

INVESTING IN ACCESS

“Graduate Tacoma Summer Access Funds have helped support the Tacoma Arts Live Cultural Arts Program since 2016, which creates arts-based expanded learning opportunities through Ballet Folklorico and World Drumming. We started with an arts-integrated summer program at Roosevelt Elementary five years ago, and it has grown into year-round services with performance opportunities at the elementary, middle, and high school levels on the Eastside.

We focus on three levels of accessibility: geographic, economic, and cultural/linguistic. What we’re interested in is creating a seamless experience for students in a part of the city that needs more resources to fully develop the potential of students in those neighborhoods.

With Ballet Folklorico we’ve hit all three access areas – geographically on the Eastside, economically serving low-income neighborhoods, and culturally relevant to both Latinx and non-Latinx. We’ve watched this become another opportunity for youth leadership and social-emotional growth. Demand is higher than what we can provide, with two more elementary schools requesting programming.

Graduate Tacoma Access Funds were the original seed, the catalyst that allowed this to happen that first year. Launch of the broader Tacoma Whole Child Initiative (TWCI) has been essential in expanding to the South End. Strong partnership with Tacoma Public Schools, Graduate Tacoma, the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, and the YMCA have made this possible.

Arts-based programs play a unique role in challenging students to integrate skills across disciplines. To participate in the arts is like living out a word problem. Students are pulling on language-based learning, mathematical and spatial learning, and critical thinking while working with others.”



Tony Gomez is the Education Manager at Tacoma Arts Live, which hosts cultural arts and arts-integrated summer programs.

COMMUNITY INDICATOR

OUT OF SCHOOL & SUMMER LEARNING

Unlike other areas of measurement, this indicator is reliant on the number of out-of-school and summer learning partners sharing student-level data with the Graduate Tacoma movement. An increasing number of organizations collecting this data has allowed us to deepen our understanding of where and how we’re reaching students. However, the information on this page reflects only a portion of Tacoma providers.

Although still fine tuning the collection and reporting process, we have found that students of color on average had 3.25 more days of programming than their White peers. Low-income students had an average of three days more than their more affluent peers — a decrease from 10 days in 2017. Enrollment for students in fifth grade or lower has also gone down to 56 percent, from last year’s 63 percent. Meanwhile, enrollment has increased among middle and high school students — an area noted last year for needed expansion. An influential added program for this year’s report is the season-long Summer Jobs 253. It’s programming extended the average length of summer programming enrollment among students to 19 days. Without Summer Jobs 253, the average is 13.7 days.

Students from the higher need 98404, 98405, and 98409 zip codes were the most likely to participate in programming city-wide.

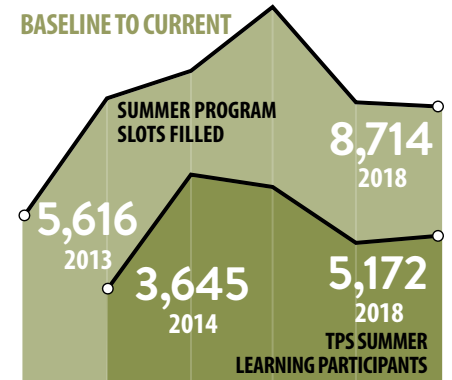
Your Role to Better Data

Our goal is to provide a comprehensive scan of the region to see where gaps exist so that organizations best suited to offer critical programs to Tacoma kids can be proactive in their planning. An added outcome is that this reporting process allows us to share a robust directory to families and kids in the region preparing for the summer. Self-reporting your organization or program data to Graduate Tacoma helps grow our data capability for this indicator. The more organizations and institutions sharing their programs, the more accurate we can be in understanding the reach and access of summer opportunities to Tacoma kids.

In 2018, more than 540 programs from 25 out-of-school and summer learning providers listed their offerings at SummerLearningTacoma.org. This is up from 300 in 2017. Add your organization today to help us provide the most comprehensive and accurate directory to Tacoma families!

DATA TRENDS

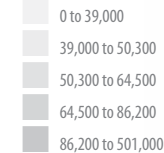
BASELINE TO CURRENT



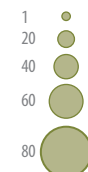
AIMING HIGHER GOAL: Increase the number of students participating in out-of-school and summer learning opportunities. Increase the quality of community programs and strengthen academic content.

TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY SUMMER LEARNING SITES 2018

2018 Household Income (median)



of Programs



PROGRAMS BEYOND TACOMA

This map shows the spread of partner summer programs listed on SummerLearningTacoma.org throughout Pierce County.