

7/29/19 COW Public Comment

We are writing to respectfully express our strong disappointment with the King County Council's latest draft striking motion for Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account (PSTAA) funding allocations. As it stands now, the Council's Committee of the Whole's plan to adopt this latest motion on Monday, July 29th, will result in substantial under investment in our vulnerable students, especially those who are youth of color.

We are united in our conviction that the proposed allocation of less than ten percent of PSTAA funding for community-based responses educating vulnerable students in King County to close the educational achievement gap is completely insufficient and unacceptable. We believe there are still elements in this latest draft striking motion that continue to perpetuate racial bias and inequities.

We have met with Councilmembers who have demonstrated deep concern and interest for our vulnerable students. We provided education on how the different people of color-led organizations in the community are successfully helping and shaping lives of young people. We shared strong research evidence of the effectiveness of this approach. We have also shown, through our large scale presence at four Committee of the Whole meetings of the County Council and spoken with words, signs, and our diverse presence. All of this to urge Council that if it is committed to addressing the needs of vulnerable students -who are disproportionately students of color - **then Council must invest in communities of color directly.**

We have repeatedly stated that it is unacceptable that the Council is continuing to place the majority of its investments in the institutional approaches that have not always delivered to our youth. Despite our best efforts the draft striking released this past Thursday does the following:

- Allocates less than ten percent of total PSTAA funding to community-directed work through community-based organizations – this is an under-investment especially for youth of color;
- Only focuses on communities of color-based organizations and strategies for a fraction of the community-directed work; and
- Appears to subordinate all the community-based work to the King County Promise strategy, which is an institutional strategy guided by large, mainstream organizations.

We will be satisfied with a minimum of 10% of total PSTAA funding dedicated to community of color organizations engaged in positive cultural identity work. Additional funds can be found from the 10% the Council has proposed for evaluation, administration, and capacity building; this percentage is too high given the BSK infrastructure that is already in place; we think it should be reduced to 2 - 3%.

Additionally, we are requesting that the Striker language be clarified in some places where it is ambiguous:

- What is the relationship between the CBO funding and the Promise work? Is the CBO work subordinate to, and governed by the decision making process in place for the revised Promise proposal? We think the CBO funding should be independent, governed only by the County Exec's implementation.

- Is the 40% of Promise funding intended for post-secondary transitions all part of the Promise proposal? Will any of that funding be available for CBOs to do non-Promise work?
- Which funds must be matched? Does the matching requirement extend to the CBO work?

Based on our analysis of the Council's proposed action for Monday, we find it necessary for the public good that **we request a vote of the Committee of the Whole be delayed** and that Council return to the negotiating table to integrate a more comprehensive racial equity analysis of educational opportunity gaps and proven, equity-based strategies for addressing them.

We fully understand that time is of the essence in determining how to spend PSTAA funds. In retrospect, the County would've benefited from a more robust racial equity analysis. We regret that we are here today to oppose the Council moving this issue forward. Our community and organizations are united in our opposition to the Council for not fully investing in people of color-led institutions to address the racial equity gap in youth achievement.

Communities and schools working together will create the most optimal outcomes for our youth. This type of hand-in-hand partnership embedded in the strengths of the communities to which these youth belong will create solutions that stand the test of time, transform systems fundamentally to produce different and better results, and deeply integrate racial equity into every phase of analysis, planning, intervention design, implementation, and evaluation.

In summary, we oppose the proposed PSTAA striking motion on the basis that it does not equitably address the needs of vulnerable students of color, does not sufficiently invest in community of color-led strategies and organizations to support these students, and that the County's racial equity analysis is limited. We will be satisfied with a minimum of 10% of total PSTAA funding dedicated to community of color organizations engaged in positive cultural identity work.

We insist the Council delay the COW vote on the striker until a more racially equitable proposal, clarified, and developed.

Sincerely,

(Please see next page)



EDUCATION WITH PURPOSE
FOUNDATION
for
PACIFIC ISLANDERS



*Together We Can
Climb Higher*

Falis Community Services





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dedicated to the needs of diverse families who have loved ones with developmental disabilities and special health care needs

POWERFUL VOICES



United Way of King County

Questions? Contact:
 Dawn Rains, Treehouse, 206-200-6526
 Remy Trupin, Consultant, 206-661-8785

EDUCATION OUTCOMES FOR KING COUNTY CHILDREN & YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, FOSTER CARE OR THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

	Peer Population ¹	Named Population
Early Learning	46% met kindergarten readiness standards in all six domains	25% of children experiencing homelessness met kindergarten readiness standards in all six domains ² 29% of children in foster care met kindergarten readiness standards in all six domains ²
K-12	80% graduation rate statewide	55% graduation rate for youth experiencing homelessness ² 41% graduation rate for youth in foster care ² 21-28% graduation rate for youth involved in the juvenile justice system ³
Post-Secondary	55% enrolled in a 2 or 4 year higher education institution within 2 years of high school graduation 16% earned a 4-year college degree by their mid-20s	37% of students experiencing homelessness were enrolled ² 36% of youth in foster care were enrolled ² Fewer than 3% of students who experienced foster care earned a 4-year college degree by their mid-20s ⁴

¹ <http://www.k12.wa.us/DataAdmin/Dropout-Grad.aspx>

² <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/reports/FosterHomelessEducation.pdf>.

