

Information from Our Partners

Updates from DSHS Developmental Disabilities Administration

Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is Washington state's lead agency providing long-term care services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the lifespan, and they value your partnership.

DSHS deeply values and appreciates the time and effort schools and school partners invest in:

- Sharing information with students and families about DD services, including [how and why to apply](#).
- Offering transition age students and their families the opportunity to [consent to share student information with state transition agencies](#), including DSHS (DDA and DVR) and County Developmental Disabilities programs.
- Providing copies of special education evaluation reports and other records with [information relevant to a DDA eligibility determination](#) when requested as part of a DDA intake packet.
- Collaborating through a wraparound approach to support students with more complex needs.

For quick access to frequently requested information, please visit, bookmark and share DDA's [Information for Educators](#) landing page.

Schools are one of families' primary sources for information and connections. DSHS created the [Information for Educators](#) landing page to make it easier to find information about DDA and reach out if you have any questions.

You can contact the regional Intake and Eligibility team through email or phone (with contact details listed on our [How to Enroll in DDA](#) page). You can contact a local DDA office, with contact information posted on our [DDA Office Locator](#) page.

Webinar Series: Uncovering the Past. Building the Future

September 3, 2026 | October 1, 2026 | November 5, 2026

The Arc of King County is offering a webinar series that will explore how disability history continues to shape contemporary practices, policies, and perspectives. Across three webinars, participants will examine how 19th- and 20th-century ideas about race and gender influenced current understandings of developmental disabilities; how race and racism have shaped the experiences of children in special education; and how disabled activists and activists with disabilities have challenged the interconnected systems of ableism, racism, and sexism.

Together, we will analyze how these historical legacies continue to influence present-day policies and practices and consider strategies for addressing ongoing inequities. Participants will



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have the opportunity to engage with and learn alongside our speakers through presentations, questions, and discussion.

Topics will include the ways disability history has shaped participants' experiences—both positively and negatively—and how we can work collectively to build a more just, equitable, and accessible world.

The webinar series will be held on the following dates and times:

- **September 3, 2026 12:00 PM**
- **October 1, 2026 12:00 PM**
- **November 5, 2026 12:00 PM**

All sessions are virtual and clock hours are available. To register and learn more about the series, visit [The Arc of King County](#).

Leading Inclusive Schools: 2026–27 Community of Practice

Calling early career principals and administrator interns! WA CEEDAR and Lead IDEA are offering the 2026–27 Washington Leading Inclusive Schools Community of Practice, designed to help emerging school leaders strengthen inclusive systems and improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

Participants will engage in five virtual learning sessions throughout the school year, each focused on a key aspect of inclusive leadership—from intersecting needs and change management to MTSS, and inclusive IEPs. Sessions will feature Washington leader preparation faculty and OSPI leaders and include practical application and collaborative problem-solving.

The Community of Practice (CoP) will also include the Leading Inclusive Schools Conference on May 15, 2027.

First session: September 24, 2026, 7:30–8:15 a.m. PT

Audience: Early career principals and current administrator interns

[View this form to learn more and register.](#)

Together We Thrive: 2-Day Community Event

September 12–13, 2026 | 10am–5pm | Talley High School - Seattle

Join And Still We Rise and community partners for two days created for families, students, educators, and community members.

Together, we will explore practical tools and resources that support student belonging, family advocacy, wellness, inclusive education, and stronger connections between schools and communities.

Participants can look forward to family learning, wellness resources, educator professional learning, community partners, student activities, outdoor recreation, food, and opportunities to connect.

Registration is free. [Complete this form](#) to register and learn more.

WA-AIM Readiness: WA-AIM 1% Participation Cap, Training Updates, and Weekly Grab & Go Sessions

WA-AIM 1% Participation Cap and Eligibility Presentations

Districts who exceeded the 1% participation cap received notification letters in September. In October, OSPI is offering four opportunities to learn about the WA-AIM 1% Participation Cap and eligibility criteria. Sessions will include information on eligibility criteria, federal requirements, and changes to the justification process. These sessions are open for any district to attend.

October 1 at 2:00 p.m. | [Microsoft Teams Link](#)

October 7 at 7:30 a.m. | [Microsoft Teams Link](#)

October 13 at 12:00pm | [Microsoft Teams Link](#)

October 19 at 3:00 p.m. | [Microsoft Teams Link](#)

October 28 at 8:30 a.m. | [Microsoft Teams Link](#)

WA-AIM Training

Annual Test Administrator training for WA-AIM has been moved to Canvas. Districts are still welcome to use the OSPI training videos located on Canvas for district-level training, but all Test Administrators completing training independently will need to complete training through the Canvas Course. OSPI will post a list of completers in Washington Assessment Management System (WAMS) weekly beginning in November.

There are three components to the training.

1. View a series of videos covering different tasks involved in the testing process. These videos are divided into Before Testing and During/After Testing sections.
2. Complete two quizzes with at least 80% correct.
3. Complete the survey linked in the course. OSPI will post a list of completers in WAMS based on survey completion.

Test Administrators must have a Canvas account (and know their password) prior to using the self-enrollment link.

- Create an account: [Log in to Canvas](#)
- Self-Enroll for WA-AIM Training Course: [Enroll on Canvas](#)

Weekly WA-AIM Grab and Go

On Thursdays beginning September 3, OSPI will offer 30-minute opportunities to learn a little something about WA-AIM and check in with any questions, concerns, or issues. There will be one morning session at 7:30am and one afternoon session at 3:00pm. The information OSPI covers will be the same across both sessions. September's theme will be WA-AIM Resources and October's theme will be identification.

Topics:

- September 3: Access Point Frameworks
- September 10: Performance Tasks
- September 17: How to WA-AIM & Strategies for Success
- September 24: WA-AIM Test Administrator Manual
- October 1: Who is Eligible & Who is Not
- October 8: No sessions this week
- October 15: Factors influencing identification
- October 22: No sessions this week
- October 29: Students in the gaps (Engagement Rubric & WA-AIM, WA-AIM & SBA)

Links: (links will remain consistent through May 7, 2027 and are also found here: [Assessment for Students with Cognitive Disabilities \(WA-AIM\)](#))

- **7:30am:** [WA-AIM Morning Coffee Session](#)
- **3:00pm:** [WA-AIM Afternoon Tea Session](#)