OEO and Educational Equity
Carrie Basas, JD, MEd
CAPAA January 2016 Meeting
What is the Office of the Education Ombuds?

The Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO) is an agency within the Governor’s Office created in 2006 by the Washington State Legislature. OEO works to promote equity in education and support the ability of all students to fully participate in and benefit from public education in the State of Washington.
What the Work Looks Like

• Work with individual families and schools to **resolve disputes that impact student achievement**;

• **Provide information for families** regarding their rights and responsibilities in the public education system;

• **Conduct trainings** for families and school communities on issues relating to student rights and family/school partnerships;

• **Make annual recommendations** to policy makers to improve equity, fairness and access to public education for all students.
Overview of the Office

- 6.68 full-time employees, 6 out of Northgate/Seattle and 1 in Ellensburg
- ½ staff bilingual
- Backgrounds: teaching, law, mediation, social work, health, and community organizing
- Budget of $684,000
Impact on Gap in 2014-2015

Number of Cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY07</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY08</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY09</td>
<td>473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY10</td>
<td>844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY11</td>
<td>734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY12</td>
<td>841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY13</td>
<td>883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY14</td>
<td>1038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY15</td>
<td>1367</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What Were the Issues Addressed?

% Cases (Issues Addressed)

- Special Education: 48%
- Other: 28%
- HIB: 7%
- Discipline: 7%
- Student Safety: 5%
- Section 504: 5%
Whom Did We Serve?

Race/Ethnicity of Students Served by OEO

- White: 56%
- Black: African American: 6%
- Hispanic / Latino: 9%
- Multi-racial: 4%
- Native American / Indigenous: 2%
- Bi-racial: 11%
- Arab Asian: 4%
- Decline to Identify: 7%
- Pacific Islander: <1%
- Black: African American: 1%

Race/Ethnicity of Students Served by OEO
Some Gaps in Outreach and Impact

- Asian Americans
- African Americans
- Pacific Islanders
- Latinos
- Multiracial students
- LEP families

- Students at risk of not graduating
- Homeless students
- Students in foster care
- LGBT students
API Students and Families

Race/Ethnicity of Students served by OEO during 2014-2015

- Other: 96%
- Pacific Islander: <1%
- Asian: 4%

Top School Districts

- Seattle: 10
- Bellevue: 4
- Federal Way: 4
- Lake Washington: 3
- Everett: 3
- Renton: 3
- Spokane: 2
- Clover Park: 2
- Shoreline: 2

n=1167
Barriers Faced: API Students

Top Issues for Asian-American and Pacific Islander Students

- Special Education: 72%
- Poor comm. or relationship breakdown: 30%
- Academic Progress: 13%
- Discrimination: 13%
- Student Safety: 13%
- Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying: 13%
- Discipline: 11%
- Enrollment/Choice/Transfer: 9%
- Section 504: 7%
API Language Access

Interpreter Needed by Client?
- Yes: 11%
- No: 89%

Client Primary Language
- English: 61%
- Vietnamese: 13%
- Chinese (unspecified): 5%
- Cantonese: 5%
- Farsi: 2%
- Korean: 4%
- Mandarin: 2%
- Tagalog: 4%
- Thai: 4%
- Vietnamese: 13%
Quick Comparison: White Students

• 56% of OEO clients

Top Issues for White/Caucasian Students

- Special Education: 65%
- Parent Access: 28%
- Discipline: 16%
- Process Unfair or Not Followed: 16%
- Enrollment/Choice/Transfer: 16%
- Academic Progress: 13%
- HiP: 11%
- Student Safety: 11%
- Section 504: 11%
Language Access: White Students

Client Primary Language

- English: 99%
- Other: 1%
- American Sign Language: <1%
- Russian: <1%
- Spanish: <1%
- Rumanian: <1%
- Arabic: <1%
- Italian: <1%
- Portuguese: <1%
- Punjabi: <1%

Interpreter Needed by Client?

- Yes: 1%
- No: 99%
Strategic Plan Shifts

• Greater outreach to communities of color, particularly families where English not primary
• More time with families that have fewer economic resources and experience more racism, disenfranchisement, and multiple forms of oppression
• Outreach to homeless and foster students
• Training trainers
• Thinking preventatively— how do we reach educators to help them improve classrooms?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Clinics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Upstream” (e.g., ESD, teachers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Advocates (e.g., Title I/Part D, API)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased Translation- <strong>Poster for your Feedback</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toolkits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Moving Forward

• Questions?
• Feedback?

155 NE 100th St.
Suite 210
Seattle, WA 98125
Toll-Free: 1-866-297-2597
oeoinfo@gov.wa.gov
www.oeo.wa.gov