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**Welcome**



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# Web Etiquette/ Housekeeping





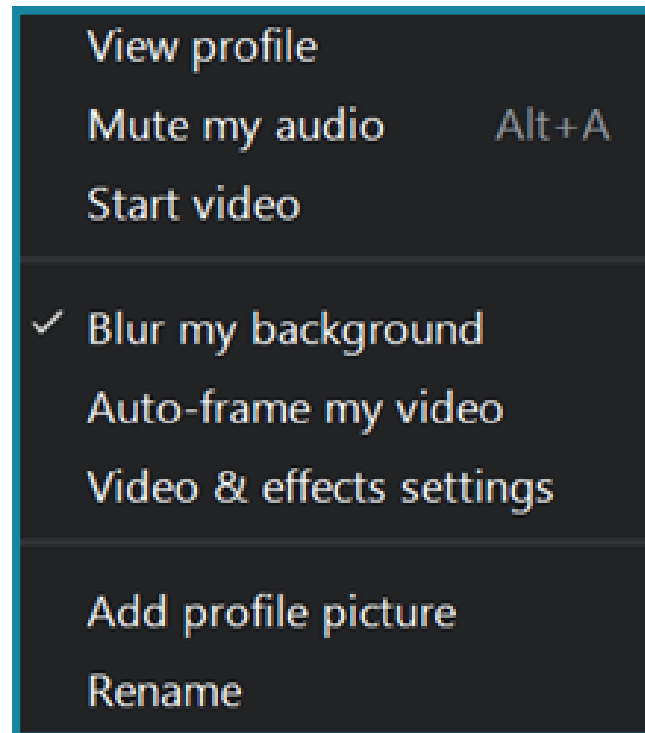
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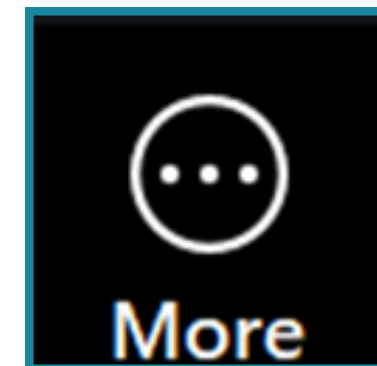
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# Web Etiquette/ Housekeeping

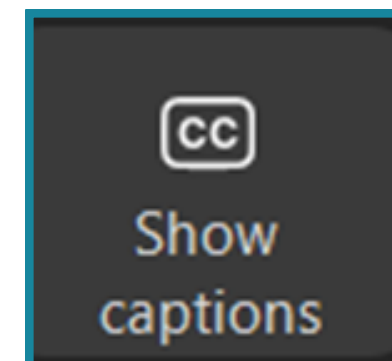
To change your background, you can right click on your profile box/screen and you should get these options:



If you need captions, you can go to the 'More' icon at the bottom as well.



Click on 'Captions' next:





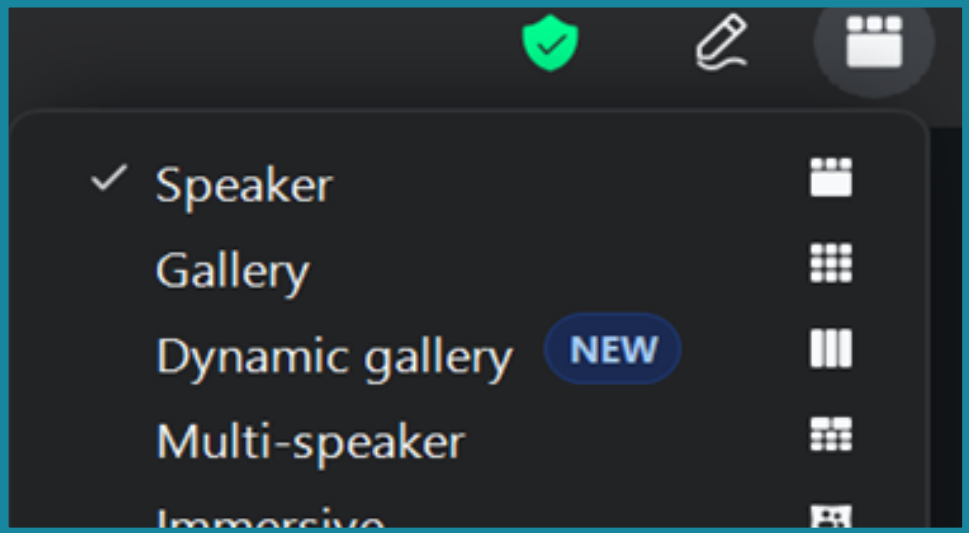
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# Web Etiquette/Housekeeping

At the very top, you can also change the layout if you feel the current layout is too distracting or would like something varied:



To mute, click on the mic at the bottom (red line means mute). Can also turn off camera here too. Please have camera off if setting behind you is busy.



**Note: It is requested to have your audio muted whenever you are not actively speaking. If there are points in which audio/disturbances are being picked up from your audio, the host can choose to mute your audio.**



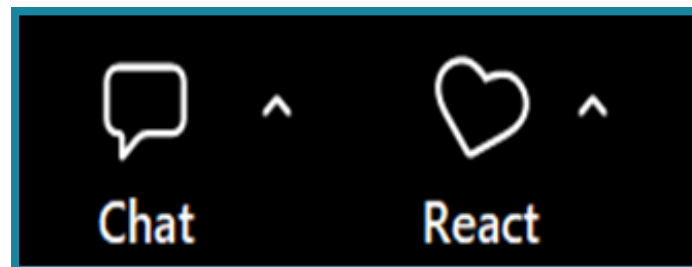
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# Web Etiquette/ Housekeeping

- You can click on 'Chat' to see the chat message box to the right. You can either choose to chat to everyone, chat to specific persons, or chat to the hosts (depending on what the message pertains to):



- Under 'React', you can leave react icons to say what you are feeling to what is being shared (it can be a way to encourage one another and show non-verbal agreement if you want it to be noted to speaker or others in group).
- Under 'React', you can also raise your hand.

For a full run-down of the Zoom tips and Web Etiquette (Webiquette) pieces, please check out the pinned document near the top of the summit chat!

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# Agenda



**11:30-11:50:** Welcome, overview, land acknowledgment, goals, housekeeping, and Gov. Bob Ferguson

**11:55-12:55:** Join group breakout rooms based on the role/group you most identify with to surface expertise, barriers, and lived experience within sectors

**1:00-2:00:** Reconnect as a statewide community to learn from one another and identify emerging opportunities

**2:05-2:40:** Shift into regional collaboration labs to turn ideas into local action and implementation

**2:45-3:30:** Close with collective visioning to strengthen long-term coordination and shared responsibility



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# Overview



This structure is designed to help us move from:

“What is happening in my area of work?” → “What are we learning statewide?” → “What can we build together locally?” → “How do we sustain this together and create stronger systems?”

