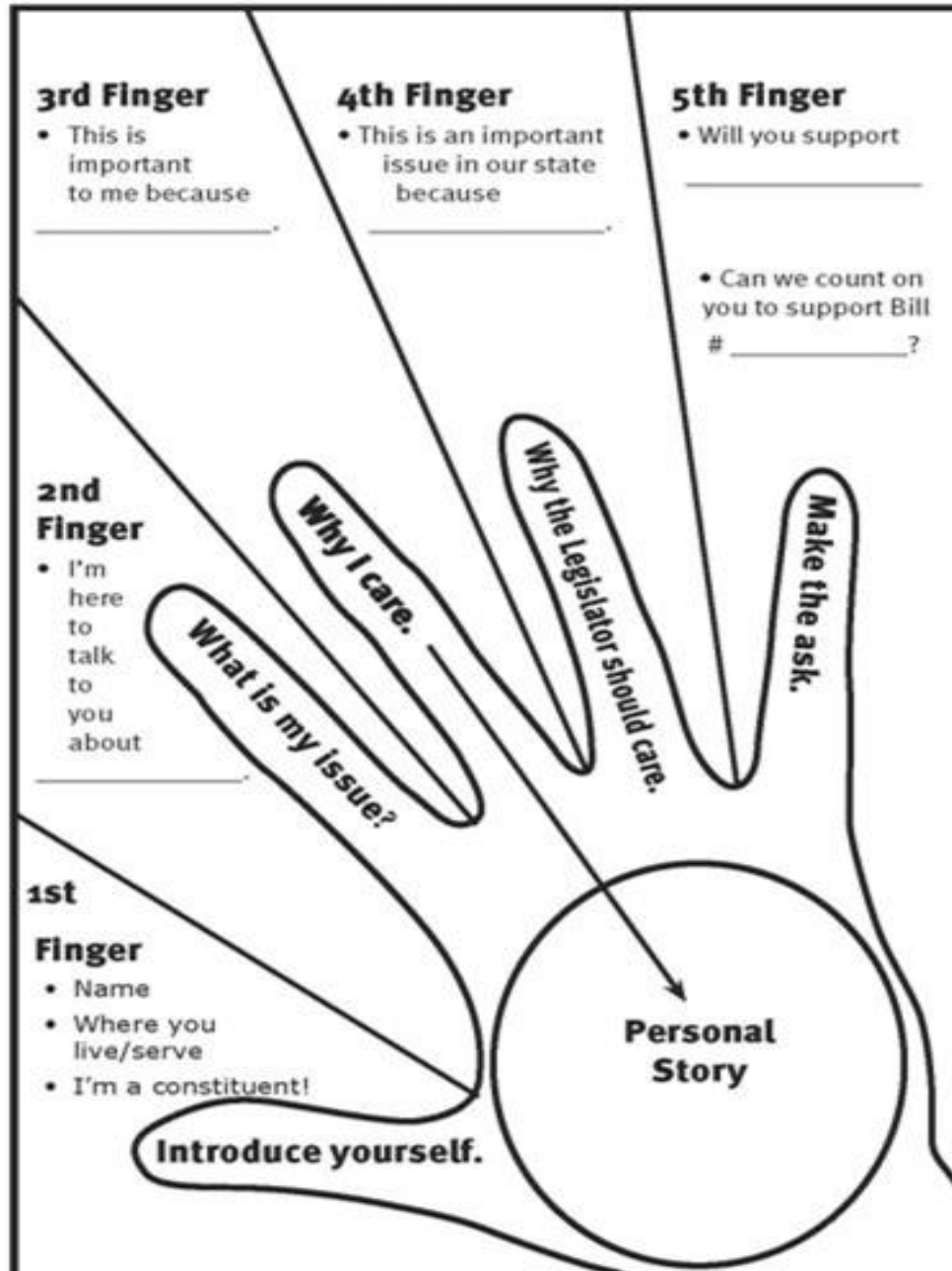
This is where you use the talking points and messages from our fact sheet. Some examples are, “This is important because _____” or “Did you know that _____” just be sure that all the facts you use come from the fact sheet!

The fifth finger—the pinky—is “Make the ask.”

This is the part where you ask for their support. You can say, “Will you support bill # _____” and “Can we count on you to _____ for _____?”

Finally, the whole hand – is a handshake and “Thank you for your time.”

Be sure to express your appreciation for the legislator’s time and for

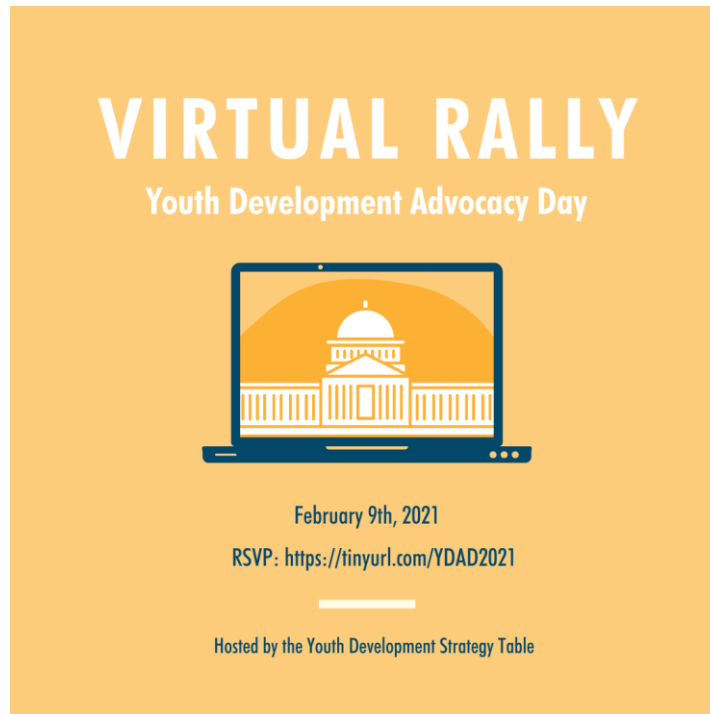


Impactful Messaging: Easy(ish) and

Youth Development Strategy Table

Advocacy Week: 2/8-2/12/21

Advocacy Rally: Tues. 2/9/21 from 3-4pm



Can't Join Us?



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ADVOCACY WEEK

Social Media Campaign

- 1 Share your story -** how have you and your organization provided supports to youth during the pandemic?
- 2 Youth stories -** highlight the voices of young people you serve. What impacts have youth development programs had on them?
- 3 Tag your legislators -** to find your senator and representatives, visit app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder
- 4 Use our hashtag -** **#YouthDevWorks**

Hosted by the Youth Development Strategy Table



Questions?

Thanks for joining us today!

Look for weekly updates throughout session.

See you on 2/9/2021 for the Youth Development Advocacy Rally!