

**LEAGUE OF EDUCATION
VOTERS FOUNDATION**
2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT



Justice wants to be a basketball player

Justice, 3rd Grade

FROM THE CEO

Letter from the CEO

League of Education Voters Foundation

Annual Report | July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Dear Friend,

In November, at our Youth Advocacy Summit at Gonzaga University, I sat in a room where advocates, educators, and young people from across Washington were all working toward the same goal: an education system that works for every student. That is what LEV is here to do: build power and momentum together so we can shift the future of education in Washington state.

Washington’s education system has the potential to prepare every student for a future they help define. But too often, barriers stand in the way. That is why I am so proud of what we collectively accomplished this past year: real wins for students, continued advocacy power-building, and a growing statewide coalition ready for what comes next.

We Won Policy Changes That Protect Students

Real change in the legislature takes years of showing up. This year, that persistence paid off. We helped pass a law eliminating the use of chemical and mechanical restraint in Washington schools and secured \$400K to continue implementation of Washington’s Reducing Restraint & Eliminating Isolation (RREI) Project. We won new requirements for schools to track and report data on isolation and restraint practices. And we helped lock in state-level protections for students experiencing homelessness, so that federal policy changes cannot leave Washington’s most vulnerable students behind.

We Deepened the Coalitions Driving Change

No single organization changes a state education system. It takes alignment across many, and this year, 70+ organizations worked together around a shared statewide agenda. We also deepened our partnership with the UW SMART Center to begin translating research on student mental health into policy action across Washington schools.

We Elevated Student and Community Voice

The best education policy is shaped by the people it affects. This year, 3,000+ community members helped inform our advocacy priorities. More than 100 students convened at our third annual Youth Advocacy Summit. And a rebuilt [Youth Advocacy Hub](#) gave students the tools: bill trackers, resources, and youth-authored content to engage directly in the policy process.

We Kept 9,000+ Advocates Informed and Ready to Act

An advocate who doesn’t know what’s happening can’t act. Through monthly LEVinars, weekly legislative updates, rapid-response briefings, and federal advocacy calls, we made sure that educators, families, partners, and community members across Washington had what they needed, when they needed it.

The Work in Practice

Our partnership with South Shore PreK-8 in Southeast Seattle keeps all of this grounded in real classrooms. This past year, we directly supported 600+ students and 50 educators, including 100+ fourth- and fifth graders who built real confidence in public speaking and civic advocacy.

Change is built over time through growing coalitions, informed communities, and people who keep showing up. Thank you for being part of that.

With gratitude,

Arik Korman

CEO

League of Education Voters Foundation

Arik wants to help kids learn and grow

Student photography by [Jerry and Lois Photography](#)
Design: Ross Hogin Design

Arik, CEO

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Letter from the Board Chair

League of Education Voters Foundation

Annual Report | July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Dear Friend,

Washington state's students are ready to lead, to advocate, and to shape the future of their communities. They show up to summits, testify at hearings, and organize their peers around the policies that shape their lives. They are not waiting for the system to catch up, and at the League of Education Voters Foundation, neither are we.

This past year, LEV worked in powerful partnership with organizations across the state to deliver landmark legislation protecting students from harmful school discipline practices, convened a growing coalition of 70+ organizations around a shared statewide agenda, and kept 9,000+ advocates informed and coordinated through one of the most uncertain policy environments in recent memory.

This year, LEV also launched its 2026-2030 Strategic Plan, anchored by a bold north star: *by 2045, every Washington student graduates equipped with the self-confidence, civic knowledge, social-emotional skills, and technological fluency to adapt, thrive, and shape the world around them.* Reaching that goal requires dismantling long-standing barriers: fragmented advocacy systems, policymaking that excludes impacted communities, measures of success that ignore student experience, and an education funding formula never built for equity. [LEV's strategic plan](#) takes each of these on directly, building toward the goal of strongly supported legislation for equitable education funding by the 2029 session.

LEV's Board of Directors' commitment is to ensure the organization has the governance, resources, and strategic clarity to deliver on that ambition.

With determination,

Dr. Marcus Pimpleton

Board Chair

League of Education Voters Foundation

Bernie wants to be a veterinarian



Bernie, 5th Grade

MISSION, VISION, VALUES

Our Mission

League of Education Voters Foundation (LEV) works to create learning environments from early learning to K-12 to postsecondary where every Washington student feels safe, supported, and a positive sense of belonging, so that they can achieve academically and access the life they choose.

Our Vision

Every student in Washington state has access to an excellent public education that provides equitable opportunities for success.

Our Strategies

LEV acts to serve the interests of students and families across the state of Washington to improve education access and quality, particularly those who have been harmed by historical and systemic inequities, by:

- Developing community-informed, targeted policy solutions to benefit students impacted by racism, poverty, disability discrimination, and other forms of oppression.
- Advocating for ample, equitable, and stable resources to meet the needs of every student.
- Mobilizing families, businesses, youth, educators, communities, and other stakeholders to understand and remove the systemic barriers to each student’s success within the public education system.

- Partnering with stakeholders to advocate for equitable, high-quality, and fully-funded education.
- Highlighting research-driven and promising educational practices that prepare students to reach their full potential and contribute meaningfully to our democracy and economy.
- Providing voters, stakeholders, policymakers, and the media with strategic, accurate, and timely information about public education in Washington state.

Our Values

At League of Education Voters, we base our work on the following values:

- **Put Students First**
Students have an important voice in shaping the education system. Families are critical partners in student success. We commit to working with students, families, and communities – especially Black, Indigenous and students of color, students with disabilities, students gaining English proficiency, students who identify as LGBTQ+, students experiencing homelessness, foster youth, and other historically marginalized students—to identify barriers and formulate solutions together, and we support them in organizing to advocate for their future.
- **Honor Community Knowledge and Experience**
LEV recognizes that communities themselves offer the best definition of the challenges they face and often the best pathways for addressing them.

- **Embrace Anti-Racism**
We are committed to understanding and dismantling historic and systemic racism which creates stark inequities in education and being held accountable for our own action or inaction. We are also committed to looking inward at LEV’s history, committing to changes, and being accountable for them.
- **Operationalize Equity**
We believe equity should lie at the heart of our decision-making. We must employ approaches and build structures and policies externally and internally that will be designed to embed equity at every decision point.
- **Advocate for Educators Who Better Reflect the Students They Serve**
We believe students need teachers and school leaders who reflect them, understand their lived experiences, and are equipped to help them succeed.
- **Pursue Collaboration**
We believe we are most effective when we work across the lines of difference toward common solutions. We will learn from the community and acknowledge the power of lived experience.
- **Act with Courage**
We will have the courage to act, to learn from our actions, and to strive to improve our practice with innovation and humility.
- **Remain Nonpartisan**
We believe education is not a partisan issue. We are deeply engaged in the political process but do not align ourselves with any political party.

OUR WORK

We advocate at the state level for community-driven, student-focused education solutions.

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We build capacity for partners and coalitions by providing Policy, Field, and Communications expertise.