**To achieve our ultimate goal of increasing access and credential attainment beyond high school across the state!**



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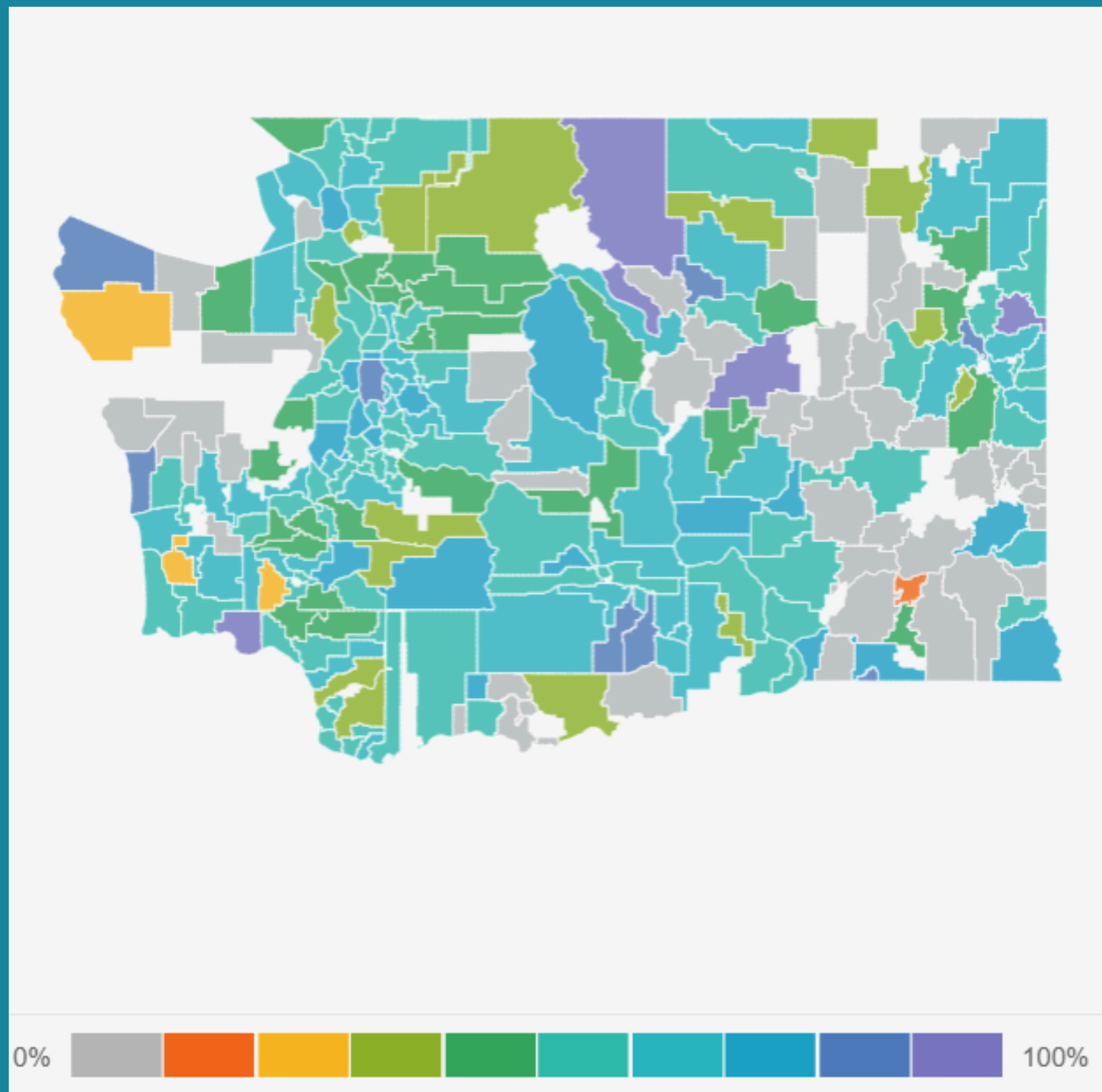
# Land Acknowledgement



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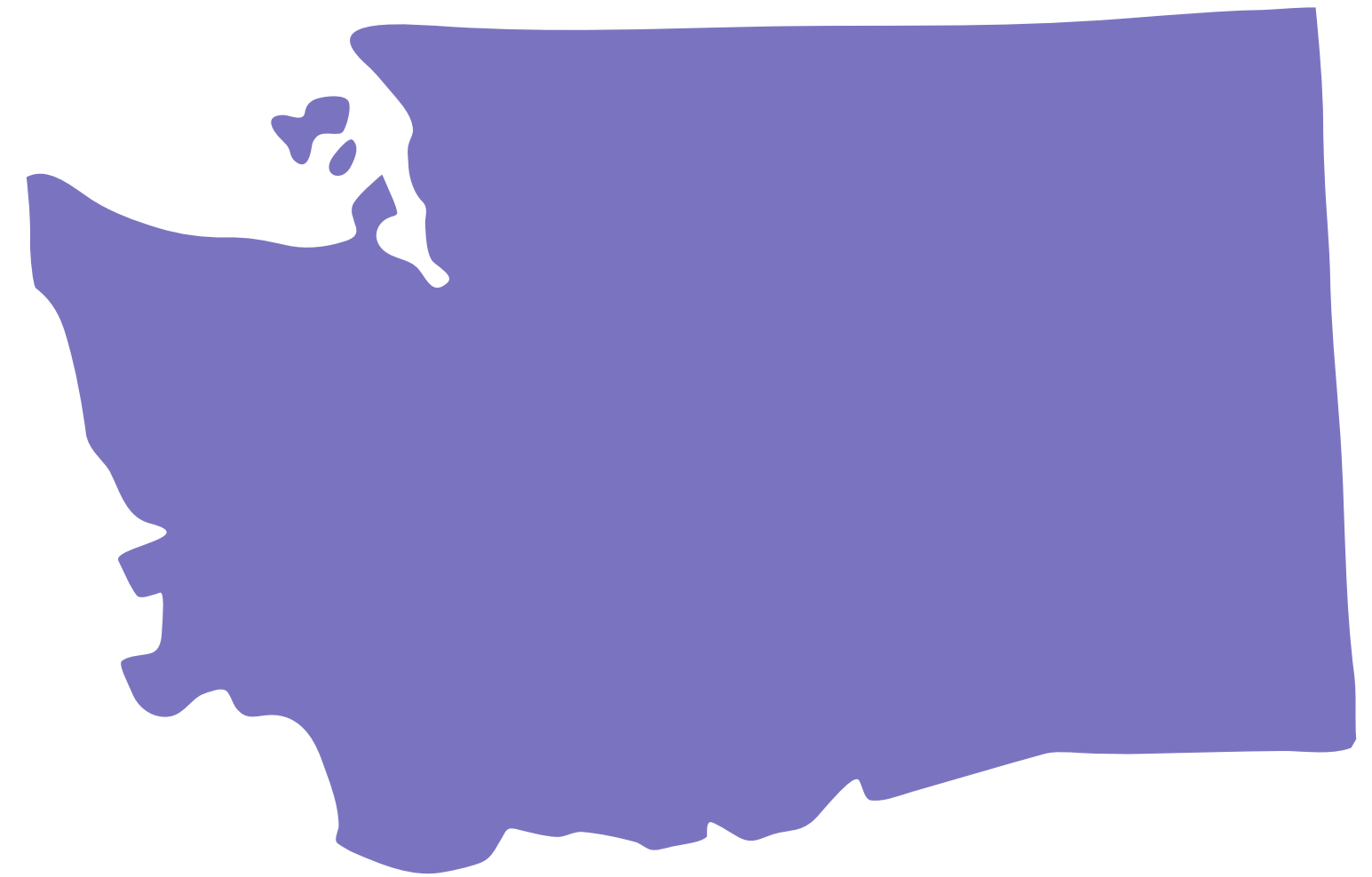
# SUMMIT



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# Goals



- De-silo information & learn from one another
- Identify gaps and opportunities
- Discover successful recipes for supporting students across the state
- Strengthen regional and statewide coordination
- Engage government leaders and the philanthropic community to keep the momentum going
- Expand access to postsecondary opportunities for students across Washington



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# Opening Remarks Governor Bob Ferguson



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**Break Time  
11:50-11:55**

**Registration for the Fall 2026  
Financial Aid Summit is Open!**



**September 24, 2026  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**



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# Session 1: Breakout Rooms

**11:55-12:55**

Participants begin in smaller groups organized by shared expertise, roles, or lived experience. These conversations are designed to create space for honest discussion within sectors before moving into larger cross-sector collaboration.





## Each group will discuss:

- What is working well
- Current barriers and gaps
- Emerging needs across Washington
- Opportunities for partnership and improvement
- Strategies that could be replicated statewide



# How to Use The Whiteboard on Zoom

Once the whiteboard is open, a toolbar on the left hand side will appear allowing you to interact with the canvas:

-  **Select/Move:** Click and drag objects or text boxes across the board
-  **Draw:** Leave freehand notes, sketches, or annotations
- **T Text:** Click anywhere to type headings or bullet points
-  **Sticky Notes:** Add color-coded notes to organize brainstorming sessions
-  **Shapes:** Draw basic geometric shapes, arrows, and flowchart symbols
- **Follow Mode:** Click the binoculars icon next to a collaborator's name in the top right to follow their cursor and view exactly what they are working on in real-time

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## **Session #1, Breakout Rooms**

<b>Main Room</b>	<b>Government Leaders &amp; Programs &amp; Policy Groups, Tribal Leaders, Funders/Philanthropy</b>	<b>Arik, LEV &amp; Paige, FNW</b>
<b>Room #1</b>	<b>Financial Aid Basics Training (Clock Hours Available)</b>	<b>Christina, WSAC</b>
<b>Room #2</b>	<b>FAFSA Dashboard &amp; Portal Data Use 101</b>	<b>Sean, WSAC</b>
<b>Room #3</b>	<b>Apprenticeship &amp; College Partners</b>	<b>Tyler, ICW</b>
<b>Room #4</b>	<b>College Access Nonprofits, Mentorship orgs, For-profit &amp; Non-Profit Partners</b>	<b>Adrienne, CSF &amp; Ashley, FNW</b>
<b>Room #5</b>	<b>K-12 partners, Educational Service Districts, &amp; Data Leaders</b>	<b>Lauren, WSCA &amp; Sage, FNW</b>
<b>Room #6</b>	<b>Student &amp; Parent Leaders/Groups</b>	<b>Sandra, FNW</b>

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**Break Time**  
**12:55-1:00**

**Registration for the Fall 2026  
Financial Aid Summit is Open!**



**September 24, 2026**  
**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**



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## Session 2: Statewide Updates & Spotlited Innovations 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Participants reconvene as a full statewide community to hear major updates, emerging initiatives, and promising practices from across Washington.

