Legislative Youth Advisory Council
2008 Annual Report

As the Washington State Legislative Youth Advisory Council, we strive to be a voice for youth, examine issues of importance to Washington youth, and vocalize concerns to legislators. We also work to promote youth participation in state and municipal governments and foster long lasting relationships between state legislators, adults, and young people.

LYAC Mission Statement

The Legislative Youth Advisory Council
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December 1, 2008

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I. Background & Executive Summary: The Washington State Legislative Youth Advisory Council

Background

The Legislative Youth Advisory Council (LYAC) is the formal voice for Washington youth in the State Legislature. LYAC was originally created in 2005 by SB 5254 and modified in 2007 by ESHB 1052. The 22-member Council serves as the link between young people and the state government. The Council is authorized to meet between three and six times per year and is administered by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) through a partnership with the Legislature and the Office of Lieutenant Governor. Participation on the Council is a unique opportunity for teenagers to intimately observe and experience the legislative process through an interactive lesson in civic engagement and activism. Rather than learning from a book about how a bill becomes a law, Council members participate in the creation of public policy.

LYAC founder and current member, Alex, listens intently to Vice Chair, Naomi, at the June 2008 meeting

Members on the Council are between the ages of 14 and 18 at time of appointment. The youth are from diverse personal, educational, political, socio-economic, ethnic and religious backgrounds. Every member serves a two year term; eleven positions are open for new appointments every year. Applications are submitted to the Council and reviewed by Council members who then recommend candidates to the Office of Lieutenant Governor for final approval and appointment.

LYAC's Program Supervisor is housed within OSPI's Office of Government Relations and handles the Council budget, staffing, meeting logistics and other important support services. The Program Supervisor maintains the membership database, supports Council communications and meetings and provides background on the Legislative process. However, OSPI does not set LYAC agenda or priorities – those are left up to the Council members themselves. The Program Supervisor is also responsible for the Daniel J. Evans Award as well as the Civic Education Travel Grant. The Civic Education Travel Grant is available through iGrants for civic education based travel programs housed in Washington State public schools and not for profit organizations.

Further, the Office of Lieutenant Governor and the Legislature also play a vital role in the Council's success. The Legislature funds LYAC and reauthorizes the Council. Staff members from the Senate Civic Education Program assist LYAC members with meeting preparation and design trainings on important legislative knowledge such as ethics and how a bill becomes a law. The Lieutenant Governor makes the final appointments to LYAC based on recommendations from existing Council members. Lieutenant Governor Brad Owen also visited the Council at the August 2008 meeting to speak about student involvement, accepting the ideas of others, and the qualities of a good leader.

Executive Summary

In 2008, the Legislative Youth Advisory Council accomplished many of its targeted goals. The Council has developed lasting relationships with multiple outside community and youth organizations, worked with legislators on upcoming legislation, completed the first round of a large scale survey for youth across the state, worked with the Forum for Youth Investment on the development of a national youth council and the development of a youth council support network where states and cities can share their ideas, successes, and frustrations. The Council members have attended various trainings in order to prepare for their position on the Council: ethics training, techniques in advising, how a bill becomes a law, and youth engagement strategies. Further, LYAC members revised the LYAC application and assessment rubric and assisted in selecting new members to the Council. All applicants are now given opportunities to participate in the Council's outreach efforts even if they were not selected for a seat on the Council in 2008. LYAC members are committed to educating young people and promoting civic responsibility in order to ensure youth have a voice in state government.

In the next year, LYAC plans to continue the outreach efforts of 2008. LYAC will continue to build relationships with various community and youth organizations by working with state and local youth councils in order to truly represent Washington State youth, survey Washington State youth in order to listen to their ideas and concerns, collaborate with the Forum for Youth Investment in the support network of various Legislative Youth Advisory Councils across the nation, work with the Forum for Youth Investment towards the development of a national youth council, and work with community organizations throughout Washington in their efforts involving youth. If reauthorized, the Council will further revise the application process in order to ensure diversity within the Council. LYAC also strives to effectively support legislation throughout the 2009 legislative session and work closely with legislators and staff on important issues during the interim.

Also included in this report is information from the Civic Education Travel Grant program. In 2007, ESHB 1052 included language which created the Civic Education Travel Grant program. The funding for this program and the program staff are shared with the Legislative Youth Advisory Council. The Civic Education Travel Grant program was made available for both the 2007-2008 school year and the 2008-2009 school year. There is an overwhelming amount of interest for this program and while there is only $40,000 available for the 2008-2009 school year, there were over $306,000 in funding requests.

Recommendations

The Legislative Youth Advisory Council is created and funded by the Legislature. In order to continue the great work of the Council, LYAC members will seek to refund LYAC during the 2009 biennium. Without this program, many youth will not be given an opportunity to have a voice in state government. LYAC is creating connections with various organizations, community members, schools, and local youth organizations in order to promote the youth voice! This is a process that requires time, but LYAC has already seen a great increase in the number of youth and community organizations that are interested in the Council's work and overall mission.

II. Accomplishment of 2008 Goals

The Legislative Youth Advisory Council outlined multiple goals for 2008. The following is a list of each goal and the Council's progress towards the goal.