.....

We share trusted information with students, families, communities, educators, partner organizations, policymakers, and the media.

.....

We convene education stakeholders such as students, families, educators, community-based organizations, school district and state agency staff, and policymakers.

.....

And we do this through an equity lens.



Gemma wants to be a ballerina

Gemma, 1st Grade

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Washington entered the 2026 legislative session confronting the same fiscal pressures that drove significant budget cuts in 2025. With lawmakers initially facing a projected \$2.3 billion deficit, the choices before them were not abstract accounting decisions—they carried real consequences for students, families, educators, and communities across the state. Although the February 2026 revenue forecast reduced the projected shortfall to approximately \$1.5 billion for the remainder of the 2025-27 budget cycle, the need to protect core education investments remained urgent.

To help close the longer-term budget gap, the Legislature passed [Senate Bill 6346](#), historic legislation establishing a tax on income above \$1 million. This new revenue is an important step toward a more balanced and sustainable budget, helping reduce the severity of cuts this year and future years. 2026 saw lawmakers make significant reductions across key parts of Washington’s education system—underscoring how vulnerable essential student support remains when revenue falls short.



Student at South Shore PreK-8

The impact was especially severe in early learning, where reductions limited childcare access for low-income families who already face steep barriers to affordability. These choices risk widening opportunity gaps at the very stage when public investment can have the greatest long-term return. Across early learning, K-12, and higher education, more than \$200 million in combined funding reductions were made for the remaining year of the 2025-27 budget cycle.

At the same time, the session showed that progress is still possible — even in a difficult budget environment. Lawmakers advanced efforts to respond to the immediate needs of young people and began exploring how Washington can build stronger, more proactive education and behavioral health systems. These steps matter because they point toward a more student-centered approach: one that addresses urgent needs today while laying the groundwork for better outcomes tomorrow.

Throughout the session, LEV remained focused on advancing student-centered policies, protecting essential supports, and ensuring that the needs of students and families stayed at the center of budget decisions. Some priorities made limited progress at the state policy level, while others advanced through coordinated, values-driven advocacy. In a year marked by uncertainty, the lesson was clear: meaningful change requires persistence, partnership, and a willingness to keep showing up — especially when the stakes are highest.

**LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY:
ADDRESS THE
IMMEDIATE NEEDS
OF STUDENTS
AND COMMUNITIES**

The 2025 legislative session left many critical K-12 grant programs reduced or at risk of ending, underscoring the urgent need to protect supports for students and communities facing the greatest barriers. Despite a difficult budget environment, the Legislature affirmed the importance of some key investments serving students furthest from educational justice. After significant cuts in 2025 to the Homeless Student Stability Program, lawmakers provided \$1.2 million to continue the program through the 2026-27 school year. This investment will help schools sustain vital support for students experiencing homelessness while strengthening cross-sector partnerships that break down silos and connect young people with the services they need to succeed.



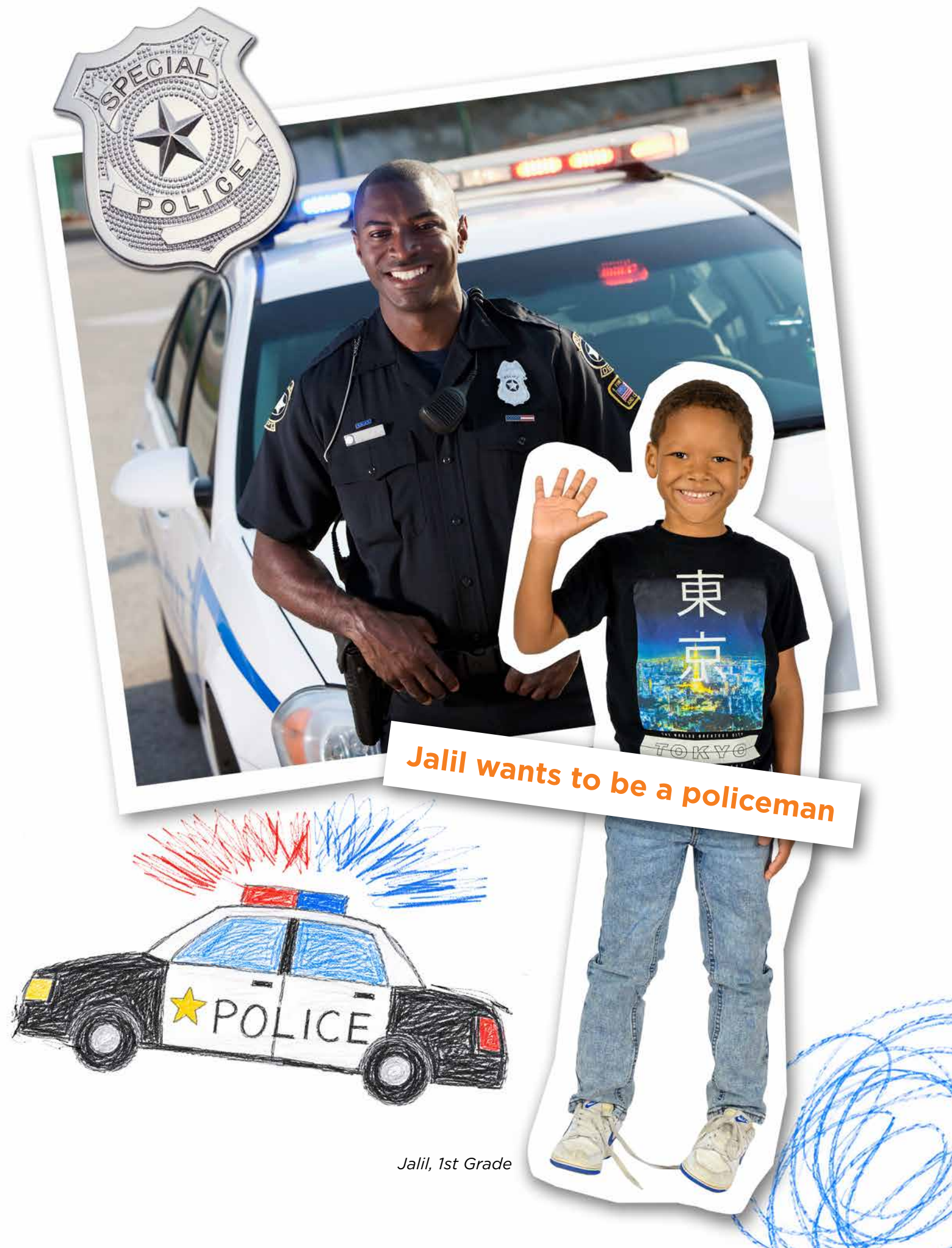
Students at South Shore PreK-8

Through sustained advocacy alongside partners in the [Coalition to End Isolation and Reduce Restraint](#), LEV helped pass [House Bill 1795](#) — an important step toward safer, more supportive school environments for every student. The legislation prohibits construction of new isolation rooms, bans harmful practices such as mechanical and chemical restraints, and sets a statewide goal to end isolation and significantly reduce restraint by 2031. The Legislature also invested \$400,000 to expand the [Reducing Restraint & Eliminating Isolation \(RREI\) Project](#), giving more districts the opportunity to implement proven, student-centered approaches that protect dignity, safety, and learning.

