SB 5657 (Computer Science Instruction)

Statutory and/or Budget Language

$200,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and $200,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for grants to school districts and educational service districts operating institutional education programs for youth in state long-term juvenile institutions to provide access to computer science elective courses created in chapter 234, Laws of 2022 (computer science instruction).

Purpose

The legislature provided funding for the development of computer science elective courses in the state's two long-term state juvenile institutions, Green Hill and Echo Glen. The intent is to ensure access to up to date and relevant computer science instruction for students residing in those facilities. The objectives are:

1) To build in-demand skills to prepare students for future employment.
2) Help students transition back to the community following incarceration.
3) Prevent recidivism.

Description of Services Provided

These pass-through funds are provided to the two long-term state institutions through a formula grant. Funds were used to purchase technology and to begin planning for the development and implementation of computer science courses, which are fully aligned to state computer science learning standards.

Criteria for Receiving Services and/or Grants

The grants are allocated equally ($100,000 each) between the two long-term juvenile facilities in the state as specified in the legislation.

Beneficiaries in the 2023-24 School Year

Number of School Districts	1
Number of Schools	1
Number of Students	N/A
Number of Educators	N/A
Other	N/A

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No.

Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2024	$200,000	$100,000
2023	$200,000	$0

Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2024	1
2023	0

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

OSPI is working with both institutions to increase awareness for use of these funds.

Program Evaluation or Evaluation of Major Findings

OSPI has developed a reporting function in the agency's grant management system to collect more detailed information on the use of funds and student impact for the 2024–25 school year. Given the limitations of the use of technology in secure facilities, one institution struggled with how to utilize the funds this past year. OSPI program staff have worked with the institutions to problem solve expenditure and do not anticipate issues with spending the allocation in the coming years.

Major Challenges Faced by the Program

As referenced above, secure facilities have much higher security requirements when using computer technology. OSPI has worked with both institutions to problem solve use of funds and does not anticipate future issues.

Future Opportunities

As the juvenile institutions build out more robust computer science educational opportunities for students, OSPI looks forward to providing information related to student outcomes.

Other Relevant Information

N/A

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2024 Fiscal Year.

Program Contact Information

Name   Ada Daniels

Title   Associate Director of Institutional Education Programs

Phone   360-972-0648

Email   ada.daniels@k12.wa.us