SENATE BILL REPORT
SB 5992

As of January 19, 2026

Title: An act relating to creating the youth development fund account to increase access to positive youth development programs.

Brief Description: Creating the youth development fund account to increase access to positive youth development programs.

Sponsors: Senators Krishnadasan, Chapman, Hasegawa, Liias, Nobles, Riccelli, Trudeau and Wilson, C..

Brief History:
Committee Activity: Early Learning & K-12 Education: 1/21/26.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Creates a non-appropriated, youth development fund account.
- Authorizes the Superintendent of Public Instruction to distribute grant funding from the account to certain entities to support youth development programs.
- Defines youth development programs and specifies prioritization requirements for the grant funding.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

Staff: Ailey Kato (786-7434)

Background: State law provides the board of directors of any school district the authority to establish and maintain preschools and to provide before-and-after school and vacation care.

In 2007, the Washington Community Learning Center program was established to support

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the creation or expansion of these centers to provide students with tutoring and educational enrichment when school is not in session. Subject to appropriations, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) may provide grants to public or private organizations that meet the eligibility criteria of the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program.

OSPI oversees the administration of the federal grant, Title IV Part B, which funds 21st century programs. According the U.S. Department of Education, Washington State has received approximately $20 million per fiscal year. According to OSPI, beginning July 1, 2025, it decided to not exercise authority to renew grants based on previous performance but to award funds to eligible entities through a competitive application process.

In 2017, the Washington Academic, Innovation, and Mentoring Program was established to enable eligible neighborhood youth development entities to provide out-of-school time programs for youth ages 6 to 18 that include educational services, social-emotional learning, mentoring, and linkages to positive, prosocial leisure, and recreational activities. According to an annual report, one entity received funding for this program from fiscal year 2020 to 2025. This funding was removed in the 2025-27 operating budget.

In 2021, an operating budget proviso directed the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to convene a work group to assess and provide recommendations for creating new infrastructures and funding streams that support youth development. The work group included representatives from community-based organizations providing youth development programs, including expanded learning, mentoring, school age child care, and wrap around supports and integrated student supports. The work group recommended creating an advisory council to create a youth development state structure and providing additional state funding to youth development providers.

Summary of Bill: A non-appropriated youth development fund account, which retains its own interest, is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from gifts, grants, or endowments from public or private sources, federal funds, any appropriations made by the Legislature, or other sources for the specified purpose of the account must be deposited in the account. Only the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) may authorize expenditures from the account, subject to allotment procedures.

SPI or a designee may distribute grants from the account to nonprofit entities, entities sponsored by a nonprofit organization, tribes within Washington State, and city or county parks and recreation entities to support youth development programs. School districts and educational service districts may be eligible to apply for grants only when they are partnering with community-based organizations or when no such nonprofit programs exist in their location.

Youth development programs may include, but are not limited to, programs that provide:

- learning acceleration;

- social-emotional learning;
- mentorship;
- connection to relevant resources outside of schools;
- support related to postsecondary access and career pathways;
- arts, STEM, and sports-based programming;
- outdoor education;
- youth civic engagement; or
- cultural programming.

When authorizing these expenditures, SPI must prioritize:

- geographic distribution of grant funding in an equitable manner throughout all nine educational service district regions of the state giving priority to geographies where young people have the least access to youth development opportunities based on available data; and
- supporting youth from groups that have historically not met academic standards, are more at risk of dropout, and have lower than average graduation rates; youth in foster care; youth experiencing homelessness; and youth living in poverty.

Any entity receiving grants must annually report the impacts of this funding to OSPI.

"Youth development program" means a program that serves youth between the ages of 5 to 24 and focuses on holistic outcomes by complementing school-day academics. A youth development program may include mentoring, expanded learning opportunities, after school or summer programs, school-aged child care, or other child supports that address the comprehensive needs of young people.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 14, 2026.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: The bill contains several effective dates. Please refer to the bill.