Washington also took a significant step toward transforming youth behavioral health through passage of [House Bill 2429](#), which adopts the [Washington Thriving Strategic Plan](#) as the state’s framework for building a high-quality, integrated system of care for young people from birth through age 25. By strengthening collaboration and beginning the foundational steps to operationalize the plan, the legislation builds on years of work by the [Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group](#) and takes a key step to move Washington closer to a system that responds earlier, coordinates care more effectively, and better meets the diverse needs of young people across the state.



Aliela, 1st Grade



Jalil, 1st Grade

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY: PROTECT ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT PROGRESSIVE REVENUE SOLUTIONS

SB 6346 was the most significant revenue legislation passed in 2026. Beginning in 2029, it is projected to generate roughly \$3 billion annually through a tax on income above \$1 million. Although this revenue will not solve the current budget shortfall, it helped reduce the scale of immediate cuts and creates a more sustainable long-term revenue path.

Because the new revenue will take several years to materialize, it did not close the state's immediate \$1.5 billion budget shortfall. The education continuum still absorbed major cuts, including:

- \$150 million from **Working Connections Child Care**, which helps low-income families afford childcare
- \$27 million from **Transition to Kindergarten**, which expands early learning access through the K-12 system
- \$27 million from **Local Effort Assistance**, which helps reduce inequities in Washington's local levy system

These cuts will fall hardest on students, families, and communities furthest from educational justice. They also show why

Gianna, 5th Grade

Washington must evaluate budget and policy decisions as part of one connected education system — not as isolated choices. A coherent, student-centered approach is essential to building systems that work for young people and communities across the state.

Senate Bill 5872 created the PreK Promise Account, allowing Washington to accept private contributions to expand the **Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program** (ECEAP). The account was established in response to the **Ballmer Group's** pledge of up to \$1 billion over ten years, which could help expand access to high-quality early learning for thousands of children.



Gianna wants to be a chef

**LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY:
REDESIGN THE
EDUCATION FUNDING
SYSTEM TO MEET
THE NEEDS OF
ALL STUDENTS**

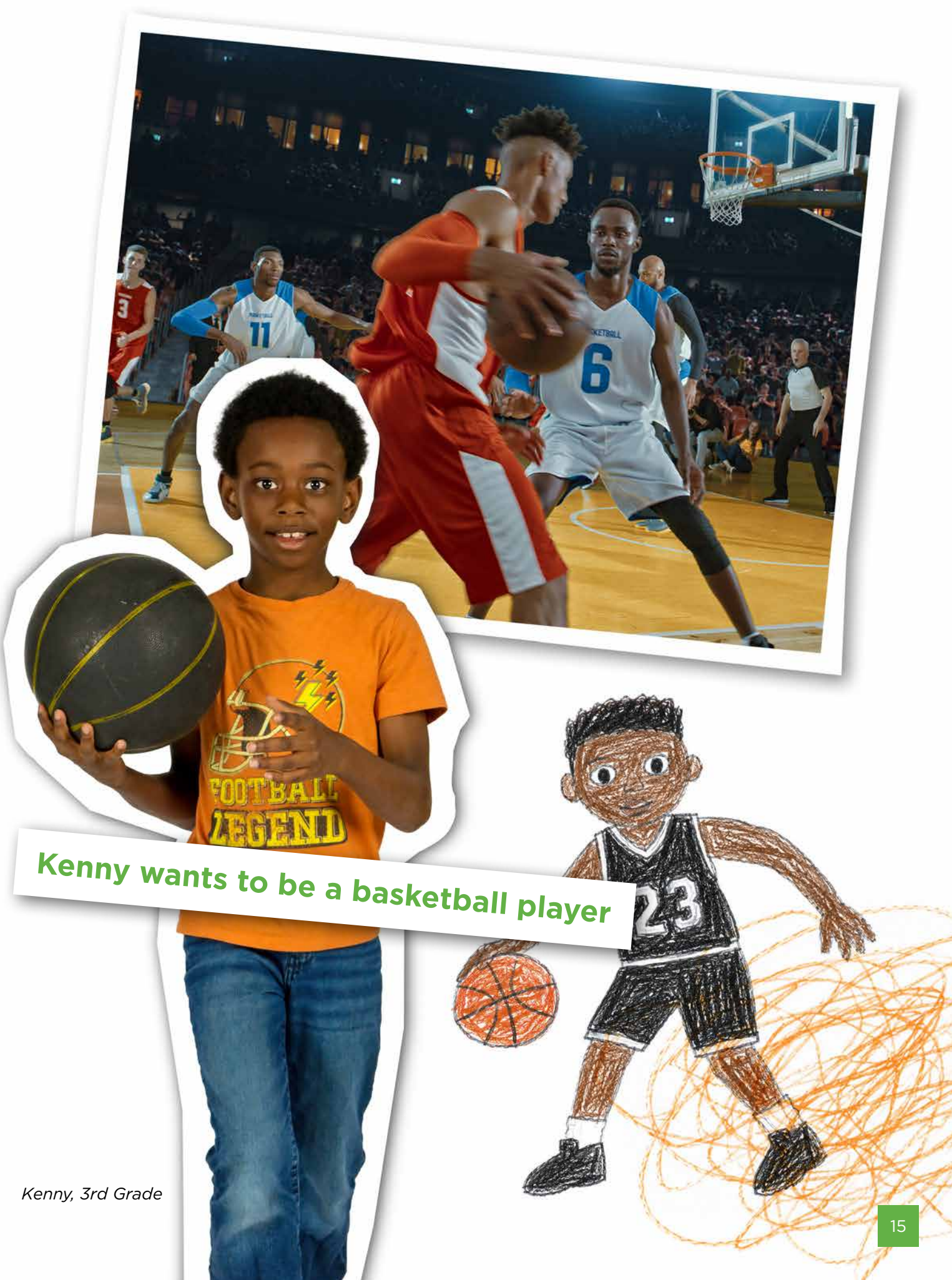
Senate Bill 6089 was introduced in 2026 to advance a more cohesive and aligned education vision for Washington state. By leveraging philanthropic support, the bill would have strengthened coordination across early learning, K-12, higher education, and workforce systems. Although the bill did not pass, it

reflects growing recognition that Washington needs a systemwide approach — one that better supports students as they move through and transition between each stage of their education.

The short 2026 legislative session and state budget deficit limited meaningful debate on K-12 funding reform. However, the work continues beyond Olympia. LEV, alongside advocacy, student, and district partners, remains focused on building an education system — including a funding system — that gives every student the experiences, supports, and outcomes needed to achieve their post-secondary goals.