Goal 1: Recreate look of the LYAC website in order to appeal to youth. LYAC's Communication Subcommittee spearheaded the revisions to the LYAC website. In collaboration with a web designer and LYAC's Program Supervisor, the youth re-evaluated and re-organized content to ensure visual appeal to youth, as well as provide in depth content about the program and how to become involved. The website includes resources for local youth councils as well as educational materials and resources. The website also includes the ability to survey youth and post comments with the permission of the Program Supervisor. The Legislature agreed to host LYAC's new website and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor's website now links to this page, rather than housing all of the information through the Lieutenant Governor's website. The new website can be found at http://lyac.leg.wa.gov

Goal 2: Begin multiple outreach efforts to reach various young people throughout Washington including: town hall meetings, youth surveys, creating outreach materials, and working with TVW to publicize the work of LYAC. In order to accomplish this goal, all LYAC members discussed LYAC's legislative priorities within their schools and/or communities. LYAC has also partnered with organizations to attend various youth summits and issue based town hall formats in Washington State including E3 Youth Summit on environment issues April 19, 2008, Washington Communities Against Predators August 2008, Chase County Youth Commission, October 9, 2008, and Mockingbird Society's Foster Care Youth Summit, October 26, 2008.

Additionally, LYAC members and staff are currently collecting surveys from youth across the state. The survey was distributed to various schools, teachers, youth and community organizations, and is also available at http://lyac.leg.wa.gov/getinvolved.htm (Please view appendix iv for the full text of the survey and appendix v for a sample of the survey results. Please note that LYAC is still in the process of collecting surveys and the survey results are therefore not final.)

In order to help youth understand and become involved in state government, LYAC worked with TVW to film a student engagement segment to air on TVW. A TVW film crew from filmed LYAC's meeting on August 25 and 26, 2008, then edited the meeting into a fifteen minute segment which is now included as part of TVW 's new series, "Engaged: Students Becoming Citizens". This segment can be found online at:
http://www.tvw.org/modules/Articles/engaged.cfm?CFID=9205920&CFTOKEN=152236bc69b23b47-253F3671-3048-349E-4EE27A206B38C78D&bhcp=1

Finally, members of the Communications Subcommittee created the following four flyers to increase awareness of LYAC and its intended purpose: a recruitment flyer, a flyer with information for teachers, a flyer with information for legislators, and a flyer of general information.

Goal 3: Support and help design youth councils in local government, state government offices, and throughout the nation. In January 2008, LYAC met with the Snohomish County Executive to discuss creating a Snohomish County Youth Council. LYAC has also worked closely with the Indiana Department of Education on the creation of Indiana's Legislative Youth Advisory Council by providing support, documents, and advice. Additionally, two members attended the Forum for Youth Investment's National Youth Summit in New Orleans on July 13-15, 2008 and LYAC members consistently attend the Forum's conference calls which connect legislative youth advisory councils around the nation in order to share success stories and create a support network of youth advisory councils throughout the nation. Further, one Council member created a "how to guide" to assist interest parties in designing a youth council. Originally this began as a school project, but has now received attention not only from our Council, but will also be made available to the Forum for Youth Investment while they create a youth council tool kit.

Goal 4: Work with legislators to create legislation during the 2008 legislative session as well as work on legislation and legislative issues during the interim in preparation for the 2009 legislative session. LYAC worked with Representative Green to create legislation on voting age requirements. (See HB 2662, HJR 4225, HB 2663, and HJR 4226.) HJR 4225 and HB 2663 received hearings in the House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs in January, 2008. LYAC is currently working with Representative Green to reintroduce legislation to change the voting age requirements in primary elections. LYAC is also working closely with multiple legislators to revise and introduce legislation on the re-authorization of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council.

In order to prepare for the 2009 legislative session, LYAC held an educational forum at the August meeting and heard from four presenters on educational issues facing Washington: WASL, dropout prevention, and student engagement. After the forum, LYAC members voted to support the Building Bridges program through OSPI and will help to address the work group's dropout prevention and retrieval recommendations being discussed in the 2009 legislative session. LYAC members are also meeting with various legislative offices in order to address environmental concerns and legislation regarding increasing penalties for drug related crimes.

III. LYAC in Action: Legislative Priorities in 2008

On January 30, 2008 LYAC met with legislators to provide advice on issues of interest to the Council. At the December 2007 meeting, LYAC members voted on which issues/bills the Council would support. The following seven issues were selected as LYAC's 2008 legislative priorities:

Title	Bill Number	Description
Freedom of student press	ESHB 1307 SB 6449	This legislation guarantees that school administrators would not have the power to halt a student-produced school publication based upon content, but that school staff would not be liable for content produced.
Carbon Tax	HB 2420	This bill establishes a graduated tax on both the production and sale of petroleum products based on the large quantity of carbon content.
Grocery checkout bags	HB 2424	HB 2424 proposes to ban traditional plastic shopping bags in grocery stores, replacing them with compostable plastic, recyclable paper, or reusable fabric.
Controlled substance	HB 2430	This legislation increases punishments when a defendant directly targets minors.
Voting Age	HB 2662 HJR 4225	These measures propose lowering the voting age in primary elections to 17 provided the voter will be 18 by the general election.
Voting Age	HB 2663 HJR 4226	These measures propose lowering the voting age to 16 statewide.
Tuition increase authority	SSB 5013	SSB 5013 sets limits for the rate of tuition increases.

Other legislation supported by LYAC in the 2008 legislative session

Title	Bill Number
School district levies	SB 5008
College in high school	SB 5105
Visitation rights/ nonparents	SB 5277
Workplace entrepreneurial	SB 5368
Juvenile offenders	SB 5370
Report card for education	SB 6121
Juvenile taken into custody	HB 1010
Basic Education expenditures	HB 1019
Report Card for Education	HB 1028

LYAC members gather at the 2008 Action Day

IV. LYAC Committee Members

The Legislative Youth Advisory Council is comprised of 22 young people from across Washington State. The following chart details information about each youth participant including name, location, legislative district and the membership on LYAC subcommittees.

