



What is LAP?

The Learning Assistance Program (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.

There are two LAP allocations that districts receive:

- **LAP Base Allocation:** This allocation is included in the definition of basic education and is part of the prototypical funding formula. A district's LAP Allocation is based on enrollment and percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch in the prior school year.
- **LAP High Poverty School Allocation:** An additional allocation received by schools with at least fifty percent of its students eligible for free and reduced-price meals in the prior school year. This funding must be distributed to the school building that generates the funding.

Why is LAP Relevant to the Youth Development Field?

Learning Assistance Program funds are one of the few funding streams that districts and schools can utilize to support partnerships with community-based organizations. Under current law, the allowable uses of LAP are inclusive of supports provided by youth development programs, such as extended learning time opportunities, family engagement, partnerships to address non-academic needs of students, summer programs, tutoring and more.

Ensuring student success requires strong partnerships between school, families, and the community—now more than ever. LAP funding presents a critical opportunity for partnerships between schools and youth development organizations to provide supplemental supports and services that are culturally responsive and address systemic inequities faced by students.

What Improvements Are We Seeking?

The Youth Development Strategy Table encourages making several improvements to ensure that LAP is targeted, supplemental, and increases school-community partnerships to better serve students, in particular student populations who are furthest from educational justice. We seek the following changes to LAP:

- **Flexibility** for districts while maintaining the intent of supporting academic and social-emotional learning and adding a linkage to the **Washington Integrated Student Supports Protocol**.
- **Eliminate the 5% cap** on the amount of funds districts can expend on readiness to learn activities in partnership with community-based organizations. Doing so will provide local control, maximum flexibility, and leveraging of community resources.
- **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.
- **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.

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Learning Assistance Program

How is LAP Being Used for Successful Partnerships Currently?

Across the state, school districts are leveraging LAP funding to implement successful partnerships with youth development organizations. Increasing flexibility for districts to utilize LAP funding will grow and deepen these partnerships in communities across Washington, resulting in better academic outcomes for students. Examples of success school-community partnerships include:

- Establishing Family Resource Centers to create space for intentional family engagement, basic needs supports, and community resource navigation.
- Family Engagement Activities to reconnect with students and families not participating in the remote learning environment, through home visits and other outreach strategies
- Summer and after-school programs focused on academics and social-emotional learning
- Tutoring programs providing additional academic support for students below grade level academic standards

Where Can I Learn More?

- [OSPI Learning Assistance Program Information](#)
- [Learning Assistance Program Data Reporting](#)
- [Chapter 28A.165 RCW Learning Assistance Program](#)
- [Chapter 392-162 WAC Special Service Program- Learning Assistance](#)