

# The Washington State Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds: Strategic Priorities



**VISION:** We envision a public education system that dismantles racism, ableism, and other marginalization to support every student's dreams for the future.

We value our independence, anti-racist values, and responsiveness to communities. We will learn as a team from families, students, and communities and promote this vision.

**MISSION**

We work with families, communities, and schools to address problems together so that every student can fully participate and thrive in Washington's K-12 public schools.

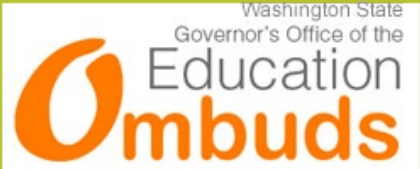
**OUR ROLES**

Listen to concerns and address questions about the K-12 public education system

Use informal conflict resolution tools to support collaborative problem-solving and promote education justice

Provide coaching, facilitation, and training about family and community engagement and systems advocacy

Collect data and identify trends to guide our education policy recommendations



## Strategic Priorities

**Informal Conflict Resolution**

OEO assists anyone with questions or concerns about Washington's K-12 public schools. We can provide you with information, referrals, toolkits, and other resources.

OEO's legislative mission is to reduce opportunity gaps. Our strategic plan prioritizes reducing the opportunity gap by focusing our limited conflict resolution resources, such as informal mediation and coaching, on K-12 students who are:

- Out of school, including students with disabilities receiving partial school days
- People of color, Black, or indigenous
- Experiencing homelessness
- In kinship or foster care
- Involved with the juvenile justice or juvenile rehabilitation systems
- Immigrant, refugee, asylee, or migrant, or students or families whose primary language(s) is not English
- Receiving Wraparound with Intensive Services (WiSe) or Children's Long Term Inpatient Programs (CLIP) supports, or
- Transgender or Nonbinary Youth

Strategies:

*Proactively build relationships with families, students, and communities seeking education justice in schools to listen and learn from their experiences and strengths*

*Create more online tools to answer common questions outside our direct intervention priorities*

*Identify opportunities to create systemic change through the individual concerns brought to us*

**Outreach**

Our outreach priorities reflect the communities prioritized in our conflict resolution. We will also create materials and tools for issues outside our strategic plan to empower families, students, and educators in collaborating.

Strategies:

*Collaborate with community, family, student, and educator organizations, as well as government agencies, to co-host events and workshops*

*Deepen ongoing relationships with organizations and family and student groups, while also increasing statewide awareness about OEO*

*Use powerful storytelling to share family and student experiences with educators, policymakers, and other families and communities*

**Policy Advocacy**

We will identify and create opportunities to promote racial justice, disability and mental health justice, and language access in the school system. We will bring student, family, and community perspectives and concerns to policy discussions and decisions.

Strategies:

*Collaborate with community organizations, families, and students to combat racism, ableism, and other forms of oppression*

*Learn from and be led by the community, family, and student perspectives most often left out of policymaking*

*Use our leadership roles on workarounds to advocate for family and student voice*