### This session will feature:

- Statewide systems updates
- Data insights and trends
- Washington Completes FAFSA Campaign and Advisory Board
- Technology and navigation innovations
- Regional challenge grant updates
- Save Student Aid advocacy efforts
- Community-based success stories
- Spotlight work from organizations and regions seeing strong outcomes





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## **Session #2 - Statewide Updates**

### **Statewide Efforts:**

- **Dr. Randy Spaulding, FutureReady**
- **Tyler Zamira, Save Student Aid**
- **Maria Muto, High School and Beyond Plan**
- **Leanne Davis, Limitless Learning Network**
- **Christina Winstead, Washington Completes FAFSA Campaign and Advisory Board**
- **Christina Winstead, WSAC Updates**
- **Sam Washington, Otterbot Regionalization Project**

### **Regional Progress Highlights:**

- **Amy Ly, United Way of Blue Mountains, Elevate, ESD 123**
- **Kathleen Solomon, Lummi Nation Educational Advocate with FuturesNW, ESD 189**
- **Kristy Gutierrez, College and Career Readiness Advisor, Kalama High School, ESD 112**

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# FutureReady

Dr. Randy Spaulding (he/him), Executive Director  
Washington State Board of Education (SBE)



**The Goal:** Better equip students with the essential knowledge and skills needed to thrive after high school by providing more flexible and relevant learning experiences tied to individualized postsecondary goals. At the same time, streamline the graduation requirements framework to make it easier for students, families, and educators to navigate.

## Process / Timeline:

- A collaboration between the Board and statewide Task Force made up of students, families, educators, employers, community organizations, and policymakers.
- A proposal will be introduced during the 2027 legislative session. The earliest any changes could take effect would be with the Class of 2031 — more time may be given for larger changes.
- Draft recommendations will be released soon. Community feedback is encouraged!

Visit our website and  
sign up for the  
FutureReady  
newsletter!



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# Save Student Aid

Tyler Zamira, Government Relations and Scholarship Program Coordinator, Independent Colleges of WA



<b>Washington College Grant cuts put Heritage University in a challenging position</b>	<b>Keep promise to students and restore college funding scholarship</b>
<b>Erika Hernandez and Vernon Glass: Washington legislators have the chance to fix wrong done to low-income college students</b>	<b>Employers back bill restoring student aid at WA's private colleges</b>
<i>Why Restoring Student Aid Matters for Washington's Future</i>	
<b>Lawmakers look to reverse financial aid cuts for students at WA's private colleges</b>	<i>Washington college grant cut for some schools</i>
<b>Katia Passerini and Scott McQuilkin: Restore the Washington College Grant — Washington's future depends on it</b>	<b>This bill would restore aid for WA students at private universities</b>
<b>Private colleges lobby to restore cuts to financial aid amid Washington state budget crunch</b>	<b>Fully fund college tuition aid, whichever schools students choose</b>
<b>Private colleges lobby to restore cuts to financial aid amid Washington state budget crunch</b>	<b>Bill to boost financial aid for students at WA's private colleges moves out of Senate</b>
<i>Protecting higher education in Washington is vital for families</i>	

SAVE STUDENT AID.ORG

Home Why Student Aid Matters @ X TAKE ACTION

**WASHINGTON'S STUDENT AID CUTS: TAKE ACTION NOW**

**SAVE STUDENT AID.ORG**

**BIG CHANGES ARE COMING—BUT YOUR VOICE COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

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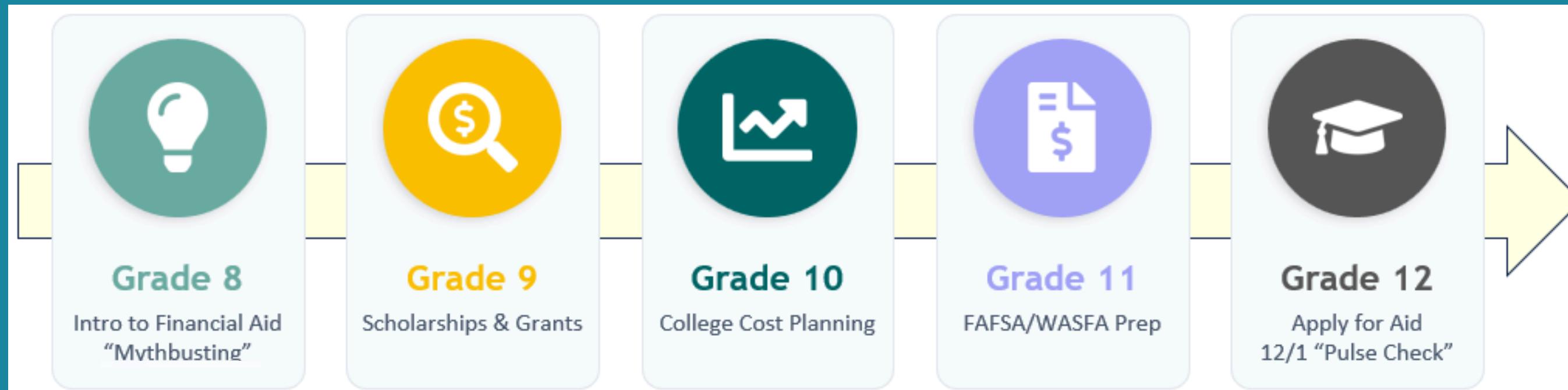
# High School and Beyond Plan

Maria Muto, Secondary Counseling Program Supervisor,  
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction



**The Goal:** The HSBP helps students *annually* reflect on 3 Guiding ?'s ~ Who am I?, What can I Become? and How do I Become That? ~ to plan & prepare for their postsecondary goal.

**Financial Aid Awareness:** Beginning in **8<sup>th</sup> grade**, students complete a new activity each year covering a different element in RCW 28A.230.212.



Visit our website to sign up for HSBP updates that come in the Comprehensive School Counseling Program Newsletter!



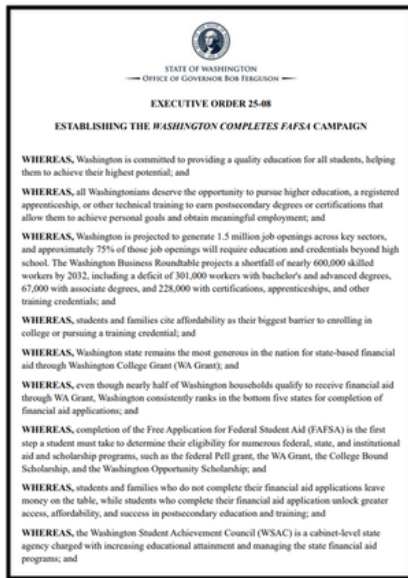
**Coming Soon:** From SB5841, annual College Bound reminders, WSOS info FAFSA app. progress/completion data and tracking (still TBD), and more.

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# Washington Completes FAFSA Campaign and Advisory Board

Christina Winstead, Associate Director for College Access Initiatives, Washington Student Achievement Council