LEV CEO Arik Korman testifies before the State Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education



Kenny wants to be a basketball player

Kenny, 3rd Grade

SOUTH SHORE

LEV and the Opportunities for Education Foundation continue to partner in support of South Shore PreK-8 students in Seattle’s Rainier Valley. This partnership provides direct support for students while giving LEV valuable insight into the school-based conditions, services, and community partnerships that inform our legislative advocacy for students across Washington.

South Shore is one of the most diverse schools in Washington state, serving students across a wide range of racial, cultural, linguistic, economic, and learning backgrounds. Its student population is 44% Black/African American, 20% White, 15% Asian, 11% Hispanic/Latino of any race, 9% two or more races, and 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native. In addition, 21% of students are English language learners, 59% qualify as low-income, and 22% are students with disabilities.

This year, LEV and South Shore’s special education staff held their first community tour to highlight inclusive practices. Community members observed kindergarten and second-grade classrooms, saw inclusion in action, and then debriefed with classroom teachers about the supports, planning, and relationships that make inclusive learning environments possible.

Visitor reflections underscored the importance of strong relationships, educator commitment, team collaboration, and the right supports for students:

- Good teaching is relational. Staff need to be invested and know their students and their families for inclusion to really take place in the classroom.
- Teacher buy-in is critical.
- It takes a team effort, but it can be done.
- With the right supports and an excellent educator, students with a wide range of needs can thrive in a classroom.

During the 2025-2026 school year, LEV supported South Shore’s work with community partners that provide academic, social-emotional, enrichment, and student voice supports. Together, these partnerships help students access the services and relationships they need to learn, participate, and thrive.

Seneca Family of Agencies

Core values: Love and compassion, hope and courage, equity and justice, curiosity, joy, and respect.

Seneca continues to partner with South Shore by providing individualized care and support for students. Seneca staff work alongside school staff to develop learning plans that help students access instruction, build skills, and grow within the school community.

Kids Co.

Mission: To provide and advocate for affordable, quality childcare that enriches and nurtures all children, supporting their success in school and in life.

South Shore and LEV have a long-standing relationship with Kids Co., which has provided quality childcare for South Shore students since the school’s founding in 2002. Dedicated Kids Co. staff offer homework support and enrichment through after-school care, helping students stay connected to learning beyond the regular school day.

TIPS: Tutors Impacting Public Schools

Mission: Connecting culturally responsive tutors with teachers and schools to improve academic achievement and strengthen student learning. TIPS envisions classrooms where every student feels valued, supported by a caring community, and able to thrive with joy in their learning.

TIPS is a nonprofit organization that partners with South Shore to provide additional instructional support for students. Tutors collaborate closely with school staff to develop learning plans and deliver small-group instruction, expanding the individualized academic support available to students.

Speak With Purpose

Mission: To provide public speaking opportunities that empower youth to boldly speak their truth.

LEV’s partnership with Speak With Purpose continued during the 2025-2026 school year. Through public speaking, research, and writing experiences, Speak With Purpose helps students develop the tools to advocate for themselves and their communities while strengthening confidence, communication, and leadership skills.

Together, these partnerships demonstrate how coordinated school and community supports can strengthen student learning, belonging, and opportunity. For LEV, the work at South Shore offers a concrete view of the supports students need and reinforces the importance of advocating for policies that help every Washington student access inclusive, well-resourced learning environments.



Emma, 1st Grade

YOUTH ADVOCACY

Youth Advocacy Summit 2025

On November 1st, 2025, LEV, in partnership with the Association of Washington Student Leaders (AWSL) and Gonzaga University's Office of a Pedagogy of Hope Through Research and Practice, hosted the third annual **Youth Advocacy Summit**, themed *Nothing About Us Without Us: Using Your Voice to Get into Good Trouble*. The event, hosted on Gonzaga's campus in Spokane, saw over 100 community members come together to learn, network, and share space.

Over the last couple of years, we have seen attacks on public education and especially programs supporting our LGBTQ+, BIPOC, and Immigrant and Refugee communities. At the same time, we have seen student advocates across the country stand up for the rights of their classmates. *Nothing About Us Without Us: Using Your Voice to Get into Good Trouble* was all about making sure our most impacted communities and students everywhere are not only involved in the conversation but feel supported and empowered to speak up for themselves and their communities.

The full recap can be found on [our website](#).

Student Potential Youth Advisory Council (SPYAC)

This spring marked the completion of the third cohort of LEV's Student Potential



Youth Advisory Council (SPYAC). The council includes middle and high school students from Western, Central, and Eastern Washington. SPYAC is part of the **Investing in Student Potential** coalition and was created to center the voices of students with disabilities in Washington education policy and advocacy work. Each student received a stipend for their participation.

Throughout the program, students strengthened their advocacy, leadership, and public speaking skills. The essential questions we focused on were: Why advocate? What are the goals of advocacy?

We explored this in 3 units:

- **Unit 1: To Educate & Spread Awareness**
 - Project: Social Media Campaign
- **Unit 2: To Build Solidarity & Mobilize Others**
 - Project: Community Teach-In
- **Unit 3: To Influence Decision-Makers and Drive Change**
 - Project: Connect with a local or state representative or deliver written/verbal testimony.

Within the units, students focused on a project that allowed them to put into practice what they learned, shared personal experiences, and engaged directly in conversations about policy and equity in education.

LEV is proud to support spaces where young people can lead, advocate, and help shape the future of education in Washington state.

SPYAC Student Reflections

One student reflected:

“One thing I learned about myself is I can have a great time with people I don’t even know.”

Antonio also shared how SPYAC impacted his future goals:

“It got me to be able to work at a summer camp supporting people with disabilities. I will be a counselor in training this year.”

Another student, Nicole, shared how SPYAC affirmed her experiences and strengthened her leadership journey:

“SPYAC reassured what I went through and how hard it was in middle school and hearing other people’s stories and how bad it could be. Sometimes I think I’m the only one going through these things, but I’m not the only one.”

Students reflected at the end of the program and shared that because of SPYAC, they improved their confidence, communication, teamwork, advocacy, and understanding of issues affecting students with disabilities.

Programs like SPYAC demonstrate the importance of centering student voice in education conversations and policy decisions.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Disrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline Legislative Working Table

This year, LEV continued convening the Disrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline Legislative Working Table (STPP), bringing together advocates, educators, disability rights leaders, legal experts, and community organizations to strengthen coordination and advance a shared vision for reducing exclusionary discipline and increasing student belonging. Following major shifts in the advocacy landscape, the coalition undertook a strategic reset focused on strengthening member engagement, clarifying priorities, and building a stronger foundation for future policy and advocacy work.

During the 2026 legislative session, STPP members worked together to support and oppose key legislation affecting student rights, school discipline, and educational equity. Coalition members coordinated testimony, signed in pro or con, participated in action alerts, and joined support letters to influence policy outcomes. The coalition supported [House Bill 1795](#), which advances efforts to eliminate isolation and reduce restraint; [Senate Bill 5956](#), addressing the use of artificial intelligence and biometric surveillance in schools; [House Bill 2594](#); [House Bill 2132](#); and [Senate Bill 6089](#). Coalition members also organized opposition to [House Bill 2246](#) and [Senate Bill 5875](#), citing concerns about their potential impact on equity, inclusion, and student well-being. Through this coordinated

advocacy, STPP strengthened the collective voice of impacted communities and partners across Washington.