Name	City	Legislative District	Committee(s)
Alex	Seattle	43	Legislative Affairs Committee
Andrew	Colfax	9	Communications Committee Application Review Committee
Andrew	Bellevue	41	Outreach Committee
Atul	Bellevue	48	Legislative Affairs Committee
Brandon	Buckley	31	Legislative Affairs Committee-Chair
Brady	Longview	19	Legislative Affairs Committee
Cameron	Lakewood	28	Outreach Committee
Chelsea	Everett	44	Legislative Affairs Committee
Christine	Yakima	14	Outreach Committee
Cody	Buckley	31	Communications Committee
Ehrik	Sammamish	5	Outreach Committee
Jena	Tumwater	20	Legislative Affairs Committee
Jennifer	Olympia	22	Outreach Committee
Katherine	Wenatchee	12	Outreach Committee
Megan	Yakima	14	Communications Committee
Melissa	Sequim	24	Communications Committee-Chair Executive Committee Application Review Committee
Naomi	University Place	28	Vice Chair Executive Committee
Stephanie	Lynden	42	Outreach Committee-Chair
Tucker	Snohomish	1	Chair Executive Committee Application Review Committee
Will	Mercer Island	41	Legislative Affairs Committee
Zack	Spokane	6	Legislative Affairs Committee
Zoe	Seattle	36	Legislative Affairs Committee Application Review Committee

V. Summary of 2008 LYAC Meetings

Meeting Date /Location	Meeting Summary
January 30,2008 "Action Day" Olympia, WA	LYAC members spent the day at the Capitol meeting with Legislators and staff in order to discuss issues important to youth. LYAC prepared a one-page summary of LYAC's legislative priorities in order to distribute to member's offices. LYAC members provided testimony to the House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs on HJR 4225 and HB 2663.
April 26, 2008 Tacoma, WA	LYAC created and voted on a new policy for subcommittee meetings with regards to travel reimbursements. LYAC divided into subcommittees to plan interim work: town hall meetings, outreach efforts, and upcoming legislative issues. Next, LYAC reviewed the updated application and discussed the application review meeting set for July.
June 25, 2008 Olympia, WA	LYAC voted to send two members and a chaperone to the Forum for Youth Investment's National Youth Summit in New Orleans in July. LYAC members will hold an education forum at the August meeting where the Council will learn about various issues in education. The forum will be one and half hours in length and be conducted as a mock-committee hearing. LYAC will then debrief the issues to decide if LYAC will prioritize any of the discussed topics. LYAC discussed a possible town hall meeting date of September 13. LYAC worked on the rubric which will be used at the July application review meeting. LYAC also discussed and voted on new policies for responding to outside inquiries. LYAC members then looked over the current outstanding inquiries and assigned LYAC contacts to each issue. Finally, LYAC voted on a new Chair and Vice Chair for the following year.
July 25, 2008 "Application Review" Olympia, WA	LYAC members reviewed the application and rubric. Council members scored all applications. After the scoring was complete, the Council ranked the applicants based on their scores and then held a discussion about the top twenty applicants in order to make recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor for final appointment.
August 25-26, 2008 "New Member Orientation" Olympia, WA	On Monday, August 25, the new members of LYAC met in JAC ABC from 12pm-5pm. A series of introductory activities took place. New members received training by Judi Best from the Senate Civic Education Office on how a bill becomes a law, met with Adam Fletcher from the Department of Heath concerning student engagement, and reviewed LYAC's handbook and mission. The following day a full Council meeting took place. New members were introduced and the new program notebooks and guidelines were discussed. LYAC members met in SHR 2 from 10:30am – 12:00pm to conduct the educational forum. The forum consisted of five speakers: Susan Mielke, Senate Education Committee Staff, Bob Butts, Assistant Superintendent of Governmental Relations at OSPI, Juanita Doyon, Director of Mothers Against the WASL, Annie Blackledge, Program Supervisor for Building Bridges at OSPI,

	and Greg Williamson from OSPI offering testimony on student engagement strategies. After the forum, LYAC members debriefed the issues and voted to support the Building Bridges Drop Out Prevention program in the upcoming session. LYAC then held elections on the three open committee chair positions: Communications, Legislative Affairs, and Outreach. Lt. Governor Brad Owen spoke with LYAC about the qualities of a good leader, followed by ethics training from Marty Lovinger and Mike Hoover. The Council then began subcommittee work to prepare for the upcoming legislative session.
October 18, 2008 Tacoma, WA	LYAC members and the Program Supervisor discussed the importance of surveying youth and remaining committed to the Council. LYAC addressed the challenges in the budget for the upcoming session. LYAC divided and assigned legislative districts to each LYAC member. Next, specific members reported subcommittee activity and debriefed youth forums held in September. LYAC then spent the majority of the day in subcommittees where each group planned for the upcoming session, including setting legislative priorities and creating a youth survey. Lucinda Young, Lead Lobbyist for the Washington Education Association, presented information about how to be effective when speaking with legislators. LYAC members were each assigned roles and duties to be accomplished prior to the legislative session.

VI. Selecting New Members for the Council

ESHB 1052 authorized the Legislative Youth Advisory Council members to, "develop selection criteria and an application review process." Through a collaborative effort of current and past Council members, as well as LYAC's Program Supervisor, the Council updated its previous application and rubric. The new application was distributed to teachers, school employees, community contacts, legislators, as well as posted on the Council's new website.

Fifty-eight youth applied to be on the Council this year. While LYAC did receive fewer applications this year as compared to 2007, it is important to note that the LYAC application has changed. The new application is much more intensive and requests multiple short essay answers.

Prior to the application review committee meeting, the Council worked together to develop a clear and consistent rubric. Members of the application review committee met on July 25, 2008 to review applications for the eleven open positions on the Council. The Council members read each application and score the applications based on the rubric. Upon completion of this process, the Council sent its recommendations to the Lt. Governor's office where he made the final appointments.

Refer to appendix i and ii to view the improved application and rubric.