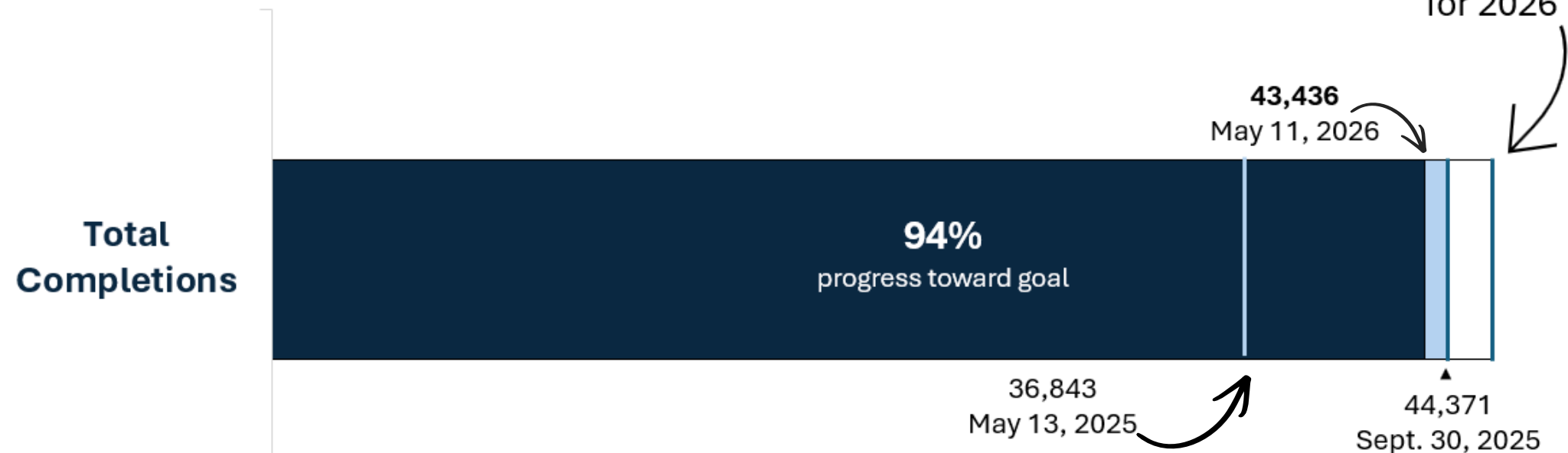


In September, Governor Ferguson signed an Executive Order establishing the Washington Completes FAFSA campaign. The order creates an advisory board to lead the effort by setting statewide FAFSA completion goals, tracking progress, and ensuring a clear annual target beginning with the 2026-27 academic year.

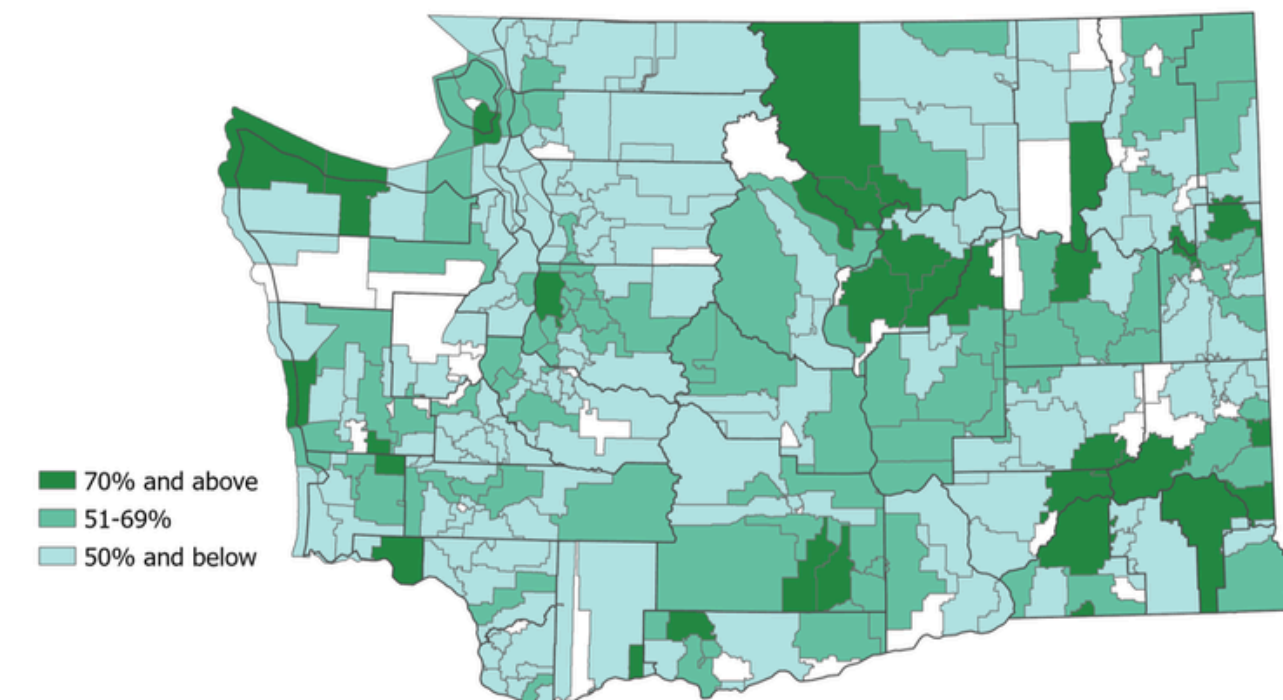


**As of May 11: Class of 2026 FAFSA & WASFA completion rate is 50%**

*21 out of 53 weeks to go until the campaign ends*



**In over 120 school districts, more than half of students have completed the FAFSA**



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# Washington Completes FAFSA Campaign and Advisory Board

Christina Winstead, Associate Director for College Access Initiatives,  
Washington Student Achievement Council



## What's working



Governor's support and Advisory Board

Legislative interest and outreach

Expanded partnerships

Additional support for high needs schools

Targeted messaging and marketing

New resources, training, and event support

Improved DSA and portal account creation process

New dashboard and WIAA leaderboard

*Your Future, Funded*

Capacity at many schools and with partners remains strained with competing priorities and budget challenges.

Not all schools have a connection point to a community organization for local support.

The "why" matters as much as the "how" - and that starts earlier than senior year.

Supporting families to complete application steps.



## Lessons Learned

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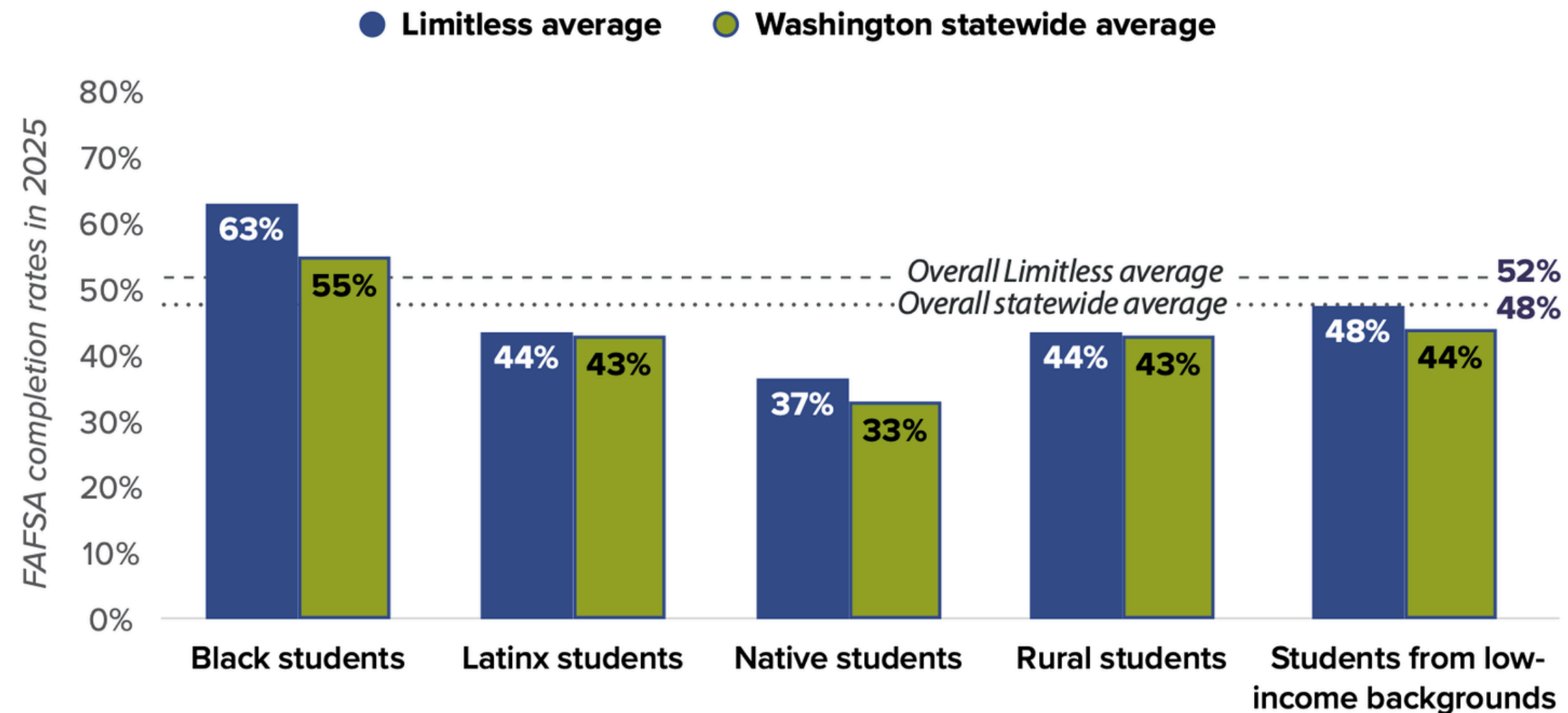
# Limitless Learning Network

Leanne Davis, Managing Researcher,  
Education Northwest



The Limitless Learning Network brings together 26 regional partnerships across Washington to support students' transitions from high school to postsecondary.