Throughout the year, coalition partners identified concerning trends affecting students across Washington, including increased use of informal removals from school, repeated short-term exclusions, barriers to disability-related supports, and the growing use of online placements as alternatives to providing appropriate services. Members also elevated concerns around racial and disability-based disparities in discipline, emerging uses of artificial intelligence and surveillance technologies in schools, and the need for stronger systems of accountability and student support.

The coalition also began developing a public-facing website that will provide families, students, and advocates with accessible information on school discipline policy, juvenile justice issues, research, and advocacy opportunities. As the coalition looks ahead, members remain committed to advancing policies that promote inclusion, strengthen school connectedness, expand preventative supports, and create pathways for all students to thrive.

Eliminating Isolation & Reducing Restraint

The 2026 legislative session marked a major milestone for student safety and inclusion with the passage of [Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1795](#). The new law strengthens accountability and reporting requirements, prohibits the creation of new isolation

rooms, limits harmful restraint practices, and establishes a statewide goal of ending isolation practices in schools by 2031.

LEV continued serving as a backbone partner for the [Coalition to End Isolation and Reduce Restraint](#) (CEIRR), convening educators, advocates, families, school districts, and state partners to support implementation of the new law. Following the bill's passage, the coalition shifted its focus from legislative advocacy to ensuring schools have the resources, guidance, and support necessary to successfully transition toward safer, trauma-informed alternatives.

To guide this work, CEIRR developed a statewide five-year strategic roadmap focused on building professional learning opportunities, creating technical assistance supports, improving public accountability, and reducing disparities experienced by students with disabilities and students of color. The coalition's long-term vision is a Washington education system where students remain safe, connected, and supported without the use of isolation.

Federal Education Advocacy & Policy Calls

In response to unprecedented federal education policy changes and uncertainty, LEV launched a new series of bi-monthly Federal Education Advocacy & Policy Calls. These convenings bring together federal education partners, Senator Patty Murray's office, the Washington State Attorney General's Office, the Office of the Superintendent of

Public Instruction (OSPI), community-based organizations, and education leaders from across Washington.

The calls create a trusted space for participants to receive timely updates on federal policy developments, executive actions, legal challenges, and funding decisions affecting Washington students and schools. They also provide an opportunity for national experts, state agencies, and community organizations to share information and coordinate responses to emerging challenges.

By connecting local, state, and federal partners, LEV is helping ensure that advocates, education leaders, and community organizations have access to accurate information and a direct channel to communicate the impacts of federal decisions on students, families, and schools. These conversations are strengthening collaboration and supporting a more coordinated response to a rapidly evolving education policy landscape.

Field Report

Across Washington state, communities expressed deep concern about the direction of the federal government and the continued impacts of state and local budget deficits. Participants described instances of bullying and discrimination, highlighting the critical need for expanded mental health and counseling services. Others shared fears for immigrant families who feel compelled to prepare their children for the possibility of detention or other harm. Although 2025 was a difficult year, community members also voiced



Janessa, 5th Grade

a strong desire to create positive change. We heard stories of courageous individuals working to ensure that students thrive despite challenging circumstances. The call for an equitable funding structure — and meaningful reform — was a consistent theme in every conversation. And our students insist on having a seat at the table.

The full report can be found on our [website](#).

Educational Service District 101 ELEVATE Cadre

For the last several years LEV has been partnering with [Educational Service District 101](#), We Join In, Spokane Public Schools, and the Cheney School District on a regional educator diversity effort funded through College Spark Washington's [LEADER initiative](#). ELEVATE (Empowering Learning Environments Via Anti-Racist Trauma-Informed Education) is designed to create a transformative and supportive community of educators committed to culturally responsive, anti-racist, and healing-centered leadership. The cadre is made up of educators and community members from five different school districts, three community organizations, and two counties in the region.

Kenji Linane-Booey, LEV's Spokane Regional Director, works on the advisory committee and helps guide and facilitate the work of the ELEVATE Cadre. Through this partnership, we organized a group of students from the Spokane region to lead and participate in a panel at the [ESD 101 Regional Equity Summit](#). Kenji will also support the ELEVATE Cadre

Student Advisory Council that will launch in the fall of 2026.

Central Washington Regional Field Update

Throughout Central Washington, LEV continues hearing concerns from students, families, educators, and school leaders about the growing impact of budget reductions on schools and student opportunities.

Communities are reporting cuts to:

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs
- Arts and music education
- Athletics and extracurricular activities
- Counseling and support staff
- Classroom positions and instructional support

At the same time, immigration fears continue affecting communities as ICE sightings increase across Eastern Washington. For many students and families, these realities create uncertainty and stress that extend far beyond the classroom.

Despite these challenges, schools across the Yakima Valley continue working to create welcoming spaces where students feel safe, valued, and supported.

To learn about protections for immigrant students in Washington's K-12 public schools visit the [OSPI website](#). You can also visit the [Washington Education Association](#) (WEA) website for resources for your students.

ABOUT LEV FOUNDATION

League of Education Voters Foundation (LEV Foundation) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that provides strategic, accurate, and timely information about research-driven education policies and practices to citizens, educators, policymakers, and the media. We partner with community-based organizations to support parents and community members in improving public education systems in their communities and across the state. Our programs include coalition building, grassroots organizing, training, policy research, and analysis. We work to improve opportunities for every public school student in the state, and especially students and families who are systemically and historically underserved, and disproportionately affected by failing systems.

Corporate, Foundation, and Community Partners

akin
Alliance for Education
Allies in Healthier Systems for Health and Abundance in Youth (AHSHAY)
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
And Still We Rise
ARC of King County
ARC of Washington State
Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP)
Association of Washington Student Leaders (AWSL)
Attorneys for Education Rights
Balance Our Tax Code Coalition
Behavioral Health Catalyst
Bellevue School District
Better Health Together
Black Education Strategy Roundtable (BESR)
Building Changes
Catalyst Presents LLC
Center for Children and Youth Justice (CCYJ)
Center for Reinventing Public Education (CRPE)
Center for Strengthening the Teaching Profession (CSTP)
Children’s Alliance
Children’s Campaign Fund
Choose 180
Civil Survival
College Possible Washington
College Promise Coalition

College Spark Washington
College Success Foundation
Committee for Children
Communities for Our Colleges
Communities in Schools of Washington state
Communities in Schools of Benton-Franklin
Communities in Schools of Northeast Washington
Community Center for Education Results (CCER)
Community for Youth
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
Disability Rights Washington
Eastside Pathways
Educational Service District 101
Educational Service District 105
Educational Service District 123
Ella Adelante
Elma School District
Empire Health Foundation - Waters Meet
Encompass
Evergreen Children’s Association, dba Kids Co.
Excellent Schools Washington
Foundation for Tacoma Students
Futures NW
Gonzaga University
Highline Public Schools
Inatai Foundation
Independent Colleges of Washington
King County Children, Youth, Youth Adult Division
Latino Community Fund
Legal Counsel for Youth and Children (LCYC)

