



A NOTE FROM THE TEAM

Stand Supporters and Partners,

This past year has been unprecedented to say the least. We at Stand for Children Washington are grateful that amidst so much uncertainty, heartache, political division, and loss, we have also seen markers of progress, waged resistance against hate, experienced our own resilience, and achieved important victories in the fight for policies and investments that improve outcomes for the students who are least well-served by our current system.

Despite and in some cases because of the unique conditions we've navigated, 2021 has been an incredibly impactful year for Stand for Children Washington. Our advocacy strategy to secure funding for policies grounded in research and real-world implementation has resulted in significant progress for students. We worked alongside the Stand-convened High School Success Coalition to defend funding for dual credit equity, protected the college and career ready high school diploma and graduation pathways, and we also helped secure \$3 million in continued investments in the data-based, team-oriented student support model known as the Ninth Grade Success Approach. This work, which in our state is primarily implemented by the Center for High School Success, has been proven to help students stay on-track to graduation during their critical ninth-grade year.

In addition to protecting the investments that serve students furthest from educational justice, we also championed important educational equity policies and deepened our investment in ensuring they are meaningfully and effectively implemented. We passed our signature bill protecting students' access to comprehensive counseling; and supported an

important bill increasing Cultural Competency and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion trainings for educators. We also launched an exciting partnership to co-host a professional learning community for equity-committed district leaders in Washington state who are committed to effective, equitable implementation of the Academic Acceleration policy we championed in 2019.

While focusing on results, we've also prioritized listening. We've been committed to being in right-relationship with students, families, and educators who have struggled to provide meaningful mental health support, social/emotional connection, and identity-affirming learning opportunities to young people amidst a global pandemic. We've helped volunteers amplify and strengthen their voices as advocates, and we've hosted community listening sessions to hear directly from people across the state about what matters most to them when it comes to serving students. The achievements outlined in this report would not have been possible without this community who kept us anchored and dedicated along the way.

As Stand for Children Washington prepares for our 15th anniversary, and on the heels of our national organization's 25th, we continue to be driven by our mission to ensure that every child in our state graduates with a high quality and relevant education, and we remain unwavering in our commitment to racial justice and equitable education policy. We invite you to look ahead with us to the possibilities for progress that 2022 brings!

Sincerely,

Andrew, Katie, Kia, Virginia &
the whole Stand for Children Washington team

OUR IMPACT

PARTNER with parents and other volunteers to support their children's education journey and become strong advocates.



Art created by the children of Stand volunteers submitted for our 2021 celebration.

From left to right:

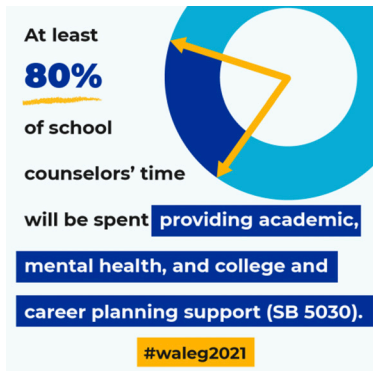
by Selena, age 16
by Marcus, age 4
by Sadeh, age 20

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The shift to virtual gatherings in 2020 meant that our online support for parents and families increased accordingly:
 - We continued our [Parent & Family Newsletter](#) and curated it to cover topics that were based on community feedback.
 - Our whole team pitched in to build high-quality Advocacy Trainings in the fall for community members to learn key storytelling and public speaking skills for use in their future advocacy efforts.
 - This past summer we held a marathon of [listening sessions](#) as part of our Summer Planning Series and followed it with a survey completed by over 100 supporters. Results from both are informing our 2022 priorities.
- In Spokane, we doubled down on our efforts to connect families to the district's resources and policymaking processes:
 - As local educators navigated a year of hybrid learning, we supported [district engagement with the community](#) through monthly listening sessions about racial equity for parents and caregivers of students of color.
 - We held fast to our commitment to support implementation of the Equity Resolution by cultivating parent advocacy during a contentious and impactful [Boundary Change process](#) done by the School Board.
- Stand's Fellows and volunteers (see Devony's Story in our [FY22 Overview](#)) continue to be the bedrock of our organ-izing work in the district:
 - For 2022, we will be expanding our Fellows program to include a Racial Equity Fellow, Cyndi Parris. Cyndi has spent the last year leading the parent listening sessions and [speaking out on their importance](#) in the local press. She also joined with a fellow volunteer to [publish a local op-ed](#) defending the district's work on racial equity.
 - We will continue to offer [information and advocacy support](#) to parents of students in special education through Devony Audet, who also serves on numerous local and statewide committees related to special education in her capacity as a Fellow.
 - Monica Guzman came on as a bilingual Fellow in 2021 and is committed to supporting the needs of Spanish-speaking families in the district in 2022.
- We believe our enhanced digital and virtual community engagement may also have contributed to an increase in individual giving this year, as we celebrated double the individual donors - an increase from 46 contributors in FY2020 to 92 contributors in FY2021.