Figure 4. Students in Limitless regions completed the FAFSA at higher rates than students in Washington state overall



Limitless Learning Network: Highlights And Learnings From A Year Of Collaboration



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# Limitless Learning Network

**Help us improve financial aid award letters  
across Washington!**



**The Goal:** Understand how financial aid awards are communicated, and how we can strengthen clarity and transparency to support student and family decision-making.

WHAT WE'RE ASKING	WHAT YOU'LL GET
<p><b>We invite institutions to share a small sample of financial aid award letters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>3-5 examples</b> from the most recent award cycle</li><li>• Word document or PDF accepted</li><li>• Materials should be <b>de-identified (PII* removed or blacked out)</b></li></ul>	<p><b>Participating institutions will receive:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A <b>summary of findings across Washington</b></li><li>• Examples of <b>effective and student-centered practices</b></li><li>• Opportunities to <b>engage in interpretation sessions with peers</b></li><li>• Access to <b>recommendations and tools</b></li></ul>

\* PII includes items like the student's name, address, Social Security Number, or student identification number, but it also includes indirect identifiers such as the student's date of birth, place of birth, and mother's maiden name. PII also includes information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty.

**Learn more here!**

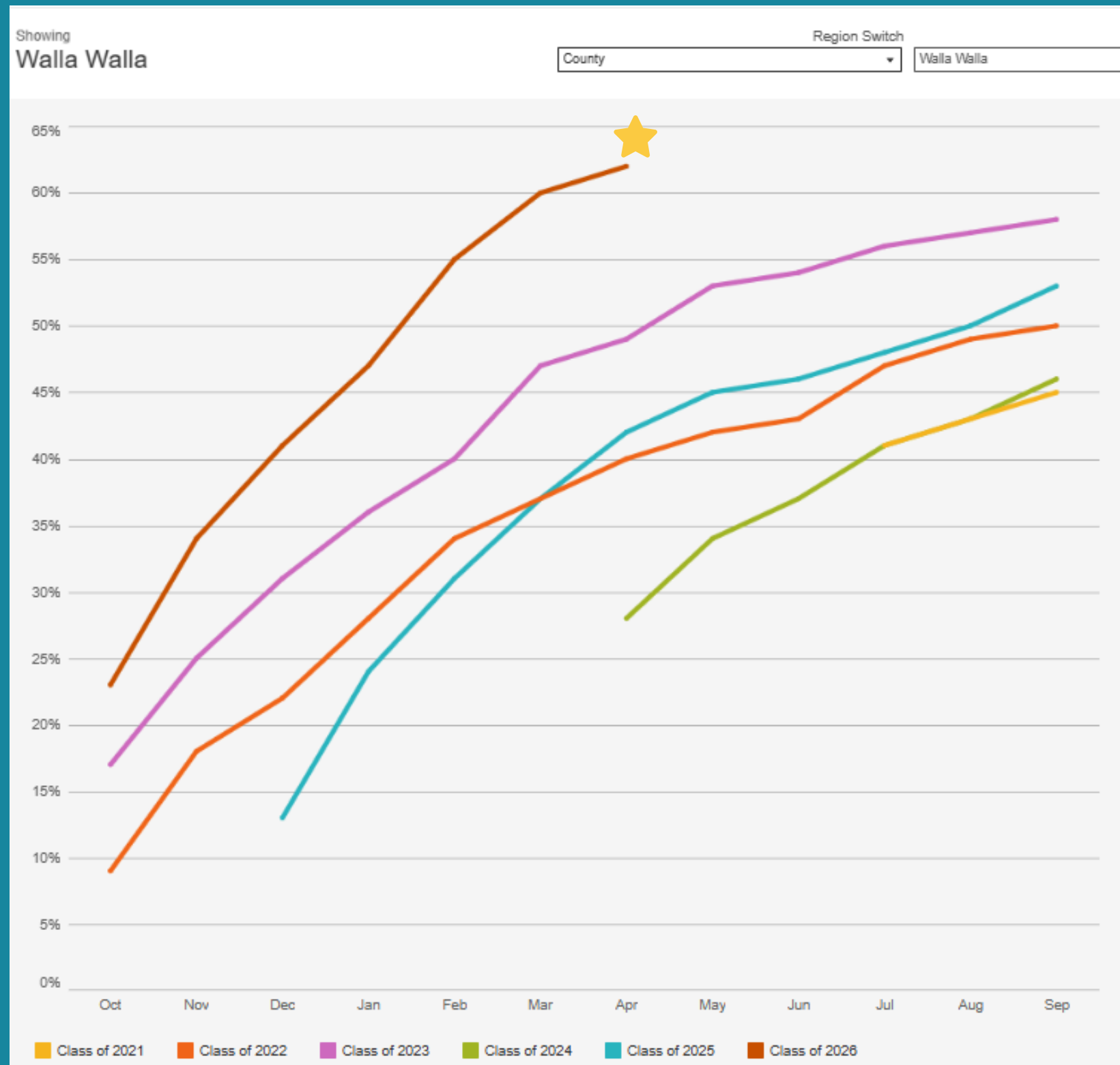


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Amy Ly,

Director of Postsecondary Access, United Way of Blue Mountains, Elevate Initiative



## REGIONAL Recipe for Progress

1. Monthly partnership meetings focused on postsecondary access & attainment
2. Collaboration with Higher Ed and CBO partners (HB 1835, GEAR UP, Communities in Schools)
3. Regional learning & sharing of best practices
4. Financial aid AND
5. Focus on Running Start students
6. Secret sauce - PEOPLE!

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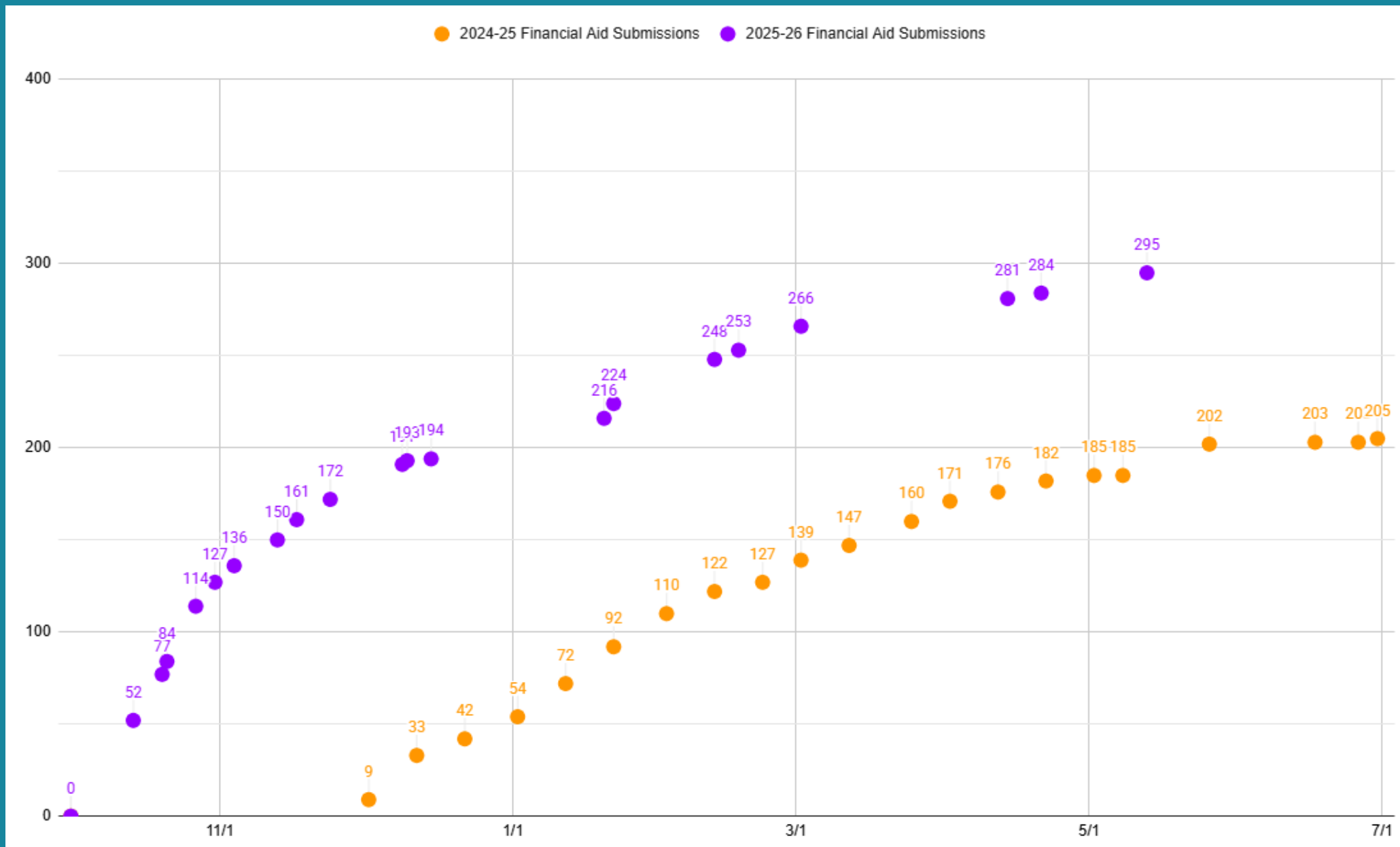
Amy Ly,

