

# SOAR

building effective partnerships  
for children, youth & families

## School-Age Children & Youth

SOAR's School-Age Implementation Team (SAIT) is a group of professionals who helped develop and now oversee the implementation of the *King County Action Agenda for School-Age Children and Youth*. The Action Agenda was created through an extensive, inclusive community planning process and details large-scale goals and strategies for supporting children and youth in King County. The School-Age Implementation Team includes representatives from child- and youth-serving agencies, local government, parents and guardians, business, philanthropy and education sectors.

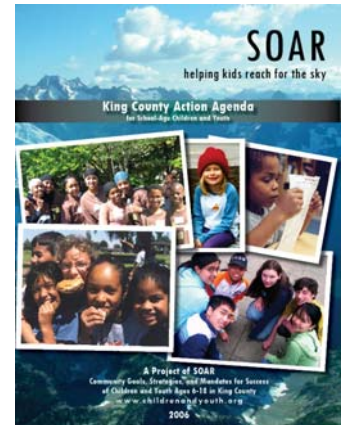


School-Age Implementation Team (SAIT):

- is a *catalyst* to energize agencies and groups that serve youth
- *champions* best practices and legislative policies to ensure quality opportunities for all young people
- *convenes* youth and youth service professionals for training, mentoring, and capacity-building
- *connects* all those in the community working toward the common goal of preparing young people for lifelong success

SOAR Action Agenda Goals:

1. **Access to Quality Out-of-School Programs:** Children and youth have full and safe access to local, quality, engaging and relevant programs that help them succeed in school and in life.
2. **Meaningful Roles:** Children and youth have culturally relevant and age-appropriate opportunities to be leaders, decision makers, and engaged members of a community that values them.
3. **Meaningful Relationships:** Children and youth have positive, healthy, and nurturing relationships with caregivers, family, peers, mentors, program staff, and their community; these relationships guide and inspire them toward success.
4. **Resiliency & Valued Identities:** Children and youth build resiliency and participate safely, without experiencing or expressing bias, as valued members of diverse, conscientious communities.



SOAR Action Teams:

- King County Youth Development Network
- Pathways to Partnerships Action Team
- Advocacy for Youth & Youth Workers Action Team
- Social Justice & Inclusion Action Team

**Active SOAR Partners:** Alliance of People with disabilities, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Camp Fire USA, Casey Family Programs, City of Bellevue Parks & Community Services, City of Redmond Parks & Recreation, City of Seattle Parks & Recreation, City of Shoreline, Community Day School Association, Community Schools Collaboration, East African Community Services, Eastside Pathways, Forum for Youth Investment, Kids Co, King County Food & Fitness Initiative, King County Organizing Program, League of Education Voters, Make College Real, Metrocenter YMCA, Neighborhood House, Penny Harvest, Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest, School's Out Washington, Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestras, Service Learning Seattle, Social Venture Kids, Southwest Youth & Family Services, UW Center for Leadership in Athletics, WSU Strengthening Families Program, Youth Suicide Prevention Program

*Kyla Lackie, SOAR School-Age Youth Program Manager, [kyla@childrenandyouth.org](mailto:kyla@childrenandyouth.org), 206-336-6937*

### King County Youth Development Network:

- Provides both an online hub that centralizes resources & information and in-person networking, professional panels & training. KCYDN strives to build a supportive, cohesive & cooperative youth development community to ensure that all young people in King County have access to high quality programs and caring, supportive adults.
- Over 10,000 people connect to the site each year. Youth workers actively post youth development events, jobs, discussion, and blogs. The site regularly receives over 1,000 visitors per month.
- Monthly networking events raise awareness of local resources and encourage new partnerships. Topics include Youth Employment, Truancy Prevention & Intervention, Youth & Media, LGBTQ Youth, Youth Legal Resources.
- Continue to develop and expand KCYDN both the website and in-person networking to create a more cohesive, well-connected community of youth development staff in King County.
- Mobilize the KCYDN around youth related advocacy issues.

### Pathways to Partnerships Action Team:

- Hosted a focus group on community school partnerships for Seattle Public Schools & the Alliance for Education.
- Continue researching local school and community-based organizations partnership practices, interviewing local practitioners and sharing resources, sharing lessons learned and practical tools to support effective partnering.
- Maintain website ([pathways2partnerships.com](http://pathways2partnerships.com)) featuring partnership tools and discussion.

### Advocacy for Youth & Youth Workers Action Team:

- Hosted annual training on advocacy tools for youth programs and youth development staff.
- Supported over 100 students in visiting Olympia and meeting with legislators.
- Compiled youth related advocacy resources and training materials to support increased engagement in advocacy.
- Co-hosted and supported candidates forum with the Seattle Human Services Coalition
- Mobilize and support youth development staff to engage in youth related advocacy issues.

### Social Justice & Inclusion Action Team:

- Distributed over 1,500 **Multicultural Youth Leadership Curriculum** copies throughout the US and internationally.
- Trained over 130 youth development professionals in implementing the Multicultural Youth Leadership.
- Updated the curriculum and expanded the training with curriculum developers and trainers.
- Created webinars for each Multicultural Youth Development Curriculum activities.
- Convening program staff around expanding social justice and youth development practice in King County

### Youth Engagement Practitioners Cadre

- Convened a cadre of experienced practitioners to gather the wisdom and cultivate the knowledge of seasoned youth engagement practitioners from across King County. Identifying and examining personal, cultural, and systemic assumptions and experiences about youth engagement while expanding personal thinking and professional expectations regarding youth engagement.
- Establishing new youth engagement norms and behaviors in organizations throughout King County
- Developing collaborative opportunities to demonstrate the efficacy of youth engagement
- Compiling a best practices manual based on Cadre learning

### Putting the Pieces Together Conference:

- This annual professional development and networking conference connects and informs over 400 attendees including a wide range of people working to support children, youth and families at different levels (direct service providers, agency directors, and community members, local government representatives) and all contexts, from grassroots to large organizations.
- Coordinated over 25 school-age and youth related workshops for annual conference.
- Supporting the coordination of high quality school-age children and youth related workshops & networking.

### Online Youth Resources:

- Designed and funded a searchable afterschool program listing ([afterschoolllearning.org](http://afterschoolllearning.org))
- Convening key stakeholders to support redesign and ongoing development of a youth-friendly, searchable youth program database, youth jobs listings, and volunteer and engagement opportunities.