VII. The Road Ahead: Goals for 2009

The Legislative Youth Advisory Council has outlined the following goals for 2009:

Goal 1: Increase communication with legislators. LYAC will send a flyer to each legislator in order to encourage more legislators to work with LYAC members. LYAC is aware that a large part of the legislative intent for the Council is to connect youth opinion with legislators in order to seek policy change. LYAC members are currently meeting with legislators during the interim in order to prepare for the legislative session.

Goal 2: Increase and continue various outreach efforts. LYAC intends to continue conducting surveys of youth in order to understand the policy concerns of youth in Washington State. LYAC will also continue networking with other youth organizations by attending meetings and listening to the youth perspective. LYAC members will hold youth forums within schools and communities in order to provide youth with an avenue to express their opinion. Additionally, LYAC will also partner with pre-existing youth forums across the state in order to reach out to various populations of young people.

Goal 3: Creating and supporting legislation. LYAC intends to effectively support LYAC's 2009 legislative priorities by supporting fewer issues than in previous years and allowing LYAC members the time to specialize on specific issues, thus being more effective. At the October 2008 meeting, LYAC members outlined various topics that they plan to actively pursue during the 2009 legislative session: support dropout prevention strategies, support stricter penalties on drug related offenses, support altering environmental policies, lower the voting age for primary elections and support reauthorizing of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council. LYAC will also support or oppose other issues based on the youth survey results, but the goal is to decrease the number of issues in order to be more effective and knowledgeable on priority issues.

LYAC will also work more closely with governmental agencies in the creation of legislation and continue to work with legislators to create and modify legislation based on the needs of youth.

Goal 4: Assist in the creation of youth councils and provide support for previously established youth councils though out the state and nation. LYAC will continue working with The Forum for Youth Investment (FYI) on the creation of a national youth council. This will ensure stronger relationships between Washington state LYAC and other state LYACs. LYAC will also partner with local youth councils to offer a larger support network and ensure youth have an avenue to express their opinions.

Goal 5: Modify the existing application process. LYAC will once again examine the application process and make revisions to the application in order to better suit the needs of the Council, including promoting diversity. LYAC will also make other revisions to the application process including adding an interview segment for the final candidates.

VIII. The Civic Education Travel Grant

In an attempt to assist students throughout Washington State with civic education travel related costs, to increase student involvement in civic education based programs, and to create responsible and involved democratic citizens, the Washington State Legislature authorized the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to administer funds through a competitive civic education travel grant program. The Legislature appropriated $114,000 for the use of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council and the Civic Education Travel Grant. Of the $114,000, OSPI directly allocated $40,000 for the use of the Civic Education Travel Grant program. The first grant applications were accepted in January 2008 for travel taking place between February 2008 and June 30, 2008. A second round of the grant was posted in September 2008 and the deadline for submission was October 20, 2009.

Washington state schools and/or not for profit organizations administering civic education travel programs are eligible to apply for this competitive grant. The grant dollars can reimburse participant travel related expenses to regional, state, national or international competitions or events. Participants must be residents of the state of Washington, be enrolled in middle, junior high or high school, and be under the age of twenty-one and not yet have received their high school diploma.

Applications are scored based on a series of short essay and multiple choice questions including questions about the program content, student participation, financial need, academic credit, and the program's intensity. The grant review committee also considers the overall breadth and variety of the field of applicants to determine the projects that would best fulfill the program's goals.

2007-2008 School Year

In the 2007-2008 school year, grant dollars were awarded to nine programs throughout the state. Twenty-two programs applied for funding, requesting a total of $202,768. After a careful review by the grant review committee, nine programs were selected to receive funding. In total, $46,999 was distributed in the 2007-2008 school year. Originally $40,000 was allotted for this grant program, but due to an excess in funds because the Program Supervisor was not hired until November of the 2008 fiscal year, the Grant was able to receive nearly $7,000 in excess funding. Grant awards were based on the number of participants traveling and the type of travel: state, national or international. Please view the information below for a detailed list of the schools and/or programs receiving grant dollars.

	School/Organization/Program	Grant Award
2007-2008	Dayton High School, YMCA Youth and Government	2300.00
	Kentlake High School, Close-Up	6999.00
	Lake Quinault High School, FCCLA Leadership Conference	500.00
	Selah High School, FCCLA Leadership Conference	1300.00
	Sunnyside High School, Bert Corona Leadership	8400.00

School Year	Institute	
	Tahoma Senior High School, We The People National Competition	17155.00
	Touchet Elementary and High School, Project Citizen State Competition	1350.00
	YMCA of Snohomish County, YMCA State Youth Legislature	1995.00
	YMCA Youth and Government (state office), YMCA youth conference on national affairs	7000.00
	Total Funds Distributed:	**46,999.00**

2008-2009 School Year

In the 2008-2009 school year, grant applications were accepted through October 20, 2008 for civic education based travel taking place between November 15, 2008 and June 30, 2009. Twenty-eight programs applied for funding, requesting a total of $306,174. In order to award a larger number of youth with funds for civic education travel, sixteen programs were selected to receive partial funding. Programs received funding based on the type of travel, the distance of travel, and the length of the travel. A total of $40,000 has been awarded at this time; however all travel will not be completed until June 2008. The Civic Education Travel Grant funds are awarded on a per participant basis. As the number of participants may change up until the actual date of travel, it is important to understand that the exact dollar amount awarded per program may not be known until all travel is complete. The chart below provides a list of the programs offered grant dollars as of November 14, 2008.

