

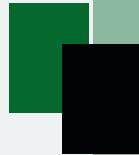


WASHINGTON ALLIANCE
FOR BETTER SCHOOLS

IMPACT REPORT 2024-25



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Throughout our 2024-25 program year, we were able to both deepen and broaden our impact in Washington. We consistently heard how much students, families, and educators appreciate the opportunities for direct employer connection that our programs bring to their learning experiences. As a foundational component of our programs, we are dedicated to facilitating **strong connections between employers and our school communities** and providing the **best resources about careers and career pathways**.

We are honored that, for the past 30 years, we have built a track record of strategic success, continuing the exploration-to-employment pathway into top fields in our region, and this year's impact continues to demonstrate the forward momentum.

IMPACT OVERVIEW

11,500+
STUDENTS

1150+
VOLUNTEERS

30,391
PARTICIPANTS

207
SCHOOLS

10,104
VOLUNTEER HOURS

INSPIRING ELEMENTARY STUDENTS: STEM4GOOD

At the start of WABS' career-connected learning continuum are hands-on experiences for elementary students that spark curiosity and lay the foundation for future career exploration. The **STEM4Good** program empowers the next generation of entrepreneurs, scientists, engineers, and problem-solvers through **STEM learning** for students in grades 3-5.

A session of STEM4Good consists of 90-minute classes after school once a week for 4-weeks, with sessions offered multiple times per year, facilitated by industry volunteers. Guided by over **200 local industry volunteers** from leading companies such as Boeing and McKinstry, a unique feature of the program is its focus on building process-thinking skills through engaging, civically-minded hands-on STEM challenges co-designed with industry partners.

STUDENT IMPACT

2,428 STUDENTS SERVED

After participating in STEM4Good:

- **85%** of students are interested in learning more about STEM
- **88%** felt that the program helped them learn that their ideas are important
- **92%** would recommend the program to a friend or students at other schools
- **93%** would participate in STEM4Good again



EXPLORING FUTURE CAREERS FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLERS: CAREER TOURS

As they grow, older learners take the learning directly to employer locations. Middle and high school are critical times for students to start building their networks and learn more about the types of careers available and how to get there.

Career Tours is an **immersive career readiness program** that takes students out of their classrooms and into the offices, labs, meeting rooms, production areas, and factory floors of local employers across a wide range of sectors. Through interactive employee-led experiences and hands-on activities, students increase their knowledge of an industry, connect with employees, learn about career pathways and the steps to get there, and make connections between classroom learning and the world of work.

“The most memorable part about this tour was probably speaking to the people that work here and hearing their story to give me more insight on what they’ve been through and how they overcame obstacles.”

- Career Tour student, The Boeing Company

STUDENT IMPACT

3,347 STUDENTS SERVED

After participating in Career Tours:

- **95%** of students acquired new knowledge about careers and jobs
- **95%** learned about a variety of jobs/careers
- **90%** increased their knowledge about educational pathways



CAREER PATHWAY EXPERIENCES

SOUND CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE

For the last three years, Sound Careers in Healthcare, an expo-style event with over 300 local healthcare partners, has motivated students to **visualize a healthcare career** through hands-on demonstrations and mini-networking interviews in an accessible, engaging environment. Our goal is to spark interest where healthcare needs exist.

CAREER LAUNCH

When a career has piqued a student's interest, there can be an opportunity to step onto the pathway for a specific track through **Career Launch** initiatives. These are limited intensive opportunities, but end with an opportunity for an inside track to full-time, sustainable careers and completion of an industry-recognized credential just a couple of years after high school. Partner companies include T-Mobile, Fred Hutch Cancer Centers, Providence, and the Boeing Company.

STUDENT IMPACT

670 STUDENTS SERVED

After attending Sound Careers in Healthcare:

- **99%** are more aware of healthcare career choices
- **78%** are more likely to pursue a healthcare career
- **85%** listed actionable next steps to pursue their career area of interest



EDUCATORS' PIVOTAL ROLE: TEACH2CONNECT

Educators are influential in a student's academic success, playing a foundational role in supporting students as they explore and learn how to prepare for career and post-secondary pathways. Teach2Connect is a **professional development program for educators** that equips them with the tools and strategies to bridge classroom learning with real-world challenges and careers, empowering students to see clear pathways from education to careers and the impact they can have.

By pairing educators with industry mentors, Teach2Connect builds educators' skills and capacity to create powerful learning experiences for students connected to the world of work. Through the program, educators and their mentors co-design a curriculum unit that they then teach in the classroom, integrating workforce learning and providing students with concrete examples of why they are learning specific content and skills.

"I was able to more easily connect concepts we were discussing in class with true real-world examples students had experienced on the [Career Tour]."
- Educator, Teach2Connect

PROGRAM IMPACT

25 EDUCATORS & 3,750 STUDENTS SERVED

A participating educator impacts over 150 students each year, extending program impact.

After participating in Teach2Connect:

- 100% of educators plan to incorporate career-connected learning elements into their courses
- 95% are more aware of career opportunities for students
- 95% are more confident in supporting students' career pathways



FAMILIES' CRITICAL IMPACT: NATURAL LEADERS

Enhancing family leadership and fostering strong family-school partnerships is one of the best ways to support students in pursuing a future that aligns with their dreams. Taking a holistic approach that leverages family and community strengths, our Natural Leaders program partners with families furthest from opportunity - including immigrant and refugee families, families of color, and low-income families - to break down barriers to postsecondary access and help them support their students' success in school and beyond.

The program starts with a four-week Natural Leaders Academy, which equips parents with skills to understand, support, and navigate their students through the K-12 education system; develops leadership and advocacy skills for their school community; and deepens families' understanding of the types of opportunities that support post-secondary success. Families also engage in career-connected learning to help their children discover, plan, and access an educational pathway in K-12 and postsecondary to achieve their students' career goals.

PROGRAM IMPACT

17,200 PARENTS & FAMILY MEMBERS

Natural Leaders Academy participants:

- 98% feel more prepared to engage with their child's school
- 93% feel more prepared to engage with other families at their child's school
- 97% are more interested in being involved at their child's school



MISSION

Washington Alliance for Better Schools (WABS) leads a partnership of school districts, industry, and community dedicated to ensuring students furthest from opportunity can pursue a future that embraces their strengths, passions, and dreams.

VISION

Equity in every school.
Opportunity for every student.

