



REACH

# Executive Summary

PROGRAM YEAR SIX: 2020-21



RELATIONSHIPS · ENRICHMENT · ACADEMICS · COMMUNITY · HOMEWORK

## Program Goals:

1. Provide academic, social, and emotional support to under-performing students from high poverty communities to assist them in meeting benchmark standards in reading and mathematics.
2. Provide high quality, engaging, project-based enrichment opportunities that connect the school to the broader community and where each student is challenged academically in an environment that is physically and emotionally safe.
3. Provide high quality engaging parent opportunities that will assist them in supporting and encouraging learning and literacy at home.

*Nita M. Lowey 21st Century  
Community Learning Center Programs*

*REACH is a program of Educational Service District 112, a state agency dedicated to equalizing educational opportunities for learning communities.*

## Program Overview

**REACH** (Relationships, Enrichment, Academics, Community and Homework) is designed as an exciting K-12 extended school day and summer program providing enrichment activities and academic support particularly in the areas of mathematics and reading. All students are welcome to participate, with priority enrollment being given to students not meeting standards in reading and/or math and those students who participate in the free or reduced-price meals program at their school.

**REACH** is designed so that all youth can benefit from the program; on grade, below grade, or above grade level and is available to students in Lyle and Wishram School Districts. The three program sites include: Dallesport Elementary and Lyle Middle School/High School (Lyle SD) and Wishram High and Elementary School (Wishram SD).

## Remote Learning during Stay Home-Stay Healthy Orders

Over the last year, the pandemic created unprecedented challenges for the REACH program. Many youth struggled with different issues than they were used to, which staff needed to address. Students struggled with the lack of social norms: seeing their family and peers on a regular basis, having daily access to trusted adults and counselors, and building relationships with school teachers and staff.

The REACH staff had to go above and beyond the normal approach of reaching students with engaging activities to encourage their participation in the program, because students were spending additional time on the computer after the regular school day. This included REACH staff spending many hours each week planning and

preparing (researching, copying, collating, and packing) curriculum, materials, supplies, and required daily snacks for home delivery, which the REACH staff did in-person to students' homes.

REACH was able to offer a multitude of healthy activities using our various community partners. According to student feedback, these activities were calming and engaging, and helped youth through the boredom of being isolated at home. Program staff reported a jump in regular communication with parents, which was a valuable way to build ongoing family relationships.

Throughout program year six, Dallesport and Lyle sites operated remotely. Wishram operated remotely during the summer program and for the beginning of the school year. Wishram site met in person starting mid-January 2021 when Wishram School District reopened their school to in-person learning.

## Youth Exposure to Program

All three sites operated after school for two hours per day Monday through Thursday for a total of eight hours per week. Each site also offered both enrichment activities and homework help during the morning hours prior to the beginning of the school day for an overall total of 12 to 13 hours per week.

	Dallesport	Lyle	Wishram
<b>Total # of weeks during Summer 2020</b>	4	4	4
<b>Total # of weeks during School Year 2020-21</b>	32	32	34
<b>Total # of days during program year six</b>	159	136	163

## Dedicated Staff

It is said that youth come to a program and stay because of the adults in the room. REACH is fortunate to have staff that draws youth in and keeps them coming back. Staff constantly work to expose youth to experiences, services, and resources to help them continue to thrive. Collectively the staff (a site coordinator and a site assistant at each site) have years of experience in education and working in extended school day programs. Two of the site coordinators have been with the REACH program all six years.

Even though the majority of programming during year six was virtual and continued program funding was uncertain, the high quality of service the staff provided did not change. Staff worked hard to provide consistent support for the REACH youth. During Stay Home, Stay Healthy orders, staff worked hard to maintain connections with youth and their families. Staff delivered instructional materials, supplies, and snacks to all REACH students' homes to ensure all youth were able to participate in the REACH program. REACH parent events were not able to meet in person, however, staff talked with parents on the phone, texted, and emailed with them more than ever. Some parents joined their youth to hang out and play games during REACH Zoom gatherings as well as participate in Zoom field trips.