	School/Organization/Program	Grant Award
2008-2009 School Year	Civic Education Washington State, Project Citizen State Showcase	300.00
	Civic Education Washington State, We The People National Competition	10800.00
	Edmonds Career Center, Close-Up	5040.00
	Evergreen High School, We The People State Competition	720.00
	Frontier Middle School, Project citizen State Showcase	1080.00
	Kentlake High School, Close-Up	6120.00
	River's Edge High School, We The People State Competition	900.00
	Scriber Lake High School, Close-Up	1850.00
	Sunnyside High School, Bert Corona Leadership Institute	4800.00
	Todd Beamer High School, Close-Up	740.00
	Touchet Elementary and High School, Project Citizen State Showcase	1200.00

	Washington State School for the Blind, Close-Up	1800.00
	YMCA of Snohomish County, YMCA State Youth Legislature	900.00
	YMCA of Snohomish County, YMCA State Youth Legislature	150.00
	YMCA of Snohomish County, YMCA State Youth Legislature	600.00
	YMCA Youth and Government (state office), YMCA youth conference on national affairs	3000.00
	Total Funds Awarded:	**40,000.00**

IX. Recommendations and Conclusion

Youth are the leaders of tomorrow, but often times are forgotten as the leaders of today. Through the work of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council, young people are provided with an opportunity to have a voice in state government. The Council was created and designed by youth, truly empowering the youth of today with their voice for change. When the Legislature approved the Council in 2005 and then funded the Council in 2007, the state proved to young people that elected officials are interested in the opinions and concerns of youth.

In order to continue providing youth with a voice in state government, the Legislative Youth Advisory Council must be reauthorized in the 2009 legislative session. The Council will seek to reauthorize the Council as well as request funding for the 2009 biennium in order to support this program. With the proper funding and support, the Council is able to help provide youth with an avenue to express their opinion and have their concerns addressed. The twenty-two members of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council take their role seriously and are dedicated to the mission of LYAC and of the Legislature.

Appendix i: Legislative Youth Advisory Council Application

Due Date: July 15, 2008

The Washington State Legislative Youth Advisory Council is a 22-member council of 14-18 year-old students from across the state of Washington. Applications to the Council are reviewed by the Council and final selection is conducted by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. Half of the Council (eleven students) is replaced every year. Students then serve on the Council for two years.

Meetings are held three to six times per year, usually every other month. The meetings typically take place in Olympia or the greater Seattle area, but the Council plans to expand meetings to other areas in the future. Students are expected to attend all Council meetings and activities; travel expenses are covered. Occasionally meetings are planned during the school week, especially during session; so many students have to take a day off from school. Meetings are usually one day events, but there are occasional overnight meetings.

Outside of meetings, Council members are asked to continue the Council's work by contacting legislators to advise on pending legislation, drafting letters and legislative reports, and reaching out to other youth organizations.

Applications are due by *July 15, 2008*. Please note that a teacher's evaluation is required. If you have any questions, please contact the Council by emailing lyac@leg.wa.gov.

Submit applications to:
Legislative Youth Advisory Council
c/o Kelly Martin, Program Supervisor
Old Capitol Building
PO Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504-7200
LYAC@leg.wa.gov

Thank you for your interest! We hope to meet you soon!

Sincerely,

Phil Gardner
Chair, Washington State Legislative Youth Advisory Council

Legislative Youth Advisory Council Application
(Please type or print in pen)

Full name: Age on August 1, 2008:

Address:

City: State: WA Zip Code:

School: Grade in the 2008-2009 school year:

School district: Date of Birth:

Home phone: ( ) Cell phone: ( )

E-mail Address:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Work number: ( ) Home number: ( )

Cell number: ( )_ Email address:

Short Answer:
Answer the following questions in no more than 200 words per question. Although your response should be concise (and typed if possible), please be specific.

1. List and describe any relevant school, extra-curricular, or community activities and organizations that you are/were involved in. (What was your role in this activity and what impact did it have on you.)

Activity	Dates involved	Role	Impact

2. The Legislative Youth Advisory Council meets up to six times a year. The Council members are also asked to communicate through e-mail, work on subcommittees, and complete other LYAC related tasks when at home. Please describe your availability and the amount of time/resources you feel you would be able to put into such a program.

3. List specifics skills and unique qualities that you possess and describe how these skills/qualities can benefit the council. (no more than five examples)
    a.

    b.

    c.

    d.

    e.

4. Briefly describe your leadership and communication style. (What leadership role (if any) might you take once on the Council and how would you communicate with other Council members?)

<u>Short Essay:</u>
Please briefly answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper (no more than 1000 words total for all questions). Although your response should be concise (and typed if possible), please be specific.

1. Why do you want to be a member of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council and how will your experience on LYAC affect your personal goals?

2. What would you change about your community or school if you had the power to do so?

3. What is the most important issue facing Washington youth? How would you use your experience as a LYAC member to affect this issue?

4. If you could eat lunch with any Washington State public figure (dead or alive), who would it be and why? What questions would you ask them?

5. The Legislative Youth Advisory Council makes every effort to ensure the Council members represent the diverse population of Washington State residents. Please describe what viewpoint you can bring to LYAC and why it important that these viewpoints be represented.

6. Describe a conflict you have had with a friend, parent, teacher, co-worker, or boss, and explain how you dealt with this conflict.

Optional Section:

How did you hear about the Legislative Youth Advisory Council?

- ☐ News/newspaper
- ☐ Senate Civic Education office
- ☐ Lt. Governor's website
- ☐ Legislators or other public officials
- ☐ Teacher and/or school
- ☐ LYAC member
- ☐ Other: _____

If your application is not selected, would you still like to be involved in LYAC in other ways?

- ☐ Yes! I would like to be a LYAC contact for my school and town!
- ☐ Yes! LYAC can contact me with surveys or questions about my concerns and ideas!
- ☐ Yes! Sign me up for information about LYAC and newsletters!
- ☐ Yes! Let me know when the next LYAC meeting is!

TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORM:

Name:
School/Organization:

Email address: Phone: ( )
Address:

City: State: WA Zip Code:

Relationship to student:

This student is applying to serve on the Washington State Legislative Youth Advisory Council – a 22-member council with the purpose of advising the legislature on issues of importance to youth. Members meet up to six times per year and participate in outreach among the youth community and lobby the legislature. Every student on the Council serves for two years and must be between the ages of 14 and 18.

	Strongly Agree	**Agree**	**Disagree**	**Strongly Disagreed**	**N/A or Unknown**
Mature	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Knowledgeable about & interested in politics	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Good work ethic	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Strong Leadership Ability	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dedication	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Works well with peers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Works well with adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

☐ I recommend this student ☐ I do not recommend this student.

Comments:

Appendix ii: Rubric—2008 LYAC Application

	Not there yet	Getting there	Right there	Definitely there!
List and describe any relevant school, extra - curricular, or community activities and organizations that you are/were involved in.	Activities listed have **little or no relevance** to the mission of LYAC. (1)	Activities listed **indirectly relate** to the mission of LYAC. (2)	Activities listed are **somewhat relevant** to the mission of LYAC and provide evidence of a well rounded candidate. (3)	Activities listed are **relevant** to the mission of LYAC and provide evidence of a well rounded candidate not only in school, but also in the community. (4)
Describe your availability and the amount of time/resources you feel you would be able to put into such a program.	Candidate is **unable to commit** to LYAC (1)	Candidate **tends to overextend.** Candidate may display lack of responsibility. Attendance and dedication between meetings may be an issue. (2)	Candidate describes a **healthy balance** between commitment and over extension. (3)	Candidate describes a **healthy balance** between commitment and over extension. **AND** The description provided shows **passion** and a **willingness to commit** to LYAC(4)
List specific skills and unique qualities that you possess and describe how these skills/qualities benefit the council.	Skills are **not described adequately** and/or skills listed have **little or no relevance** to the mission of LYAC. (1)	A **satisfactory description** of skills and qualities that are **indirectly related** to the mission of LYAC. (2)	A **well thought out** description of skills and qualities that are **somewhat relevant** to the mission of LYAC. **OR** A **satisfactory description** of skills and qualities that are **extremely relevant** to the mission of LYAC (3)	A **well thought out** description of skills and qualities that are **relevant** to the mission of LYAC. (4)
Describe your leadership and communication style.	Description of leadership and communication style is **vague** and **not clearly described**. (1)	Description which is **loosely connected** to the values of LYAC leadership and/or no specific examples were given to justify the argument (2)	A **well thought out description** which is **somewhat consistent** with the values of LYAC leadership.(3)	A **well thought out description** which is **consistent** with the values of LYAC leadership including, but not limited to: whole group rather than top down, respectful of others' perspectives, professionalism, action oriented vs. passive (4)
Why do you want to be a member of LYAC and how will your experiences affect your personal goals?	Applicants goals are **self serving** and would not benefit the council in anyway. (0)	Applicant lists goals, but **loosely connects/describes** the relationship of personal goals with LYAC's mission and goals. (1)	A **well thought out description** of goals in relation to experience as a LYAC member. **AND/OR** Goals described are **consistent** with LYAC's mission and goals (2)	

	Not there yet	Getting there	Right there	Definitely there!
What would you change about your community or school if you had the power to do so?	Candidate shows little of **no evidence** of awareness of issues that affect them (1)	Candidate expresses **interest in change** but does not demonstrate a passion or present a plan for change (2)	Candidate shows one or more issues where they appear to have depth of **knowledge and commitment** (3)	Candidate shows more than one issue, or one issue in **significant depth** (4)
What is the most important issue facing Washington youth? How would you use your experience as a LYAC member to affect this issue?	The description is **lacking clarity** **AND/OR** The topic is **outside** of LYAC's **scope**. (1)	The description of the issue is somewhat **vague**, but does show the candidate's passion with the issue (2)	A **somewhat well articulated** description which identifies the problem **AND/OR** The candidate's ideas will **add diversity** to the opinions on the council. (3)	A **well articulated description** including a knowledgeable justification clearly identifying the problem and possible solutions. **AND** The candidate's ideas will **add diversity** to the opinions on the council. (4)
If you could eat lunch with any Washington State public figure, who would it be and why? What questions would you ask them?	The public figure listed is **not** a Washington state public figure **OR** **No** questions are listed(1)	The information listed is **factual** information **AND** **Unclear** why the candidate chose this public figure **OR** Questions show **little thought** (2)	The information listed is **factual** information. **AND** A **somewhat well articulated** description and the questions formed show **some analysis and thought** (3)	The information listed is **factual** information. **AND** A **well articulated description** and the questions formed show **deep analysis and thought** (4)
Describe what viewpoint you can bring to LYAC and why it is important that these viewpoints be represented? (diverse pop)	Candidate's viewpoint is **unclear** and shows **no** relationship to diversity of the Council (1)	Candidate's diverse viewpoint is **vaguely** described **AND/OR** Is **lacking a convincing argument** that this diversity will improve the effectiveness of the Council (2)	Candidate provides a **somewhat convincing argument** which describes their personal diverse viewpoint and how that diversity will improve the effectiveness of the Council (3)	Candidate provides a **convincing argument** which describes their personal diverse viewpoint and how that diversity will improve the effectiveness of the Council (4)
Describe a conflict you have had with a friend, parent, teacher, co-worker, or boss, and explain how you dealt with this conflict.	The conflict was **not** handled in a mature or respectful manner. (1)	While the solution **was not effective** in solving the problem, the conflict was handled in a **mature and respectful** manner (2)	The conflict was handled in a **mature and respectful** manner and the solution was **somewhat effective** in solving that particular problem (3)	The conflict was handled in a **mature, respectful and resourceful** manner and the solution was **effective** in solving that particular problem (4)

Appendix iii: Link to ESHB 1052 and supporting document information

ESHB 1052/Session Law
http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2007-08/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Law%202007/1052-S.SL.pdf

Final Bill Report
http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2007-08/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/House%20Final/1052-S.FBR.pdf

Budget Proviso Language
$114,000 of the general fund--state appropriation for fiscal year 2008 and $114,000 of the general fund--state appropriation for fiscal year 2009 are provided solely for the implementation of Substitute House Bill No. 1052 (legislative youth advisory council).

