

What We Do & What We Need to Do
for Washington Schools and Students:

OEO's Vision at 10 Years



Background

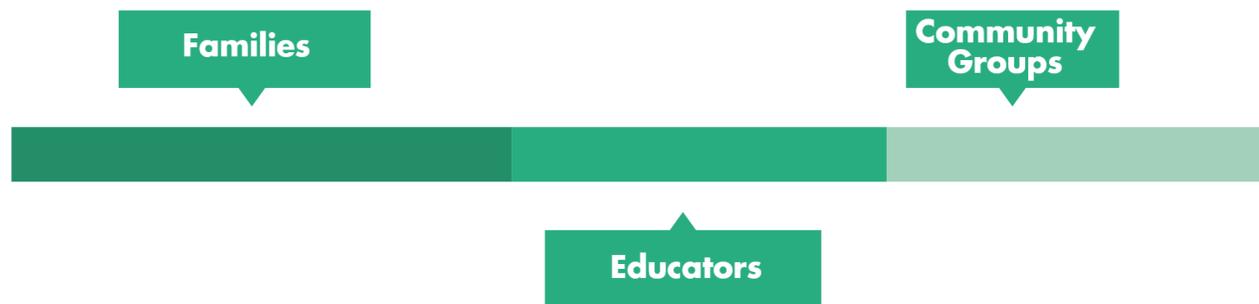
The OEO was founded in 2006 by the legislature to promote equity in education by working with families and schools. The three functions of the agency are:

Informal Conflict Resolution

Training/Technical Assistance

Data-Driven Policy Recommendations

Stakeholders Served



200

Maximum # of cases
each Ombuds can do
each year



5

Current number of
Ombuds working
statewide



55

Average # of
presentations each
year

Current Demands & Opportunities

#1

Actual Case Demands

32% increase in cases from 2013-2014 to 2014-2015 with no change in staffing or resources

While 200 cases is the maximum load for each Ombuds, each worked closer to 275 cases last year.

#2

Unmet Need: Regional Expertise

Only 1 Ombuds is outside Seattle (Ellensburg), leaving the following major population centers underserved for meaningful outreach to schools and families:

Spokane
Tacoma
Vancouver
Tri-Cities

#3

Critical Need for Staff Diversity

In WA: 11% of K-12 population is bilingual.
43%+ of students are Native or students of color.

LEP families, Native families, and families of color experience significant information gaps and barriers to accessing schools. Trust is built when ombuds reflect communities in the opportunity gap.

Current staff identify as white, biracial, African American, and Latino. They speak: English, Spanish, Portuguese, Somali, Arabic

Languages & cultures absent (re: OSPI's top 10 list):
Russian, Vietnamese, Ukrainian, Chinese (all dialects), Korean, Tagalog, Arabic, Punjabi

SAMPLING OF CURRENT PILOT PROJECTS & TOOLS NECESSARY TO GROW

Additional Staff & Regional Relationships (e.g., travel funds; remote staff)

Listening Sessions, Community Clinics, and Data-Driven Collaborative Interventions

Staff time 1-2 days/week to conduct outreach. 1-2 more Ombuds/year to absorb rising case/training demands

Educator and Community Professional Coaching and Training

Increased Staff Diversity to Reach Other Linguistic, Cultural, and Political Communities (Native, API)

Culturally Relevant Outreach to African/African American and Latino Students

Resources to support media outreach, translation/interpretation, & travel

Creation of Parent & Educator-Friendly Resources & Trainings (e.g., toolkits, webinars)