

LEARNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Realizing the Dream: A World Class School District

Olympia School District - 1113 Legion Way SE - Olympia, WA 98501 - (360) 596-753

What is the Learning Assistance Program (LAP)?

Each year the state legislator proposes to fund the Learning Assistance Program - a statewide program for students in schools who are not making the academic standard. Our district applies to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to receive an allocation for the program. The state then sends the money to our district based on the number of low income families and other factors.

What is the purpose of LAP Schools?

The Learning Assistance Program (LAP) is a state-funded program that provides additional academic support to eligible students. Eligible students are those achieving below grade level on the state's assessment tests, and 11th and 12th grade students at risk of not graduating. Achievement on district assessment of basic skills may also be considered.

LAP funds are available to support programs in grades K-12 in reading, writing, mathematics, and readiness for those subjects.

- In our district, it provides extra help for struggling students in reading and math at the middle and high school levels
- Children living in a LAP school are eligible for extra assistance regardless of family income.



How is LAP funding determined?

Funding for this program is determined by the state using a funding formula. The district uses a poverty funding formula based on free and

reduced lunch count to determine how much each school receives.

- LAP schools in our district fund three middle schools and 3 high schools this year: Marshall, Reeves, Jefferson, Capital, Olympia, and Avanti.

What does LAP pay for?

LAP supports the regular classroom program at the secondary levels:

- Specialized classrooms in reading and math with "proven" teaching materials using small class interventions
- Highly trained teachers and assistants
- Instructional content facilitators
- Afterschool or summer programs
- Supplementary materials
- Computer assisted learning
- Parent involvement activities
- Professional development for all staff

What are Student Learning Plans?

Accelerated Student Learning Plans are required for LAP-served students. The learning plan is an avenue for student, teacher, and parent/guardian to develop learning goals and a plan of action for individual students. Each learning plan must include:

- Achievement goals for the student.
- Roles of the student, parents or guardians, and teachers in the plan.
- Communication procedures regarding student accomplishments.
- Plan review and adjustment process.

What is a LAP school and what does it have to do with No Child Left Behind?

A LAP school is a secondary school that has received state Learning Assistance Program funds through an allocation process. It is similar to federal Title 1 programs but begins from the state level

LAP and Title 1 programs work in tandem to each other. The intent of the federal program, No Child Left Behind, is to improve the performance of America's elementary and secondary schools by four cornerstones:

- Ensure that no child is trapped in a failing school
- Increase accountability for states, districts, and schools
- Provide choices for parents and students, particularly those in low-performing schools
- Strongly emphasize reading, especially for our youngest children.



What are the elements of No Child Left Behind?

1. Teachers and Paraprofessionals Must Be Highly Qualified

- Teachers: Teachers must be “highly qualified” by holding a bachelor’s degree and passing a state test.
- Paraprofessionals: Teacher Assistants in Title 1 schools must have completed two years of college or pass a test in reading, writing, and math.

2. All Students are Tested - All Schools Must Make Progress

- Annual Testing: All students in grades 3-8 must take a test in reading and math. In addition, grade 10 students must pass the WASL as part of the graduation requirement.
- Adequate Yearly Progress: These test scores will determine if your school is making progress. The idea is to ensure that all groups of students continue to learn.
- School and District Report Cards: Reporting annual test scores will tell how successful your school has been in reaching all groups of students. You will also be able to compare your school with others. Check out our district’s website for each school’s report card.

3. More Choices for Parents

You will have more options if your child’s school is “failing” as determined by the state:

- You can transfer your child from a failing school at district expense
- Supplemental services will be offered such as tutoring, after school programs, and summer schools at no cost to families

4. Restructuring Failing Schools

A series of steps are taken each year if a failing school does not make Adequate Yearly Progress. These sanctions are progressive. The ultimate goal is for students to become successful.



How are parents involved in LAP Schools?

Every district has a family involvement policy that describes different ways that families can be involved in the LAP program:

1. Parenting
2. Communicating
3. Volunteering
4. Learning at Home
5. Decision Making
6. Collaborating with the community

A district Parent Advisory Committee meets throughout the year to plan, evaluate, and review the Title 1 and LAP Programs. Representatives from each building participate in this forum. Every attempt is made to reach out to all parents and families.

Summary

The goal of LAP is to provide funds so that each and every student has a high quality education. LAP gives that extra support to students and schools that need it the most.

Contact Information

Gayle Mar-Chun
Title 1/LAP/Homeless Coordinator
(360) 596-7530 - gmarchun@osd.wednet.edu