OUR IMPACT

ADVOCATE at the state and local level for proven policies and funding focused on helping students reach make-or-break milestones.



Legislative work completed by Stand for Children, Inc., our 501(c)(4) partner organization, is not supported by our 501(c)(3) funding. However, some of these achievements pave the way for our implementation work at the school-, district-, agency-, and state levels. Because effective implementation is key in ensuring that students furthest from opportunity are truly beneficiaries of these policies, Stand for Children Leadership Center is committed to supporting robust, equitable implementation of the important legislative shifts that align with our mission.

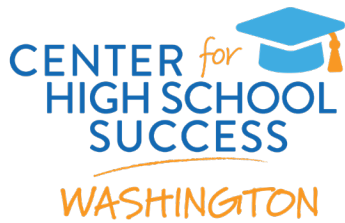
LEGISLATIVE WINS

- We passed [SB 5030](#) (the counseling bill) and ensured that students have access to comprehensive school counseling services in every district in Washington State.
- We secured \$3 million in funding from OSPI to expand the 2019 pilot for [Ninth Grade Success teams](#) and continue the use of this research-backed strategy to support incoming ninth graders and keep them on track to graduation.
- We locked arms with the High School Success Coalition to protect \$9 million in [dual credit funding](#), including free and subsidized course costs for low-income families.
- We [defended](#) the rigor of Washington's 24-credit high school diploma and graduation pathways alongside advocacy partners at Partnership for Learning, Black Education Strategy Roundtable, and Education Reform Now.
- We served as supporters to the organizations that led the push for [SB 5044](#), which ensures that all educators will receive diversity, equity, and inclusion training, and that DEI will be embedded in the existing cultural competency standards.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

- We supported 476 advocates who raised their voices during the session, including:
 - 16 volunteer meetings with key legislators
 - 11 advocate testimonies in committee meetings
 - A letter [signed by 21 educators](#) in support of Ninth Grade Success
 - 5,800 total emails sent to lawmakers
- We generated conversation with earned media before, during, and after the session:
 - Seattle Times Editorial Board endorsements on [1/15/21](#) and [3/29/21](#)
 - Letters to the editor from educators [across the state](#)
 - [Everett Herald](#) coverage of SB 5030
 - Radio story from [KIRO](#) on SB 5030
 - [Spokesman Review](#) op-ed defending SB 5044

THE CENTER FOR HIGH SCHOOL SUCCESS



“This is one of the best team approaches that directly impacts student success that we have done in a very long time.”



“The 9th grade Success Team work is invaluable and has set the stage for how we do business with data at our HS.”



“Even with COVID cutting the year short, we had success. We made an impact. Imagine what we could do with a full normal year and practice under our belts?”

(Quotes excerpted from an OSPI survey of the 2019-20 pilot participants)

- As we learned how the Ninth Grade Success Approach could be adapted to support student needs during the pandemic, the model has proven itself to be increasingly compelling to school and district leaders across Washington State and beyond, leading to an increase in demand during the 2020-21 school year.
 - Washington State-based National Director of the Center for High School Success Kaaren Andrews published a [well-received op-ed](#) in The Hechinger Report detailing the most impactful lessons we learned from supporting districts during the pandemic.
 - Kaaren has also supported OSPI in offering [training](#) on adapting Early Warning Systems approaches to support students in staying on track.
 - Due to increased demand for this support, the Washington CHSS team expanded to include three new coaches over the summer before the 2021-22 school year for a current total of [six team members](#).
 - After starting in 2019-20 with 11 districts, the CHSS WA team grew to 23 districts in 2020-21. As we begin the 2021-22 school year, six new districts have joined CHSS with additional prospective partnerships still in the process of securing their OSPI grants. As of September, CHSS WA will serve at least 34 schools in 23 districts in the 2021-22 school year.
 - Washington State CHSS Director Henterson Carlisle launched the expanded team with a series of two-day Summer Institutes for new partner high schools alongside new staff in key positions at existing partner schools. The training covered the fundamentals of the Ninth Grade Success approach and implementation while providing a springboard for critical initial planning.

ACADEMIC ACCELERATION IMPLEMENTATION

- Building off of Stand’s successful six-year effort to pass the nation’s first statewide Academic Acceleration policy, we are now focusing on ensuring Washington state’s districts are supported on the implementation side. Our Professional Learning Cohort, launching this school year in partnership with [Equal Opportunity Schools](#), will support district leaders who are committed to eliminating systemic barriers to advanced classes for historically underrepresented students.
- We spent the summer reaching out to every district across the state and creating a comprehensive tracking system to identify which districts have already adopted a policy, which are in progress, and which are not yet in compliance with the state law. This fall we’ll be publishing a version of this tracker for districts to access along with case studies of districts with highly successful implementation.
- We are committed to sharing the research and data-based learnings from this cohort. We are working with researchers to draw insights that will be shared in an end-year report, and have signed on as a supporting partner to the [American Institutes for Research](#), who have received a grant to study the effect of Academic Acceleration on postsecondary completion in districts that adopted the policy between 2013 and 2019.

