

2023-25 Impact Report



Our Story So Far

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to ensure transparency, accountability, and equity in the education system. We advocate for quality education for all students by monitoring policies, holding institutions accountable, and empowering communities with the information they need to drive positive change. Through rigorous research, advocacy, and public engagement, we strive to promote an education system that is inclusive, transparent, and driven by the best interests of students and their families.

OUR PURPOSE

OSD4ALL was started out of a crisis in the 2023-24 school year. The Olympia School District and its board of directors were considering closing two schools to fix a \$3.5m projected budget gap, less than 2% of their entire budget. The community rallied together to come up with solutions that included increasing enrollment, downsizing the district office, applying for federal grants and increasing revenue through early learning. Advocacy at the state level led to increased state funding. With letters signed by district educators and parent-teacher groups, and a successful legal appeal of the closure process brought forward by a group of parents, no schools were closed!

What started out as a handful of dedicated parents from across the district has grown into a full-on grassroots movement. We provide clear, accessible ways to engage with our democratic process and ensure that our public education system is inclusive, equitable, and accountable to its students and families.

We partner with other advocacy groups and community organizations to uplift the needs of our public education system. We participate in the legislative process to ensure that public education is fully funded. And we're creating community with folks from all walks of life, including you. Thank you for being a part of this movement.



Our Goals

1

Strengthen Educational Accountability

Monitor and report on the performance and practices of the Olympia school districts and district policymakers to ensure they meet standards of transparency and effectiveness.

2

Advocate for Policy Changes

Influence education policies at the local and state level to promote transparency and equity in the education system.

3

Empower Communities with Information

Equip parents, students, and communities with the knowledge and tools needed to advocate for their educational rights.

4

Build Organizational Capacity

Strengthen internal infrastructure to support the long-term growth and sustainability of the organization.

Our Strategy

PROGRAMS	DETAILS	OUTCOME	
		2024	2025
Legislative Advocacy	Mobilize grassroots campaigns to push for legislative and policy reforms.	• Retroactive increase to prototypical school staffing and funding for operating costs. • Increased the special education cap for the 24/25 school year.	• Lift of the cap on levy funding, and adding funding to key programs, including lifting the cap from the amount of students entitled to special education services.
School District Accountability	Our group is present at every school board meeting and event. We are in communication with district leaders to assess their adherence to district policy and equity.	• All OSD Elementary schools remain open after a damaging closure discussion, and the district expanded early learning.	• After OSD4ALL alerted the public of the District's multiple violations of the Open Public Meetings Act, the District retreats will now be recorded.
Parent-Teacher Organization Communications	OSD is so fractured that many of our parent-teacher organizations work in silos without scaffolding for collaboration, communication, and recruitment. OSD4All acts as a "hub" to unite and organize.	• 15 of 19 school parent-teacher organizations signed a petition asking the district to keep all schools open.	• We hosted our first Parent-Teacher Organization Mixer to share ideas and collaborate across our school district.
Local Community Outreach	We provide a necessary and reputable option for the district community to find out what is happening in the running of our schools and how to engage in public discourse.	• The OSD4All Solutions Forum in January 2024 provided the district with options to close their budget shortfall.	• A School Board Director Election Primary Forum OSD4All held was the only one to feature all 6 primary candidates.

\$518k

in state funding in the 2023-24 school year. We had a rare retroactive increase to prototypical school staffing and funding for operating costs.

**\$1.5
million**

increase to state funding for students receiving special education in the 2024-25 school year.

**\$24.7
million**

in state revenue for the 2025-26 budget after a lift of the cap on levy funding, and adding funding to transportation, operating costs, and lifting the cap from the amount of students entitled to special education services, as well as another multiplier increase.

**2,100
students**

were able to stay in their schools, or were unaffected by overcrowding at the receiving schools, when Madison and McKenny Elementary stayed open.

**1,300
citizens**

watched or attended our first School Board Candidate Forum and more listened on the Olympia Standard podcast.

Our Challenges

DISTRICT BUDGETARY CHALLENGES

We want to keep sharing with the community clear, concise updates on the district's budgeting decisions. An informed public is essential to a democratic process for managing these public funds. Current concerns include:

- District continues to have (and forecast) more expenditures than revenue.
- Non-mandated executive raises have eaten up any gains made by increased revenue.
- Resourcing consistently favors choice and school-specific programming at the expense of neighborhood/community schools, which is not aligned with many nationally leading organizations, including the National Education Association.
- The regressive tax system in Washington State does not allow school districts to receive adequate funds for education in today's schools.
- The district is actively changing their policies that decreases public input. For example, its updated closure policy now allows school closure within 10 days.
- Federal funding for public schools is under threat with the current administration.



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**We thank you for your
continued support in
our programs.**

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