Appendix iv: 2008 LYAC Survey

LEGISLATIVE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON LYAC YOUTH SURVEY
We need your help!
In order to represent your point of view, we need to know some info!
Fill out our brief survey so we can present our findings to the state legislature!
Your voice counts!!!

School: _____ **Grade _____**

Environment:

Would you support passing legislation that helps fund more school recycling programs?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Would you support banning plastic bags in grocery stores?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Would you support Washington State adopting strict environmental standards like the Kyoto Protocol?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Need more information

Dropout Prevention:

Do you know someone who has dropped out of school?

☐ Yes
☐ No

In your opinion, do you believe school drop out rates are a large problem in your school and/or district?

☐ Yes
☐ No

What do you believe can be done to keep students in school? (Check all that apply)

☐ Provide more club activities
☐ Make tutoring more accessible
☐ Education on the benefits of staying in school
☐ Provide access to alternative night classes for credit retrieval
☐ Access to programs like Running Start
☐ Other: _____

What do you believe is the number one reason students drop out?

- ☐ Students failing classes/grades over the years
- ☐ Students dropping out of school to take care of children/families
- ☐ Students unable to speak English
- ☐ Students receiving inadequate help in class
- ☐ Students facing problems due to drugs and/or drinking
- ☐ Other: _____

Drugs:

Has the use of drugs negatively affected someone you know?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Has the use of alcohol negatively affected someone you know?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

In your opinion, are drugs and alcohol a large problem in your area? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Drinking, yes
- ☐ Drugs, yes
- ☐ No to both

Do you believe it is easy to obtain drugs in your school/community?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Do you believe drug dealers are penalized in an effective manner?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Youth Voice:

Do you believe your state and/or Congressional representatives value youth opinion?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Do you think it is important to have a body of youth in Olympia to represent and advocate for youth opinion and values?

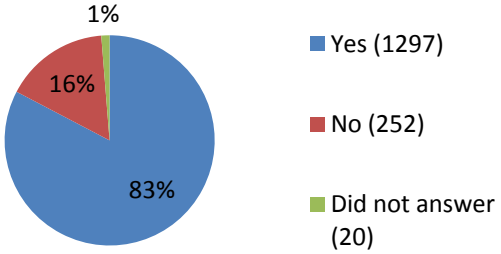
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Appendix v: Results from 2008 LYAC Survey

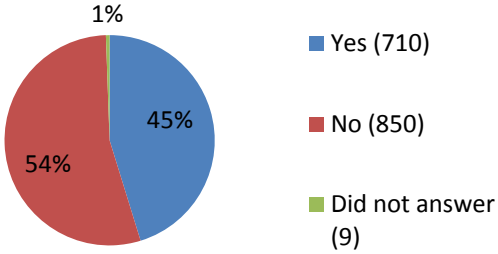
As of December 1, 2008, 1569 surveys have been collected and tabulated from various locations in Washington State. The following results are the preliminary survey results. Please note that results may change as more surveys and data are collected.

Environment

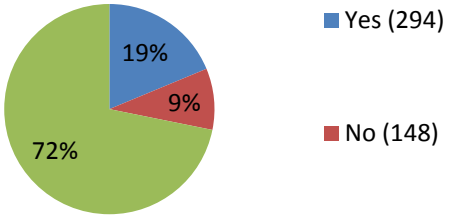
Would you support passing legislation that helps fund more school recycling programs?



Would you support banning plastic bags in grocery stores?

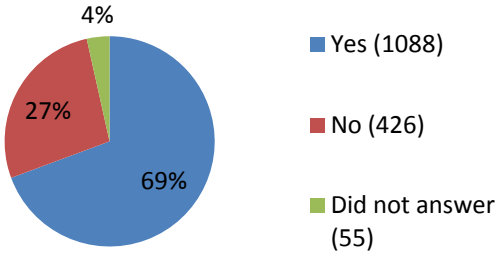


Would you support Washington State adopting strict environmental standards like the Kyoto Protocol?