Lift Every Voice
Lumen High School
Mentor Washington
Microsoft Philanthropies
NAACP Spokane
Northeast Community Center (NECC)
Northwest Education Access
Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO)
Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
OneAmerica
Open Doors for Multicultural Families (ODMF)
Pacific Science Center
Partnerships for Action, Voices for Empowerment (PAVE)
Pasco School District
Progreso
Puget Sound Education Service District 121
Quincy School District
Racial Equity Team
Redmond Oak Hope
Rochester School District
The Root of Us
Roots of Inclusion
Schools Out Washington
Seattle Public Schools
Seneca Family of Agencies
Shoreline Public Schools
Southeast Seattle Educational Coalition (SESEC)
Speak With Purpose
Spokane Public Schools
Stand for Children Washington
Superintendents Unified in Partnership for Equitable Schools (SUPES)
Team Child
The Black Lens
TNTP
Treehouse
True Measure Collaborative
Tukwila School District
Unite:Ed
United Way of King County
University of Washington, College of Education
University of Washington, SMART Center
Washington Association for Children & Families (WACF)

Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA)
Washington Association of School Social Workers
Washington Community Alliance
Washington Education Association (WEA)
Washington Ethnic Studies Now
Washington School Counselor Association (WSCA)
Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts
Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP
Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)
Washington State Board of Education
Washington State Budget & Policy Center
Washington State Charter Schools Association
Washington State Council of Presidents
Washington State Legislative Youth Advisory Council (LYAC)
Washington State Office of Equity
Washington State Parent Ambassadors
Washington STEM
Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC)
Washington Student Association (WSA)
Washington Youth Alliance (WYA)
We Are Ella
Yakima School District

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Becky Nissen, Treasurer
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Nicole Jenkins-Rosenkrantz
Allison Leep
Dr. Stephanie King (2026)
Dr. Pui-Yan Lam
Rebekah Lawson
Ben Mitchell (2025)
Debra Raub
Kerra Bower
Cori Jaeger
Manousos Jacobsen

LEV Foundation Staff

Arik Korman
CEO

Eric Holzapfel
Chief Engagement Officer

Jacob Vela
Chief Policy Officer

Kenji Linane-Booe
Statewide Field Manager /
Spokane Regional Director

Eleanor Bridge Jayaram
Senior Policy Officer and
Youth Advocacy Lead

Omar Zaragoza
Regional Field Director, Central Washington

Jennifer Putman
School Transformation Partner

Nancy Hopkins
Operations and Communications Manager

Reena Chaudary
Accountant (2025)

2025 Donors

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John Baker
Fraser and Diedre Black
Jon and Bobbe Bridge
Kathy Brostoff
Amy Campbell
Minette Carpenter
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Cunliffe
Bailey Robin Deiongh
John and Christine Enslein
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Lee Howard
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Betsy and Jeff Johnson
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Stephanie King

Arik Korman
Pui Yan Lam
Rebekah Lawson
Allison Leep
Janet Levinger & Will Poole
Rachelle Miller
Rebecca Nissen
Marcus Pimpleton
Debra Raub
Nicole Rosenkrantz
Susan Stillman
Stephen and Liann Sundquist

Foundations

College Spark Washington
Foundry 10
David & Cathy Habib Charitable Fund
Northeast Washington ESD 101
Opportunities for Education Foundation
Raikes Foundation
The Gates Foundation
The Norcliffe Foundation
True Blue Strategies
True Measure Collaborative
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund
Shuey Family Charitable Foundation
State of Washington combined fund drive
Virginia L. Park Family Charitable Fund

Corporate

Gonzaga University
Microsoft Philanthropies
The Black Lens
UW SMART Center

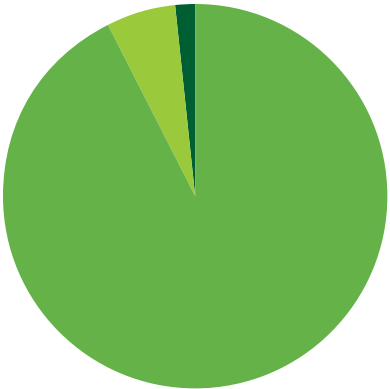
2025 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Statement of Activities: AUDITED

Revenue		
Foundation and Nonprofit Grants	\$	1,658,949
Individual and Corporation		105,102
Events and Other		26,452
Total Earned Revenue	\$	1,790,503
Expenses		
Program	\$	1,966,593
Management and General		300,824
Fundraising		176,808
Total Expenses	\$	2,444,225
Change in Net Assets	\$	(653,722)

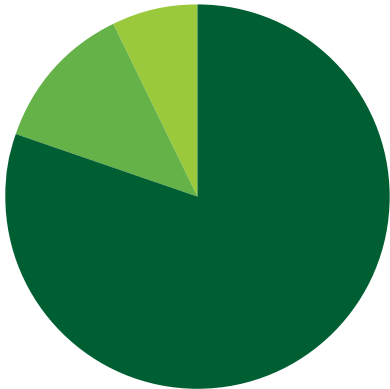
Statement of Position

Assets		
Cash	\$	1,605,466
Grants Receivable		341,640
Other Assets		194,423
Total Assets	\$	2,141,529
Liabilities	\$	588,909
Net Assets		
With Donor Restriction		0
Without Restriction or Designations		1,582,620
Total Net Assets		1,582,620
Total Liabilities + Net Assets	\$	2,141,529



LEV FOUNDATION REVENUE

- Foundation and Nonprofit Grants
- Individual and Corporation
- Events and Other



LEV FOUNDATION EXPENSES

- Program
- Management and General
- Fundraising

OUR IMPACT

FOUNDING

2001
League of Education Voters founded

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

2013
League of Education Voters helped pass House Bill 1723, which expanded the state Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and the use of the Washington Inventory of Kindergarten Readiness (WAKids) so that 14,500 more low-income children could attend high-quality preschool.

2015
League of Education Voters helped pass the Early Start Act (House Bill 1491), which increased access to high-quality ECEAP early learning for 1,600 children and dramatically increased the quality and viability of our childcare system.

HB 1491
1,600 CHILDREN
SERVED THROUGH EXPANDED ECEAP ACCESS

2015+
League of Education Voters work at South Shore PreK-8 led to Seattle’s citywide preschool program, which has prepared more than 6,300 children for kindergarten since 2015.

6,300 CHILDREN
TO BE SERVED EACH YEAR THROUGH EXPANDED SEATTLE PRE-K CAPACITY

2019
League of Education Voters successfully advocated with Early Learning Action Alliance partners for 1,171 spots in the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and a 6% state reimbursement rate increase for childcare providers.