Director of Postsecondary Access, United Way of  
Blue Mountains, Elevate Initiative



### SCHOOL SITE Recipe for Progress

1. Financial aid as graduation requirement (with opt outs)
2. School-based teams to track progress with run charts (FAFSA & WASFA)
3. All-staff PD re: financial aid to shift adult mindsets and allow for collaboration at school
4. Bilingual staff; caseload model for continuous tracking and 1:1 follow up
5. Support where families already are
6. Secret sauce: PEOPLE!



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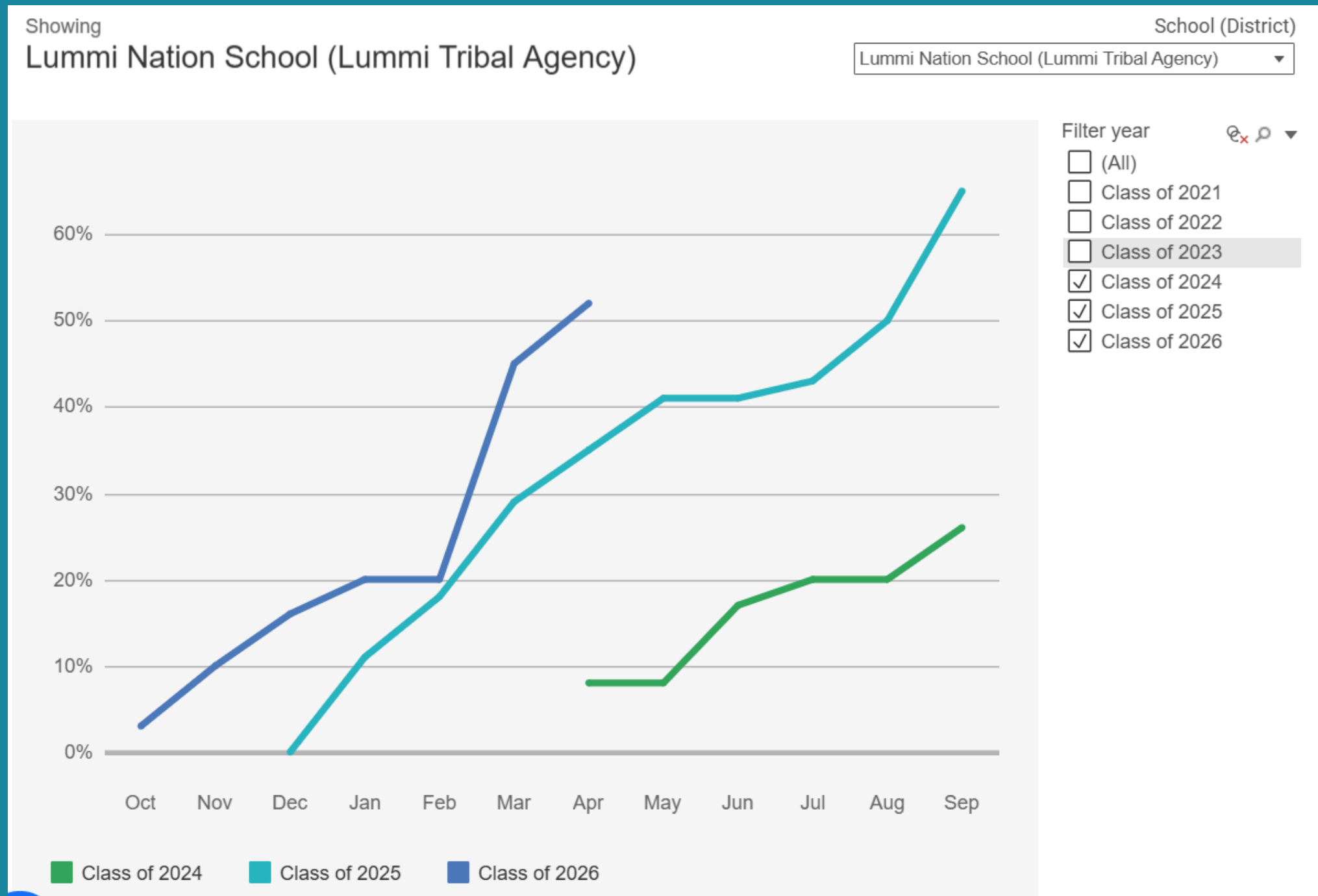
# Kathleen Solomon,

From One to Many, Educational Advocate with FuturesNW,  
Lummi Higher Ed Manager, and LNS Board Chairperson,  
ESD 189



## Recipe for Progress

1. Employed to support Lummi Nation families as Lummi Higher Ed Manager and Educational Advocate with FuturesNW
2. Embedded in the community: JOM, and LNS PAC meetings, FuturesNW workshops, FHS guest speaking, & tabling
3. Email families reminders for Financial Aid events and scholarships, and post reminders on Lummi Communications & Facebook
4. Attends and supports Financial Aid completion events at lunch at LNS
5. Secret sauce- voted to have Financial Aid completion as a graduation requirement for LNS students (waivers accepted). Implemented in 2025. 39% increase!



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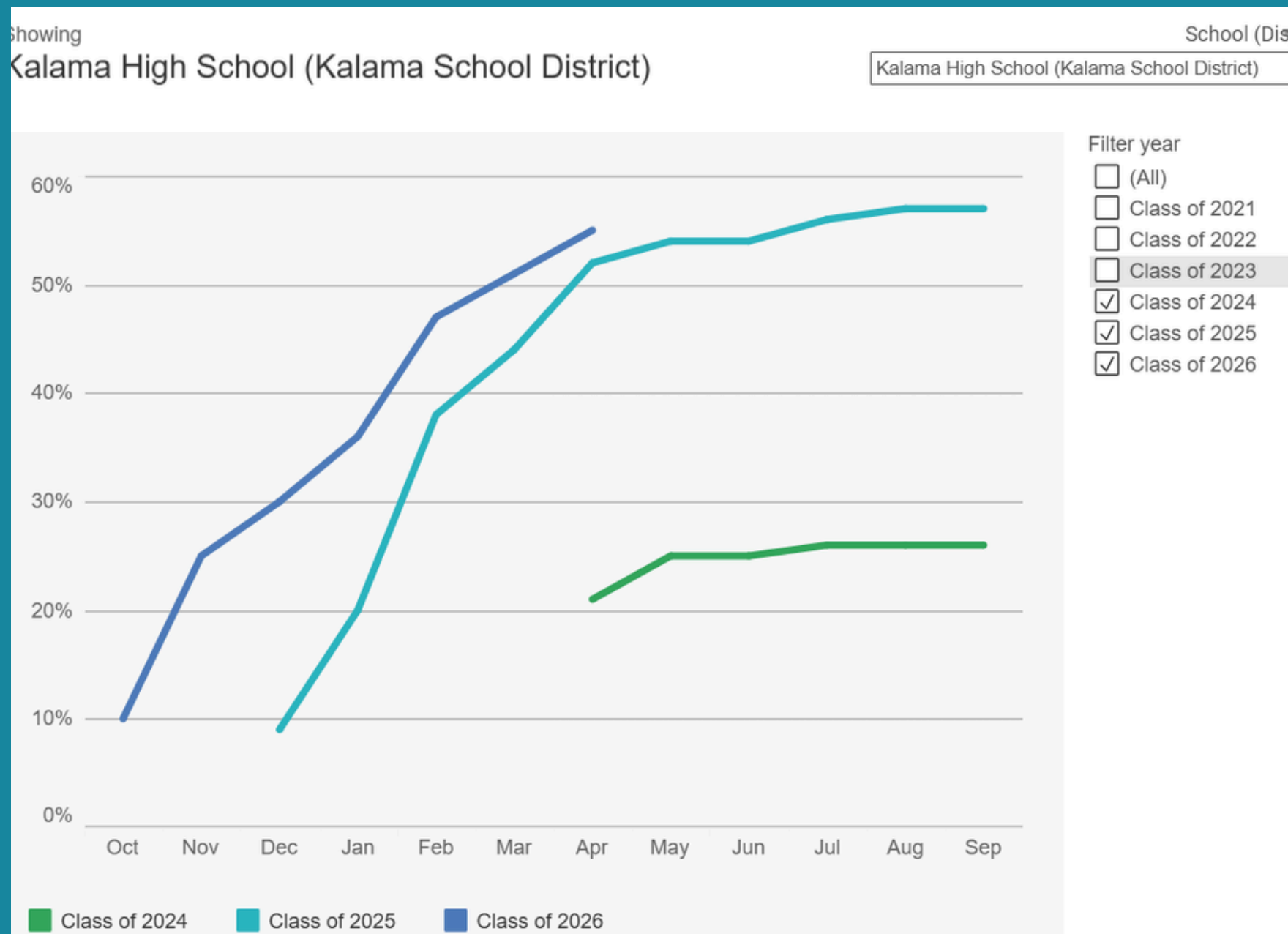
# Kristy Gutierrez,

