

Puget Sound Educational Service District (PSESD) develops and delivers an array of services that provide instructional and administrative support to early learning (prenatal through K entry), pre-K through postsecondary schools, and direct service to students and families in the Puget Sound region.

OUR END

We co-create just and humanizing educational communities where every student thrives and succeeds, benefiting future generations.

WHO WE SERVE

King and Pierce counties, as well as Bainbridge Island

PSESD Region (2025–26)

- 35 school districts, nine charter schools, and two state-tribal compact schools
- 424,562 K–12 public school students*
- Over 4,500 early learners (Early Head Start, Head Start and ECEAP models)
- 267 private schools serving 48,393 students**
- 39% of Washington’s K–12 public school students*
- 62% of the K–12 students we serve are students of color*

WHO WE ARE

- One of nine Educational Service Districts (ESDs) in Washington state
- Governed by a nine-member ESD board elected by local school directors. Additionally, there are 4 appointed student representatives and 2 appointed parent representatives who act in an advisory capacity.
- Led by Dr. Gustavo Balderas, superintendent of PSESD
- Employs over 350 year-round staff (administrators, educators, and support personnel), and approximately 130 additional staff, which includes interpreters, bilingual instructional assistants, site substitutes, expanded learning

after-school coordinators, and program interns.

- Manages multiple locations, with the main office headquartered in Renton, Washington
- Reaches students, families, teachers and educators across Washington state

PSESD programs, services, and job opportunities are open to all regardless of race, sex, or other protected classes.

* Source: OSPI. (2025). *Report card*. reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/

** Source: State Board of Education. (2025). *Private schools*. sbe.wa.gov/our-work/private-schools

WHAT WE DO

We coordinate more than 100 programs in King and Pierce counties and Bainbridge Island and manage regional initiatives.

OUR SERVICES AND INITIATIVES

Learning, Teaching and Family Support

We provide professional development, programs, and resources that support educator effectiveness and student success from pre-K through postsecondary. Our early learning program serves infants, young children, and families across the region.

Equity in Education

Equity in Education supports, mentors, and coaches educators and administrators to teach and lead with equity and cultural responsiveness. Through strategic planning and ongoing partnerships, we build an ecosystem of support that addresses equity in schools and across interconnected education and community systems, helping to create affirming and inclusive school environments for students, families, and communities.

Administrative and Management Services

Provides strategic leadership and interagency cooperatives to support all aspects of school, administrative, business, finance, communications, evaluation, policy, transportation and human resources functions.

Puget Sound College and Career Network (PSCCN)

PSCCN removes barriers so that students of color, first-generation students, and students impacted by poverty in the Puget Sound region have the opportunity and support to access and obtain postsecondary credentials. We build regional capacity to increase equitable postsecondary readiness and completion across South King

County and Pierce County by working with students, educators, community organizations, schools, districts, colleges, and statewide organizations to organize strategies, programming and supports.

Superintendents Advocating for and Valuing Education

The superintendents of the 35 school districts and two tribal schools in the Puget Sound region are united as Superintendents Advocating for and Valuing Education (SAVE). PSESD serves as the convener of this group.

Educare Seattle

Educare Seattle is a comprehensive early learning program based in White Center, serving children from birth to age five who face barriers to accessing high-quality learning. Educare serves as a community hub and early learning knowledge model for our region.

Cultivating a Diverse and Thriving Educator Workforce

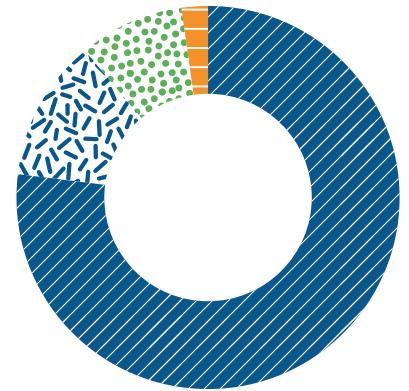
PSESD hosts multiple initiatives to recruit, retain, and sustain educators who reflect the communities we serve. As a regional convener of the LEADER initiative, a statewide initiative affiliated with College Spark, we help to align community priorities, teacher preparation programs, and school districts around the goal of diversifying the educator workforce. We support a variety of regional convenings intended to strengthen the district capacity to recruit community members to become teachers, to retain and support their current educators of color, and to improve measurement systems to better track the impact of our efforts. Our regional Educators of Color Leadership Community and Regional Executive Leaders of Color provide supportive spaces for educators of color at all stages of their journey.

Safety and Threat Assessment Cooperatives

The PSESD Safety and Threat Assessment Cooperatives strengthen safety, social-emotional, and threat-assessment services in school communities across the region through high-quality training, networking, and coordination opportunities that are culturally responsive and trauma informed.

OUR FUNDING

Less than two percent of our funding comes from a state allocation. Our programs are funded primarily by entrepreneurial means. We apply for and receive competitive state, federal and private grants. We also operate cooperatives among schools and other agencies, that are supported through membership fees.



	Contracts and Grants	77%
	Services and Fees	12%
	Trust and Pool	9%
	State Allocation	2%



psesd.org