2021
League of Education Voters successfully advocated with Early Learning Action

1,171 ECEAP SLOTS
ADDED TO THE PROGRAM IN 2019

Alliance partners to pass the landmark Fair Start for Kids Act (Senate Bill 5237), which significantly increases access to essential early learning programs like Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) and the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), strengthens child care programs by expanding access to support services, and grows recruitment and retention for child care businesses.

15,800 ECEAP SLOTS
TOTAL ECEAP SLOTS FUNDED FOR THE 2022–23 SCHOOL YEAR

K-12 FUNDING

2000
Founders of League of Education Voters work to pass Initiative 728, which brings nearly \$500 per pupil into every school across Washington state.

I-728
\$500 PER PUPIL

2007
League of Education Voters helped pass House Joint Resolution 4204, an initiative that amended the state constitution to allow a simple majority of voters to authorize local school district levies. More than \$14 billion in local school district funding would not have passed as of June 2021 without this bill. This includes maintenance and operations, transportation, and capital (predominately tech) levies.

HJR 4204
\$14 BILLION

2009
League of Education Voters led the advocacy to pass House Bills 2261 and 2776, which defined basic education. These are the laws on which the Washington Supreme Court’s McCleary education funding decision was based.

2010
League of Education Voters was the lead plaintiff in the successful effort to overturn Initiative 1053, the initiative requiring two-thirds legislative approval to raise revenue or close tax loopholes.

I-1053
2/3 APPROVAL

2017
League of Education Voters led advocacy efforts through the Campaign for Student Success to drive \$8.3 billion of state money into our education system to address the Washington Supreme Court’s 2012 McCleary ruling.

2019–2024
League of Education Voters successfully advocated with Investing in Student Potential coalition partners to increase the special education funded enrollment cap leading to an increase of the cap from 13.5% to 16% in that time.

2023
League of Education Voters successfully advocated with Investing in Student Potential coalition partners for a state budget increase of over \$180 million annually for special education in 2023-2025.

\$180M FOR SPECIAL ED

2025
League of Education Voters successfully advocated with Investing in Student Potential coalition partners for an increase of over \$150 million per year to support the special education needs of students, including the elimination of the special education funded enrollment cap.

\$150M FOR SPECIAL ED

STUDENT SUPPORTS

2012
League of Education Voters was the key driver in passing Initiative 1240, which created Washington’s charter public school system.

4,000+ ENROLLED
IN CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

>2x
EMPLOYMENT OF BIPOC TEACHERS IN CHARTER SCHOOLS

15
OPERATING CHARTER SCHOOLS

50 SCHOOLS
NOW USING THE RULER SEL CURRICULUM IN SEATTLE, FIRST ADOPTED AT SOUTH SHORE

2016
League of Education Voters worked with the Senate Education Chair to help pass the Opportunity Gap Bill (House Bill 1541), in which students will no longer be suspended or expelled for discretionary offenses, and better statewide data on student demographics will ensure that the system is working to keep all students on track and in school.

2016
League of Education Voters helped pass Senate Bill 6194, which saved Washington’s charter public schools. The new charter public school law increases accountability while still allowing flexibility and innovation to address student needs.

SB 6194
CHARTER SCHOOLS
SAVED CHARTER SCHOOLS

2019
League of Education Voters successfully advocated with Investing in Student Potential coalition partners for a one-time special education investment of \$25 million in professional development for educators on inclusive practices.

2020
League of Education Voters work at South Shore PreK-8 led to Multi-Tiered System of Supports [MTSS] teams in every Seattle school.

MTSS in Seattle Public Schools Year Six (2021–22) Highlights: All 104 Seattle schools required to put Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) plans into their public-facing Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP) documents based on increased performance in prior years.

\$25M FOR PD

2019–2024
League of Education Voters successfully advocated with Investing in Student Potential coalition partners to support the creation and sustained funding for the Inclusive Practices Technical Assistance Network (IPTN) to provide professional development and technical assistance support for schools and educators to support inclusive practices

2022
League of Education Voters and partners helped pass House Bill 1664, which added \$90 million in funding for staff who support the physical, social, and emotional health of students, like counselors, nurses, social workers, and more.

HB 1664
\$90M FOR STAFF
FUNDING FOR SUPPORT STAFF

2024
League of Education Voters and partners helped pass House Bill 1541, the Nothing About Us Without Us Act, which ensures representation of underrepresented populations who have direct lived experience with issues being explored on state workgroups, councils, task forces, etc.

HB 1541
REPRESENTATION
NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US ACT

2025
League of Education Voters successfully advocated for \$4 million in continued state budget funding for the Reducing Restraint & Eliminating Isolation (RREI) Project. This initiative supports demonstration and pilot schools that implement best practices that reduce the use of restraint and eliminate isolation in classrooms.

2026
In partnership with CEIRR members, League of Education Voters passed House Bill 1795 to prohibit mechanical and chemical restraints and prevent the construction of future isolation rooms in K–12 schools. This represents an important step toward the longer-term goals of ending the use of isolation and significantly reducing the use of restraint.

POST-SECONDARY

2007
League of Education Voters helped pass and protect the College Bound Scholarship to provide state financial aid to low-income students who may not consider college a possibility due to the cost.

2014
League of Education Voters helped pass the REAL Hope Act (Senate Bill 6523, our state’s version of the Dream Act), allowing qualified undocumented students to apply for federal student aid and participate in the State Need Grant. An additional \$5 million was apportioned for 2014-2015 to serve newly eligible Dreamers.

SB 6523
REAL HOPE ACT
OUR STATES VERSION OF THE DREAM ACT

2019
League of Education Voters worked with partners to help pass the Workforce Education Investment Act (House Bill 2158), which fully funded the State Need Grant, now renamed the Washington College Grant, in the 2020-2021 school year — meaning that every eligible student has access to the funding they need to access postsecondary opportunities.

HB 2158
FULLY FUNDED STATE NEED GRANT
WASHINGTON COLLEGE GRANT

There’s more impact to come, thanks to your continued support!

LUNCHTIME LEVINARS

LEV hosted 15 LEVinars between July 2025 and June 2026. These lunchtime webinars are designed to share information and build knowledge about the issues at the core of LEV’s policy priorities.