College and Career Readiness Advisor, Kalama High School, ESD 112



## Recipe for Progress

1. Meet with as many Juniors as possible before their senior year.
2. Present financial aid information at the fall Senior/Graduation Night, where students and parents attend to order caps & gowns
3. Meet individually with each senior at least once between September - December
4. Follow up with the undecided seniors February - April. As the year comes to an end, some may finally make a decision.
5. Secret Sauce (that helped with the January boost last year and this year): In January, begin calling parents of students whose FAFSA is not yet complete, offering one-on-one assistance and/or answering questions. Also call parents of seniors who we haven't met with, to find out their post-HS plans.



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# Washington Student Achievement Council Updates



Christina Winstead, Associate Director for College Access Initiatives, Washington Student Achievement Council

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) is a cabinet-level state agency. We are working to raise educational attainment through strategic engagement, program management, and partnerships.



WSAC is currently undertaking an in-depth review of the WASFA application. As a part of this process, we are looking at data privacy, accessibility, and the user experience. We anticipate changes to the application to be live beginning the 2027-28 award year



## Trusted Messenger Survey

**Shape the Future of Student Success!**

Your Voice Matters – Complete Our 10-Minute Survey!

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) is on a mission to improve the tools and resources available to help you guide students through their financial aid journey. We need YOUR insights to make sure we're providing the right support.

Take the Survey NOW Scan the QR Code!



Be entered for a chance to win one of five Amazon gift cards \$50 just for completing the survey!

## Navigating Your Financial Aid Offers and Appeals

**JULY 1, 2026 5:30 – 6:30PM**

**Navigating your Financial Aid Offers and Appeals**

Students and families, join us on Zoom as we walk you through your financial aid offers. In this session you will learn how to compare and assess your financial aid offers.

We also will discuss what to do if your financial situation has changed and how to request a financial aid appeal.



WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL  
12th Year Campaign

REGISTER AT [WSAC.WA.GOV/FINANCIAL-AID-EVENTS](https://wsac.wa.gov/financial-aid-events) OR SCAN THE QR CODE

**CLASS OF 2027**

**Financial Aid Nights**

Join the 12th Year Campaign to learn more about paying for education after high school and take your first step creating your FSA ID or WASFA account.

Hosted on Zoom in English and Spanish



WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL  
12th Year Campaign

TO REGISTER GO TO [HTTPS://WSAC.WA.GOV/FINANCIAL-AID-EVENTS](https://wsac.wa.gov/financial-aid-events)

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**CLASE DEL 2027**

**Noche de Ayuda Financiera**

Únase a la campaña del duodécimo año para obtener más información sobre la ayuda financiera y dé el primer paso para crear su FSA ID o cuenta WASFA en este evento.

Esta presentación está disponible en inglés y español



WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL  
12th Year Campaign

REGÍSTRATE EN [HTTPS://WSAC.WA.GOV/FINANCIAL-AID-EVENTS](https://wsac.wa.gov/financial-aid-events)



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EDUCATION · OPPORTUNITY · RESULTS

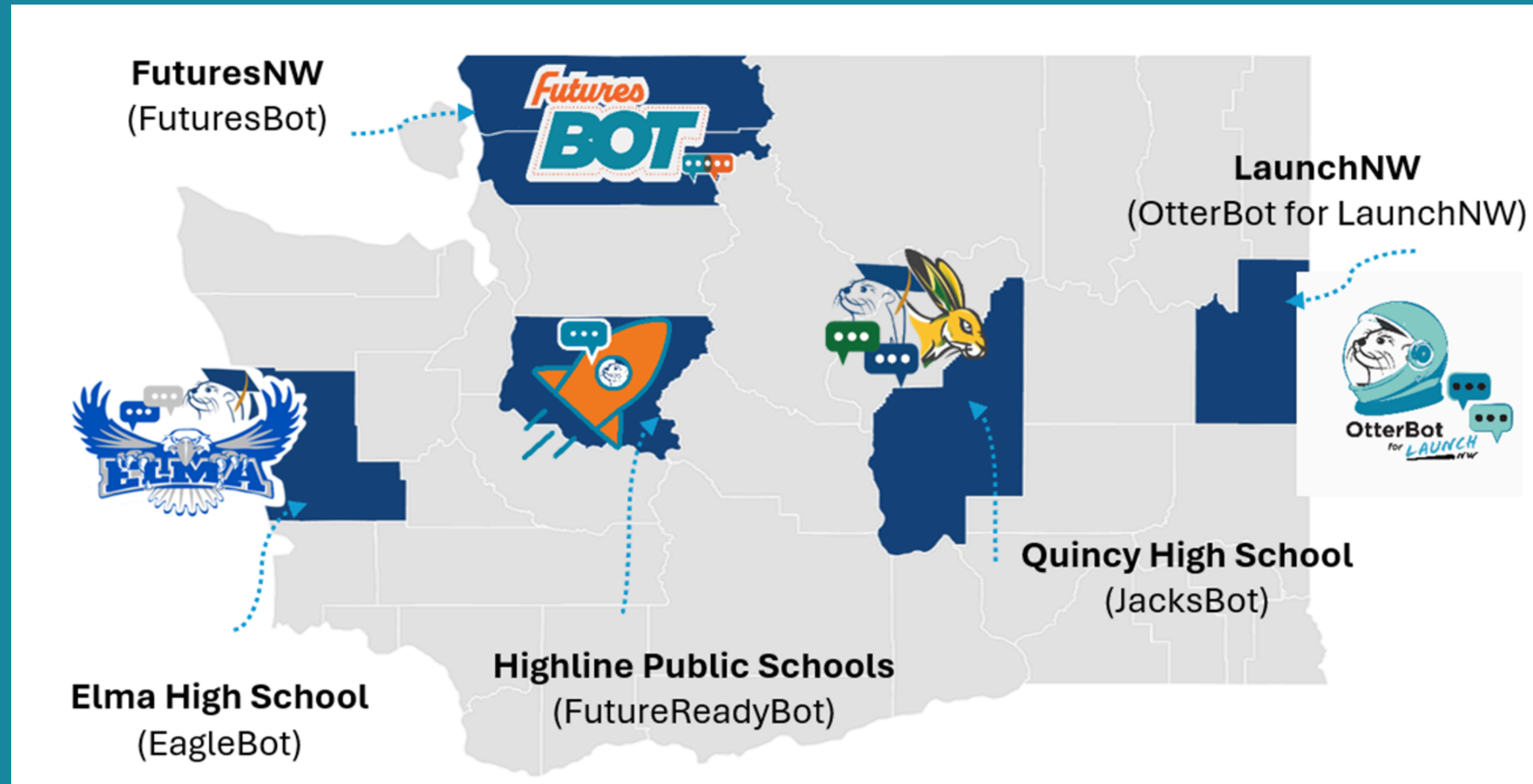
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# Otterbot Regionalization Updates



Sam Washington, Assistant Director for College Access Initiatives, Washington Student Achievement Council



## 5 Regional Partners

- 1 School District: Highline Public Schools
- 2 High Schools: Quincy High School & Elma High School
- 2 Community Orgs: FuturesNW & LaunchNW

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**Break Time  
2:00-2:05**

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## Session 3: Breakout Discussions 2:05-2:40

Participants move into regional breakout groups organized by Educational Service District (ESD) regions.