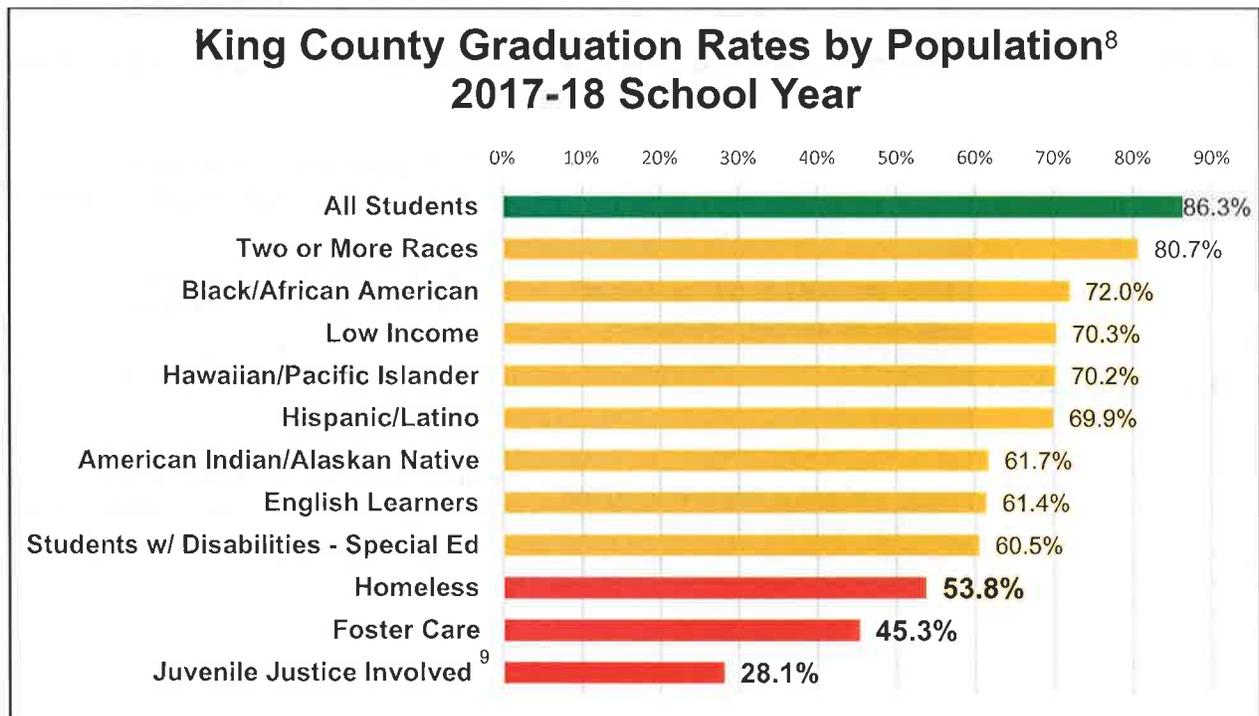
³ <https://erdc.wa.gov/publications/justice-program-outcomes/juvenile-justice-standardized-report>

⁴ https://caseyfamilypro-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/media/AlumniStudies_NW_Report_FR.pdf

THE PSTAA NAMED POPULATIONS BY THE NUMBERS

Every year, more than 12,000 King County children and youth experience foster care, homelessness, or are involved in the juvenile justice system.

- There are around **1,550 children and youth in foster care/out-of-home care** in King County on any given day. About **41% of those children are under five years of age**. At least **50% are children and youth of color**.⁵
- There were **9,500 students experienced homelessness** in King County's public K-12 school system in the 2016-17 school year. 65% were grades K-8 & 35% were grades 9-12. **82% of students experiencing homelessness in King County were students of color**.⁶
- On average, **46 youth** are in King County Juvenile Detention **each day** over a year. **82% are youth of color**.⁷



⁵ <https://partnersforourchildren.org/data>

⁶ <https://schoolhousewa.org/data/dashboards/local-data-and-outcomes/>

⁷ <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/zero-youth-detention/dashboard.aspx>

⁸ <http://www.k12.wa.us/DataAdmin/Dropout-Grad.aspx>

⁹ <https://erdc.wa.gov/publications/justice-program-outcomes/juvenile-justice-standardized-report>

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Jessica Werner Testimony, Committee of the Whole, 7/29/19

Greetings King County Council Members,

I'm Jessica Werner, Executive Director for YDEKC, a coalition of more than 100 youth serving organizations.

We want to thank you for the fair and deliberate process that you have gone through over the past few years to decide the best use of the PSTAA funds.

The framework you establish now will have bearing across nearly a generation of young people in our communities, and we believe its essential that you support children and youth across the continuum from early learning through college.

Early learning gains are virtually eliminated by third grade if there are not ongoing supports provided to young learners during their school years. Kids spend nearly 80 percent of their waking hours NOT in school while they are attending Kindergarten through High School

A Harvard based policy research group called Opportunity Insights released a report just last week that reiterated that "Investment in children and youth through young adulthood (early 20s) results in continued benefits. Government Policies "to target children throughout their middle school years, high school years, all the way into college, have had quite high returns, if not higher returns than some of the most positive preschool programs."

On the current Striker before you, while we would love to see explicit language for 33% of funds to K-12 ages, we appreciate that the supports for K12-aged youth are included in the Promise "bucket", and respectfully request that you ensure all K-12 resources are available to Community Based organizations that support "young people from" high poverty schools.

We request that within the 55% going to early learning facilities, please add back language for "mixed use, multipurpose facilities, including licensed school-aged programs."

Additionally, we believe that taking 10% of funds off the top for infrastructure and evaluation is too high of a percentage, and ought to be decreased to 5 percent with intention of leveraging the infrastructure established at the County already to deliver on Best Starts for Kids and other efforts.

Finally, The Children and Youth Advisory Board (CYAB) was created to provide advisory support and oversight to the Council and Executive on matters related to children and youth. The CYAB should be explicitly named as an advisory body to the PSTAA efforts.

Thank you for your time.