JULY 2025

Why Students Need Section 504 Protections in Washington State Law

WATCH

JULY 2025

The Washington state Office of Equity

WATCH

AUGUST 2025

The Association of Washington School Principals’ School Leader Paradigm

WATCH

SEPTEMBER 2025

The Washington School Counselor Association on Strategies for a Successful Start to the School Year

WATCH

OCTOBER 2025

From Promise to Progress: Revisiting Educational Opportunity Gaps in Washington state

WATCH

OCTOBER 2025

School-Led Strategies to Help Washington Students Complete Financial Aid Applications

WATCH

DECEMBER 2025

Bridging the STEM Gap: How Science on Wheels Drives Hands-on Science Learning Across Washington

WATCH

DECEMBER 2025

FutureReady: Modernizing Washington’s High School Diploma for a Changing World

WATCH

JANUARY 2026

What to Expect in the 2026 Washington state Legislative Session

WATCH

FEBRUARY 2026

Washington Thriving: Supporting Child, Youth, and Young Adult Behavioral Health

WATCH

MARCH 2026

Facts vs. Myths: Understanding Washington’s Millionaire’s Tax (Senate Bill 6346)

WATCH

MARCH 2026

2026 Legislative Session Recap: What Washington Students Got and Next Steps

WATCH

APRIL 2026

The Importance of Arts Education

WATCH

MAY 2026

Artificial Intelligence in Education

WATCH

JUNE 2026

Washington state Teachers of the Year on Supporting Students to be Future-Ready

WATCH

[Watch recent or upcoming LEVinars](#) [Watch previous LEVinars](#)

LEV IN THE NEWS

LEV Youth Advocacy Summit will address mental health, advocacy concerns

Carly Johnson Oct 28, 2025

The Gonzaga Bulletin [VIEW](#)

WHAT PARENTS ARE TALKING ABOUT

A critical chance to support homeless students | Op-Ed

A call for lawmakers to guarantee educational access

Seattle’s Child [VIEW](#)

At a unique Seattle town hall, the candidates come to you

Oct. 17, 2025 at 10:00 am | Updated Oct. 17, 2025 at 10:00 am

Seattle Times [VIEW](#)

NEWS

Free webinar Sept. 11: ‘Strategies for a Successful Start to the School Year’

League of Education Voters event open to parents, students and teachers

Seattle’s Child [VIEW](#)

What’s ahead for WA education this legislative session

Jan. 14, 2026 at 6:31 pm | Updated Jan. 14, 2026 at 7:31 pm

Seattle Times [VIEW](#)

TAKE ACTION

15 Seattle parent advocacy groups supporting education

Connecting families to resources for stronger schools

Seattle’s Child [VIEW](#)

EDUCATION

Washington prepares to ‘modernize’ high school graduation requirements

Oregon Public Broadcasting [VIEW](#)

NEWS

Governor signs law against restraint and isolation in schools

Education advocates: ‘More still needs to be done’

Seattle’s Child [VIEW](#)

WHAT PARENTS ARE TALKING ABOUT

Data difficulties complicate WA’s effort to close educational achievement gaps

BY EMILY FITZGERALD - OCTOBER 8, 2025 4:00 AM

Washington State Standard [VIEW](#)

Whidbey teens join in civics summit

Published 1:30 am Friday, February 27, 2026

By Marina Blatt marina.blatt@whidbeynewsgroup.com

Whidbey News-Times [VIEW](#)

Washington schools' new discipline rules spark equity debate

by Deb Knapp

Tue, July 8, 2025 at 1:09 PM

Updated Wed, July 9, 2025 at 10:25 AM

KATU TV via KOMO News [VIEW](#)

Childcare providers rally in Yakima to advocate for universal childcare

ALEXANDER BANKS Yakima Herald-Republic May 11, 2026 0

Yakima Herald [VIEW](#)

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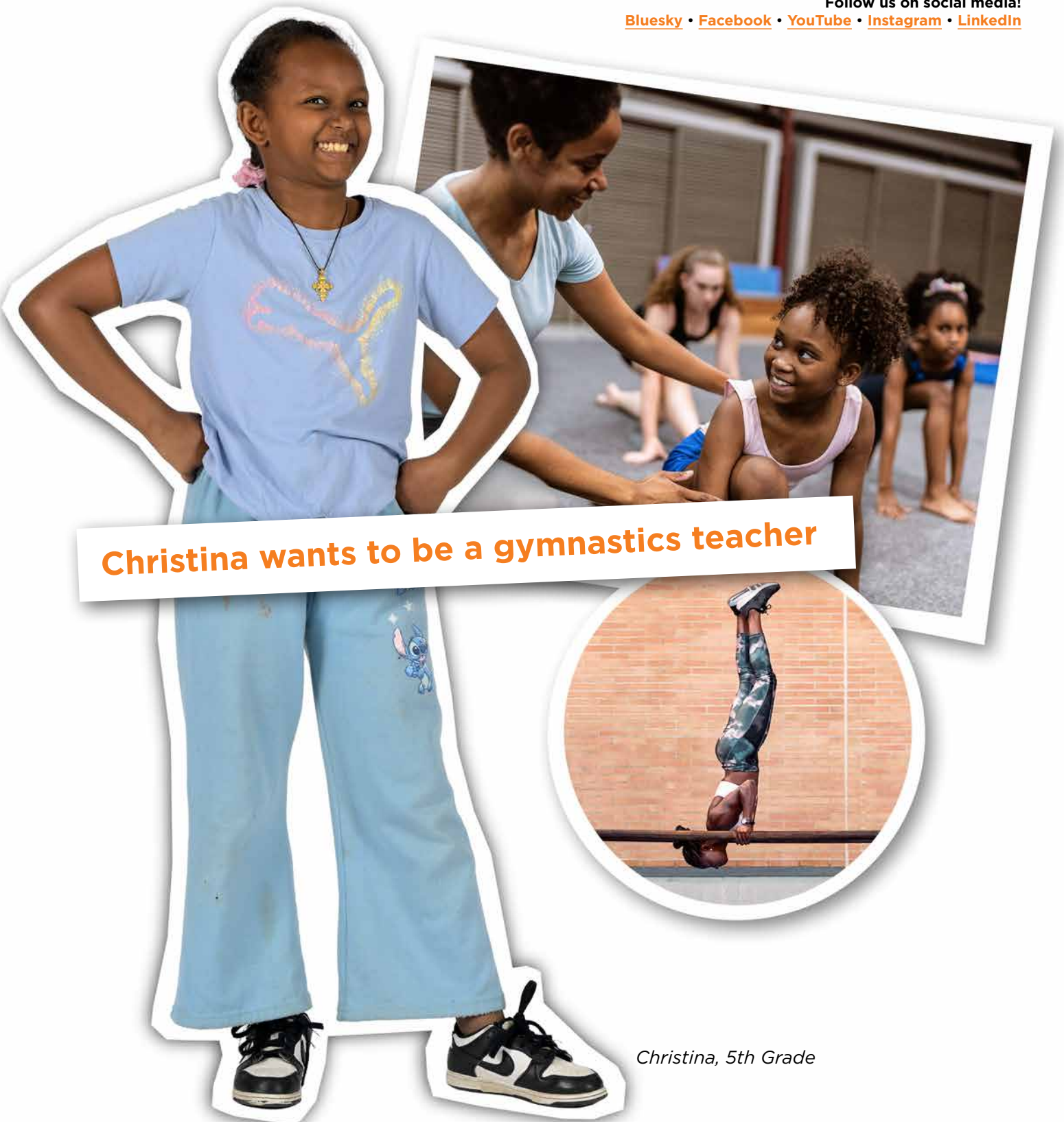
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Christina wants to be a gymnastics teacher

Christina, 5th Grade