These conversations focus on implementation and action planning:

- What ideas from earlier sessions could work in our region?
- Where are the biggest gaps in support?
- What partnerships need strengthening?
- What tools, communication systems, or strategies should we share?
- How can we coordinate efforts more effectively this year?



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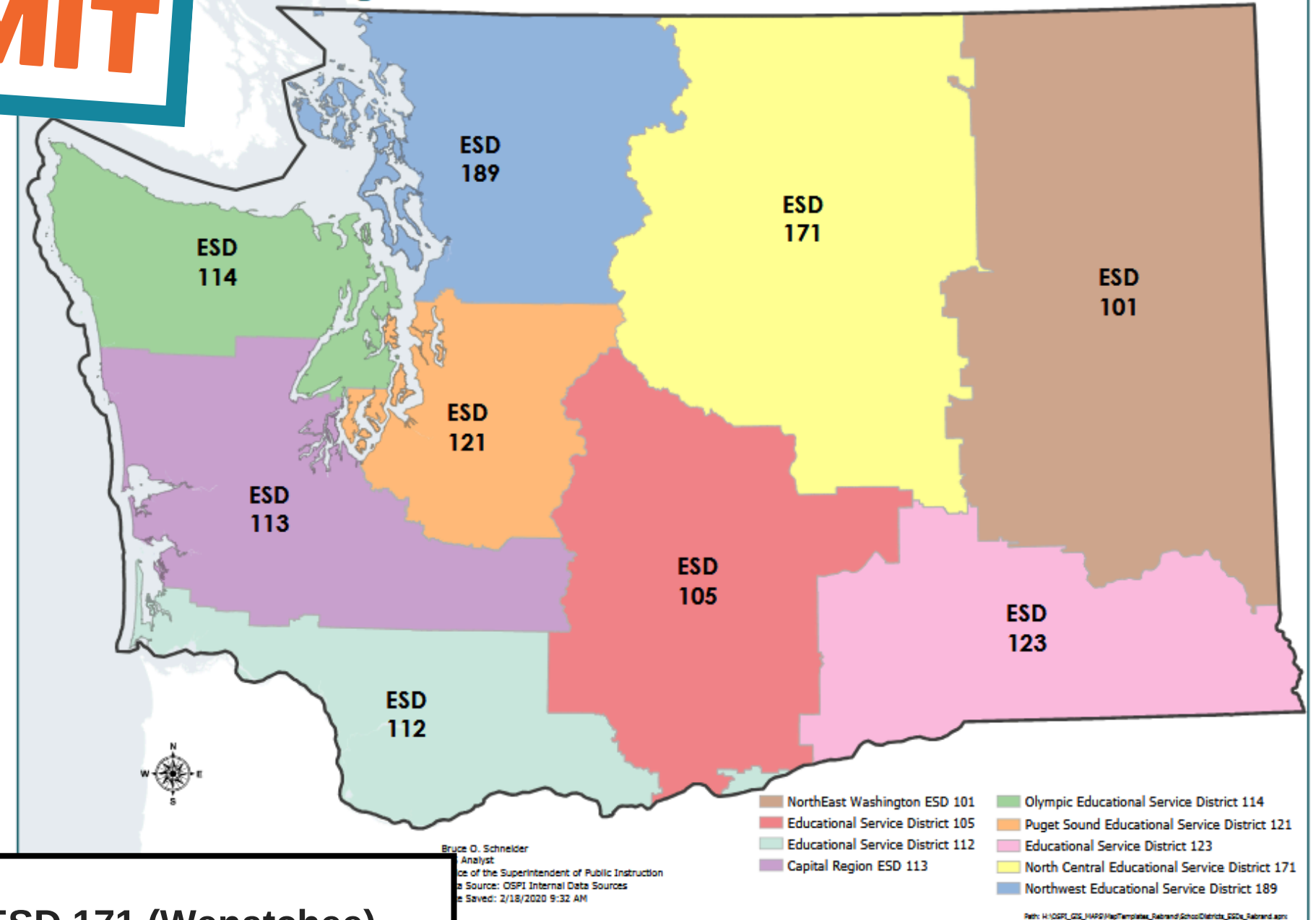
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## Washington State Educational Service Districts

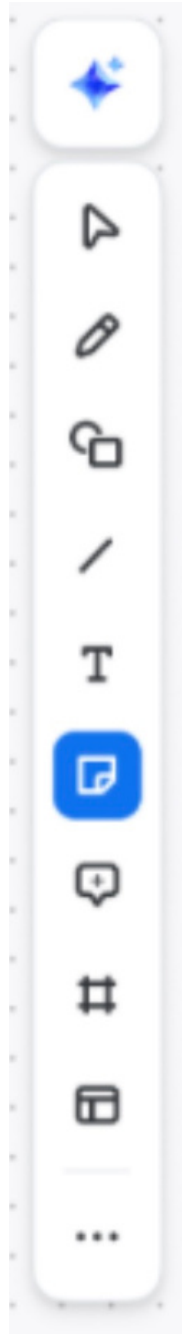
### Session #3, Breakout Rooms

Room #1	ESD 101 (Spokane)
Room #2	ESD 105 (Yakima)
Room #3	ESD 112 (Vancouver)
Room #4	ESD 113 (Olympia)
Room #5	ESD 114 (Olympic Peninsula)
Room #6	Statewide
Room #7	ESD 123 (Tri-Cities)





Room #8	ESD 171 (Wenatchee)
Room #9	ESD 189 (Northwest WA)
Main Room	ESD 121 (Puget Sound)



# How to Use The Whiteboard on Zoom



Once the whiteboard is open, a toolbar on the left hand side will appear allowing you to interact with the canvas:

-  **Select/Move:** Click and drag objects or text boxes across the board
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- **Follow Mode:** Click the binoculars icon next to a collaborator's name in the top right to follow their cursor and view exactly what they are working on in real-time

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# Questions for Breakout Rooms

- What ideas from earlier sessions could work in our region and state?
- Where are the biggest gaps in support?
- What partnerships need strengthening?
- What tools, communication systems, or strategies should we share?
- How can we coordinate efforts more effectively this year?

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Zoom Rooms	Regions	Facilitator/Note Taker
Room #1	ESD 101 (Spokane)	Raul, CSF
Room #2	ESD 105 (Yakima)	Yaslin, WSAC, & Rosa, FNW
Room #3	ESD 112 (Vancouver)	Joshua, CSF
Room #4	ESD 113 (Olympia)	Sean, WSAC
Room #5	ESD 114 (Olympic Peninsula)	Jocelyn, CSF
Room #6	Statewide	Christina, WSAC, & Lauren, WSCA
Room #7	ESD 123 (Tri-Cities)	Adrienne, CSF
Room #8	ESD 171 (Wenatchee)	Sage, FNW
Room #9	ESD 189 (Northwest WA)	Ashley, FNW & Sandra, FNW
Main Room	ESD 121 (Puget Sound)	Arik, LEV & Tyler, ICW



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**Break Time  
2:40-2:45**

**Registration for the Fall 2026  
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**September 24, 2026  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**



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## Session 4: Moving Forward Together 2:45-3:20

The summit concludes with a collaborative discussion focused on sustaining momentum beyond a single event.

### Discussion Topics include:

- Sharing regional take-aways
- Identifying common strategies and gaps in support
- Building long-term infrastructure for collaboration- WSAC Summit!
- Strengthening support for students and families
- Identifying sustainable funding opportunities
- Continuing cross-sector partnership throughout the year



# Session #4 - Moving Forward Together

- **Share key take-aways from each region**
- **Identifying common strategies and support gaps across regions**
- **Expanding shared data beyond the dashboard- share your secret sauce here, and areas you would like support with**
- **Establishing mechanisms for ongoing communication and coordination- Fall 2026 Summit, call for partners**
- **How do we fund this work?**

**FINANCIAL AID SUMMIT**



**FINANCIAL**

**AID**

**SUMMIT**

**Closing & Survey**  
**3:20-3:30**



# Registration for the Fall 2026 Financial Aid Summit is Open!



**FINANCIAL  
AID SUMMIT**

This summit will bring together partners from across the state to share insights, strategies, and lessons learned in supporting students through the financial aid process. Together, we will co-create a collaborative space focused on improving outcomes and expanding access to financial aid.

**September 24, 2026  
9:00 am - 12:00pm**

**EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:**  
Best Practices • Customizable Resources  
Community Building • Financial Aid Trainings

Hosted on Zoom - Register in Advance







**FINANCIAL AID SUMMIT**

# Please Help Us Make This Event Even Better! We Need Your Feedback.

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8836147/Financial-Aid-Summit-Survey>



**FINANCIAL** **AID** **SUMMIT**