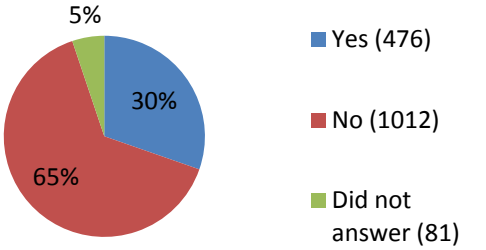


Dropout Prevention

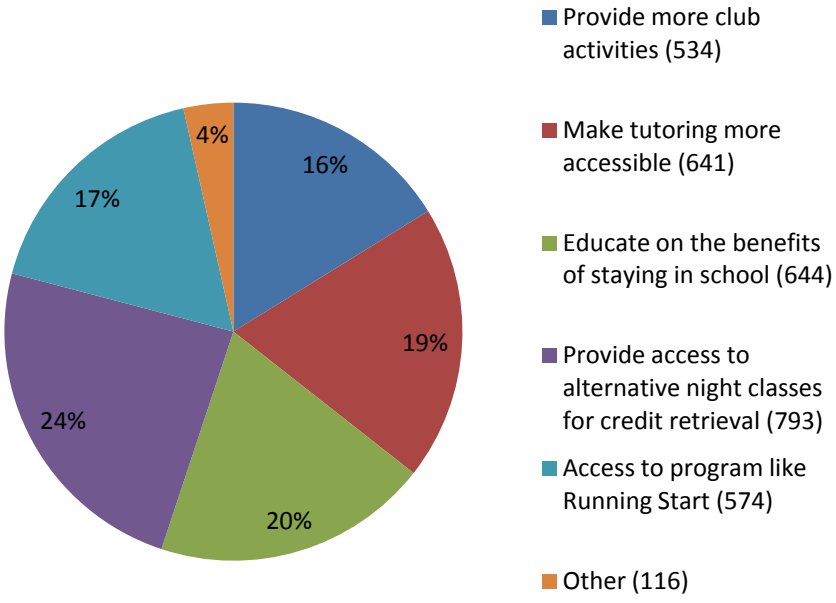
Do you know someone who has dropped out of school?



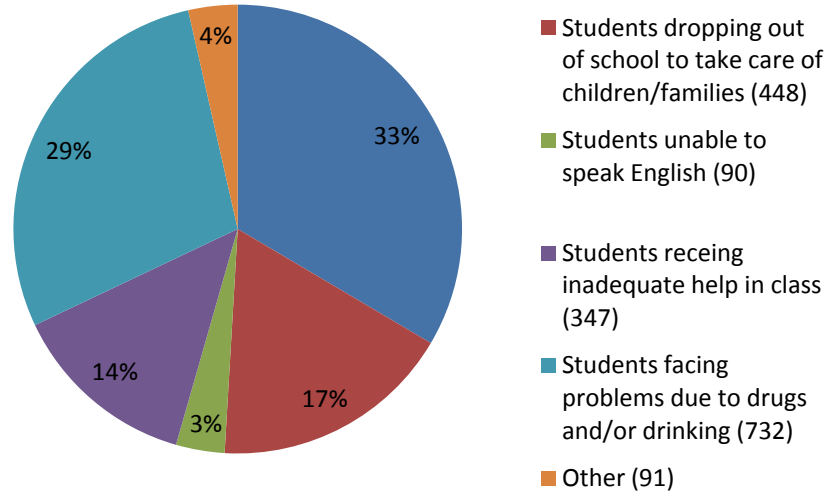
In your opinion, do you believe school dropout rates are a large problem in your area?



What do you believe can be done to keep students in school?

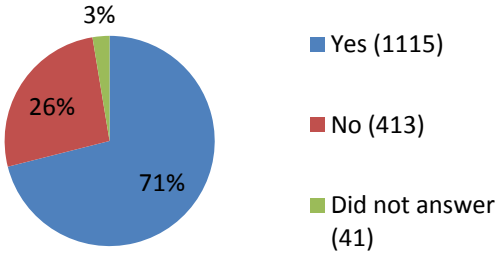


What do you believe is the number one reason students drop out?

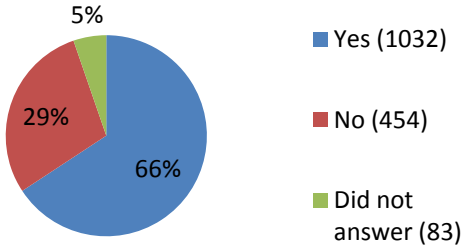


Drugs

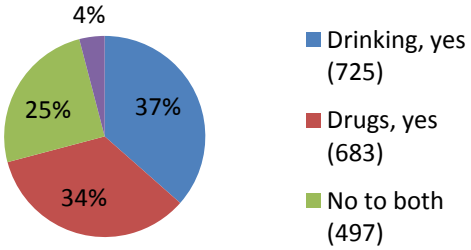
Has the use of drugs negatively affected someone you know?



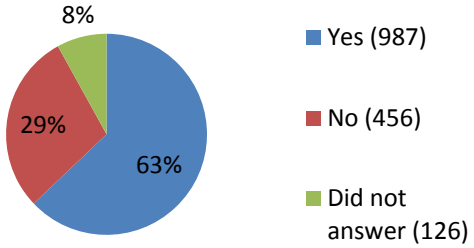
Has the use of alcohol negatively affected someone you know?



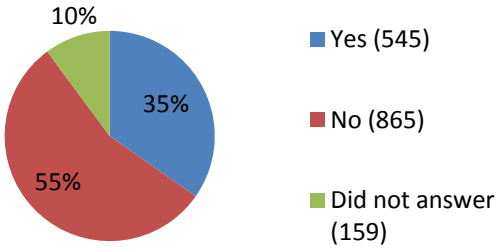
In your opinion, are drugs and alcohol a large problem in your area? (Check all that apply)



Do you believe it is easy to obtain drugs in your school/community?

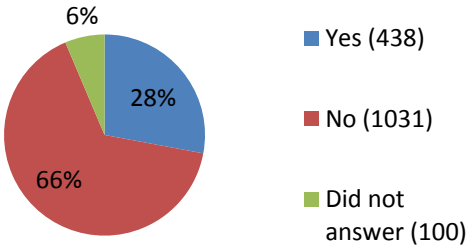
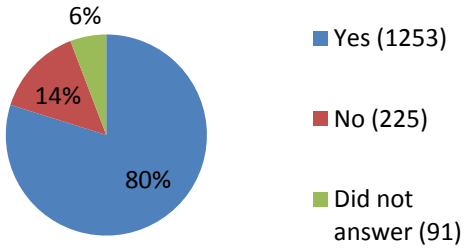


Do you believe drug dealers are penalized in an effective manner?



Youth Voice

Do you believe your state and/or Congressional representatives value youth opinion?



Do you think it is important to have a body of youth in Olympia to represent and advocate for youth opinion and values?