2012 A.A. POLICY CREATED IN FEDERAL WAY



2013 THRU 2018 OSPI GRANT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED

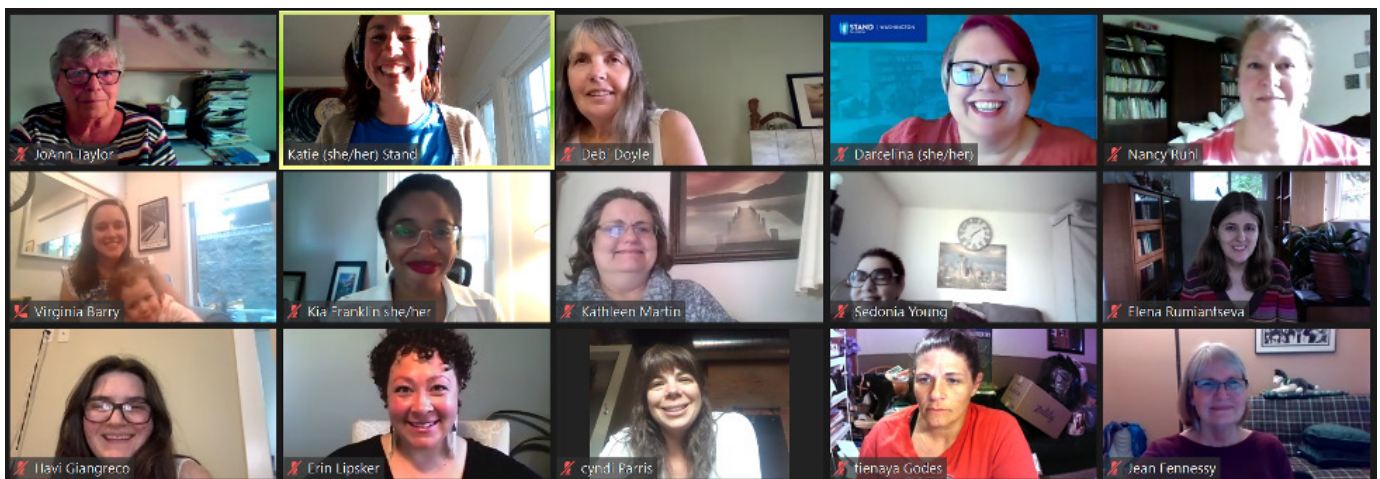


2019 THRU 2021 STATEWIDE REQUIREMENT PASSED



IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAMS (SB 5030)

- We are supporting OSPI in creating guidance on implementation of 5030, so that school districts receive proper support in developing and implementing the comprehensive school counseling program. 5030 requires that districts develop plans that define counselor competencies, mindset and behavior standards, and ethics. Stand is also planning to monitor and track state progress on implementation with an equity lens.



The Stand team celebrated our 2021 accomplishments with volunteers during a virtual party.

OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

- As an organization, the Stand team is committed to our ongoing growth and learning around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Each Stand employee participates in at least four 90-minute staff-facilitated DEI modules on a wide range of topics throughout the year and has many opportunities for further engagement internally and externally. For example, in FY 2021:
 - Our Communications Director **Katie Gustainis** served on Stand's national DEI committee for her second year. She created and facilitated a module about supporting LGBTQ inclusion and contributed to an in-depth review of our employee handbook with a directive to identify how we can combat white supremacy culture in our workplace.
 - Our Operations Manager **Andrew Gottlieb** shared his valuable time and skills with the team at Stand for Children Leadership Center's new [Center for Antiracist Education \(CARE\)](#). He has brought his experience to the Washington affiliate by presenting on CARE to local volunteers and keeping both teams informed on opportunities for collaboration.
 - Our Policy & Government Affairs Manager **Virginia Barry** and Executive Director **Kia Franklin** serve as key members of the Black Joy Consortium, a collaborative community-building space for Washington education organizations committed to achieving racial equity by centering the needs and experiences of black students and families.
- For FY 2022, we remain steadfast in our commitment to DEI and advancing anti-racism. We will honor this commitment by maintaining our participation in the DEI modules, continuing to engage in deeper individual activities, and using a racial equity lens to decide what we support legislatively, with whom we partner, and our strategies for achieving success.

WHAT'S NEXT

In the coming year we are prepared to continue adapting to the ever-shifting landscape of public education in order to elevate the stories, experiences and needs of students who have been overlooked and underserved by our system. We look forward to sharing our wins for students with you again this time next year. Thank you for standing with us and standing up for students, and we look forward to answering any questions you may have.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- [2021-22 Stand for Children Washington Overview](#)
- [2020 Stand for Children Inc. Annual Report](#)
- [2019 Stand for Children Inc. Annual Report](#)
- [2019 Stand for Children Washington Annual Report](#)

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