

The Youth Wisdom Council (YWC) is an internship opportunity with Puget Sound Educational Service District (PSESD) that was created for Youth of Color to further the goal of racial equity in the school districts and colleges within PSESD's service area.

*The Youth Wisdom Council aims to:*

- Support schools, districts and PSESD to elevate Youth of Color voice and leadership across the region.
- Increase Youth of Color voice and engagement across district and college decision-making tables.
- Build institutional capacity for valuing the time, space and opportunity for Youth of Color voice and leadership.
- Strengthen and sustain connections with Youth of Color-centered communities.

The work of the Youth Wisdom Council is youth-led with support and resources provided by Puget Sound Educational Service District staff: Angelica Alvarez, *Director, Student & Family Centered Improvement Initiatives*.

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## **Aspirations**

When working with the Youth Wisdom Council, members will be engaged in the brainstorming and development process of the evolution and sustainability of our work. Youth will be able to come up with ideas, projects, and policies within the various fields of focus they choose, such as social media, recruitment and engagement, community conversations, and more. Every skill and piece of insight from youth will be valued and contributes to the goals of the Puget Sound Educational Service District.

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## **Benefits of Working with the Youth Wisdom Council**

Youth Wisdom Council interns will have a direct impact in their schools, colleges and community. In addition, they gain teamwork and leadership skills, and build strong relationships with their peers. Interns are paid \$16.28/hour for their wisdom and experience.

## **Application**

If you are between the ages of 14-26, living in South King County, and passionate about race, educational justice, and Youth of Color leadership and are interested in joining the Youth Wisdom Council, please complete the following [brief application](#).

*Additional questions?*

Please contact Angelica Alvarez ([aalvarez@psed.org](mailto:aalvarez@psed.org)).

# Current Projects

Members will be involved in at least one of the many projects listed below.

## Learning & Action Convenings

Members of the Youth Wisdom Council have been involved in the collaborative creation and session facilitation for **Elevating Youth of Color Voice and Leadership** with educators and district officials.

These sessions aim to elevate the leadership and voices of Youth of Color in and across the seven Road Map school districts.

## Equity in Education

Equity in Education is the PSESD department responsible for the professional development related to racial equity, providing input to PSESD about our own internal Equitable practices, and diversifying the Educator workforce. You will have the opportunity to support the Equity in Education department by serving as the Youth Advisory to the Educators of Color Leadership Community, supporting the online community of educators of color in our region.

## Community Conversations

Each year, the Road Map Improvement Collaborative creates a research report that encapsulates Youth of Color voice on topics regarding diversity, education and inclusivity. In order to create the report and collect youth voices, Youth Wisdom Council members reach out to youth and conduct Community Conversations. YWC Members also analyze and organize the collected data as well as compile the research report.

**Community Conversations 2022: Cultivating a Racially Diverse & Thriving Educator Community in South King County**

## King County Promise

King County Promise (KCP) is a public-private partnership engaging King County K12 districts, Community Based Organizations (CBO), and Community and Technical Colleges (CTC) to develop a comprehensive student support model, supporting historically underserved young people to obtain postsecondary credentials. The Puget Sound College and Career Network (PSCCN) is a K-12 partnership working within the PSESD that is supporting the work of King County Promise partnerships. Youth Wisdom Council Members will help collaborate and co-design key aspects of King County Promise with PSCCN and other Promise partners.

## Strengthening the Youth Wisdom Council

We work to develop recruitment, engagement, and leadership strategies for the Youth Wisdom Council. One such focus is to create an inventory (and ultimately bridges between) youth voice and leadership groups across the PSESD service region.

The Youth Wisdom Council has also created its own Instagram page, which is run by youth for youth, and plans to create more such as Twitter and Facebook. The "Social Media Crew" works on creating promotional material, highlighting the Council's work, and making sure to frequently update YWC's social media platforms.

[www.instagram.com/pesedywc/](https://www.instagram.com/pesedywc/)