## REACH Attendance

Overall numbers of youth enrolled in REACH in year six were down by approximately half as compared with year five. However, the percentage of youth who enrolled and attended 30 days or more and became regular attendees was close to the program goal of 75%.

### YEAR SIX ATTENDANCE - INDIVIDUAL SITES

	Dallesport	Lyle	Wishram	All Sites
Total # Enrolled	22	17	30	69
Total # Regular Attendees	14	10	22	49
Total # Summer Only Enrollees	8	6	7	21
% of Youth - Regular Attendees	64%	59%	73%	67%

## Impact of REACH

One of the primary goals of REACH is to provide academic, social, and emotional support to underperforming students from high poverty communities. REACH desires to assist them in meeting benchmark standards in reading and mathematics.

Data from year six show that REACH is having a positive impact on assessment scores and grades of those youth who attended REACH 30+ days:

- **75% - improved in reading**
- **77% - improved in math**

Students who attended REACH were asked to complete a short survey at the end of the program year. Data from the surveys show that students think REACH has made a difference in their lives. When asked to respond to questions regarding the REACH program:

- **100% - indicated they think REACH has helped them this year**
- **100% - believe the REACH staff cares about them**
- **93% - believe they had helpful adults they could talk to after school (other than their parents).**

At the end of the program year, parents/guardians of youth who attended REACH were asked to complete a short survey. Those that responded overwhelmingly believe that REACH is a good program for their family.

What I like about REACH is...

*"...the engaging after school activities. I appreciate all the thought that the directors put into the curriculum. They do a good job of keeping the kids interested while at the same time teaching them new things on a broad variety of topics."* - REACH parent

*"It gives my child the chance to do fun creative things in a smaller group setting."* - REACH parent

## Strong Community Partnerships Strengthen REACH

Community partnerships continue to be a vital component in the success of the REACH program. Throughout year six, REACH partners have been committed to an active involvement and support of the afterschool programs during both in-person and during remote learning.

*We are always so excited to collaborate with our AMAZING grant partners, and very thankful for all of their continued support and contributions to our REACH Program! - REACH program staff*

During program year six the following organizations and businesses engaged in **formal partnerships** with REACH:

- 4-H of Klickitat County
- Arts in Education of the Gorge (AIEG)
- Fort Vancouver Regional Library (FVRL)
- Gorge Ecology Outdoors (GEO)
- Klickitat County Public Health Department
- Klickitat County Sheriff's Department
- Klickitat-Lyle Against Substance Abuse Coalition (KLASAC)
- Riverview Community Bank
- Skyline Hospital
- The Howards' Haven Animal Sanctuary

Other organizations that participated with REACH in year six as **informal partners** included:

- Columbia Cinema
- Columbia George Discovery Center
- Dickey Farms
- Domino's Pizza
- STREAM Explorers/Pathfinder Outdoor School
- The Home Depot
- The Portland Art Museum
- Trout Unlimited
- Wishram Volunteer Fire Department
- Wonderworks Children's Museum

**Partner Activities** - Community partner program highlights this year included:

- Journal On! (The Portland Art Museum)
- Grab n' Go Art and Math (4-H)
- Food Science Fun (4-H)
- Virtual tour videos of the Columbia Gorge ecosystem (GEO)
- Closed-circuit light bulb experiments (FVRL)
- Dictionary give-a-way (Riverview Bank)
- Watercolors, origami, animation, and theater art (AIEG)
- Virtual farm tour (The Howard's Haven Animal Sanctuary)
- First-aid and safety class (Skyline Hospital)
- Beyond Website and Apps (KLASAC)

## Program Quality Intervention (PQI)

PQI requirements were optional this year. Due to Dallesport and Lyle sites being conducted remotely for the entire year, they chose not to participate in the PQI during year six. Two external assessments were conducted for the program at Wishram during year six. One assessment was done remotely and another assessment was conducted in-person after Wishram School District returned to in-person learning. The assessment conducted during online programming was adapted to reflect remote learning. The program evaluator completed both external assessments for the Wishram site. Reports detailing the assessment findings were made available to program staff to use for their advanced planning for program improvement.