



YAKIMA COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2025



Yakima Valley Partners for Education

Heritage University

We respectfully acknowledge
that our work takes place
on the historic lands of
the Yakama Nation.



What is the purpose of this report?



Awareness

This report and other communications are published within the community to raise awareness about the collaborations of YVPE and to encourage local alignment.



Accountability

We are accountable to the community for achieving the results in this report.



Action

The information shared in this report helps inform the partnership's planning, strategies and improvement cycles.

Want to get involved?



Share student, family, and community voices that promote informed systems change.



Partnerships help us reach children, youth, families, promote programs and distribute resources.



Financial contributions to support the cradle to career programming.

Contact Us

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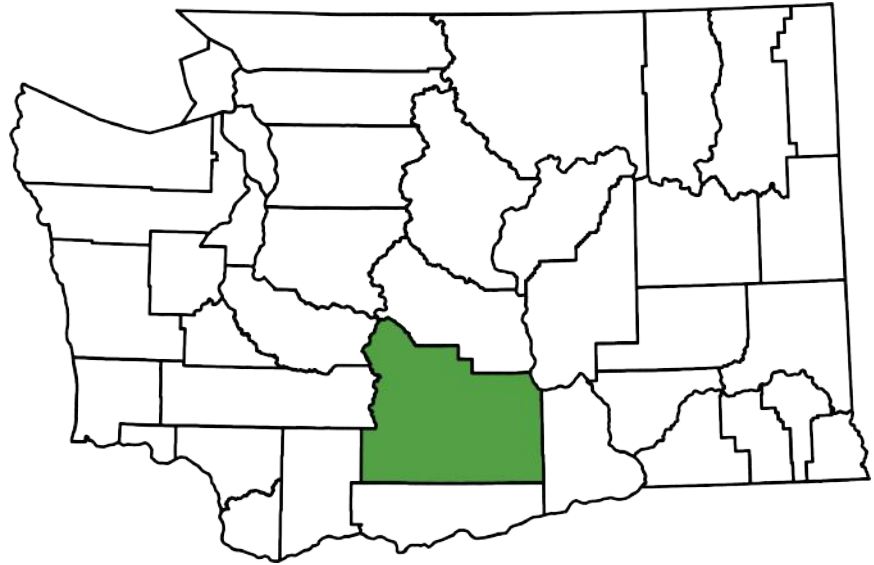


**Yakima Valley
Partners for Education**

Heritage University

About Yakima Valley

Yakima County, located in central Washington, has **256,728 residents** and includes the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.



The Yakama Nation's land includes **1.2 million acres** and about **6,300 members**.



Our Vision

Systems of support for all individuals to acquire 21st Century skills.



Our Mission

Systems and partnerships that mindfully allocate resources needed for communities to thrive in the lower Yakima Valley.

Year 3 Focus Areas

Educational outcomes are improved through data-informed action through a collective impact approach.

- ✓ SBA reading rates, an indicator for literacy proficiency in elementary school.
- ✓ FAFSA completion rates, a leading indicator for post-secondary outcomes.



Educational Data

Track Educational Progress in Yakima County

The indicators featured on our website track the progress of four school districts and their surrounding communities.

They correspond to the seven focus areas of the Partners. Comparisons to the values for Yakima County overall and the state of Washington are provided for context. Don't miss the More Info section below the graphs for an explanation of the results and a link to the sources.

[Click here](#) to access our data.



**“I am looking forward to simply taking
the next step forward from high school.”**

— Student, Class of 2025

Post-Secondary Access

Yakima Valley Partners for Education is responding to the needs of the Lower Valley community in support of access to information and options about college and career for their students, families, and friends.

We measure our work across 4 strategies, use a community and school-based approach, and expand cross-sector participation for improved results.

Community conversations are paired with structured resources, we present opportunities for educational access for families, parents, and students.



Post-Secondary Access

A Cradle to Career approach for improved outcomes and economic mobility.



Notable FAFSA Rates

YVPE engages its partners to work directly with four communities in Yakima County. As a result we consistently produce FAFSA rates above the state rate.



Rural

We work with school districts and community based providers who serve rural communities to ensure that students have opportunities to connect with resources to support their goals.



Food Security

We include a warm meal in all our events and community conversations to support whole family and partner participation for improved access to resources.



Place-based and Data Driven

Our services are tied to positive outcomes through place-based approaches that support all individuals. As a result we are good fiscal stewards of resources.

Post-Secondary Access

55
PARTNERS
applying
place-based
approaches...

...serving
15,326
YOUTH
in the Lower
Yakima Valley

Strategies producing Yakima Valley Partners for Education FAFSA results

- ✓ Post-high school options presented through community conversations.
- ✓ Campus visits to community colleges, universities and technical schools
- ✓ FAFSA completion support through partnerships and income tax preparation assistance.
- ✓ Campus to Campus Connector transports students to college campuses in the Valley.

“Thank you so much for all those books, for our staff, we really appreciate it.”

— Maribel Rojas, Sunnyside Assisted Living

Literacy

Houdini the Learning Ambassador

Mascot Engagement

- Houdini Was books were donated to participating school district libraries and public libraries.

Houdini Access

- Mascots: 4 community partners share the mascot with the community and attend community events promoting literacy.
- Houdini Was, supports introducing conversations about grief, loss, and honoring pets.
- Book distributions: access to free books through direct service providers and community-based outreach activities.



Literacy

Houdini in the Communities

Organization	City	# of Banners
YVC and Grandview School District	Grandview	2
Nuestra Casa	Sunnyside	1
Yakima Neighborhood Health	Sunnyside	1
Sunnyside School District	Sunnyside	2
Inspire Centers	Harrah & Granger	2
Yakima Central Library	Yakima	4
Safe Haven Community Center	Toppenish	1
Heritage University	Toppenish	1
Catholic Charities Housing Services	Mabton, Grandview, & Prosser	3
West Valley SD	West Valley	7



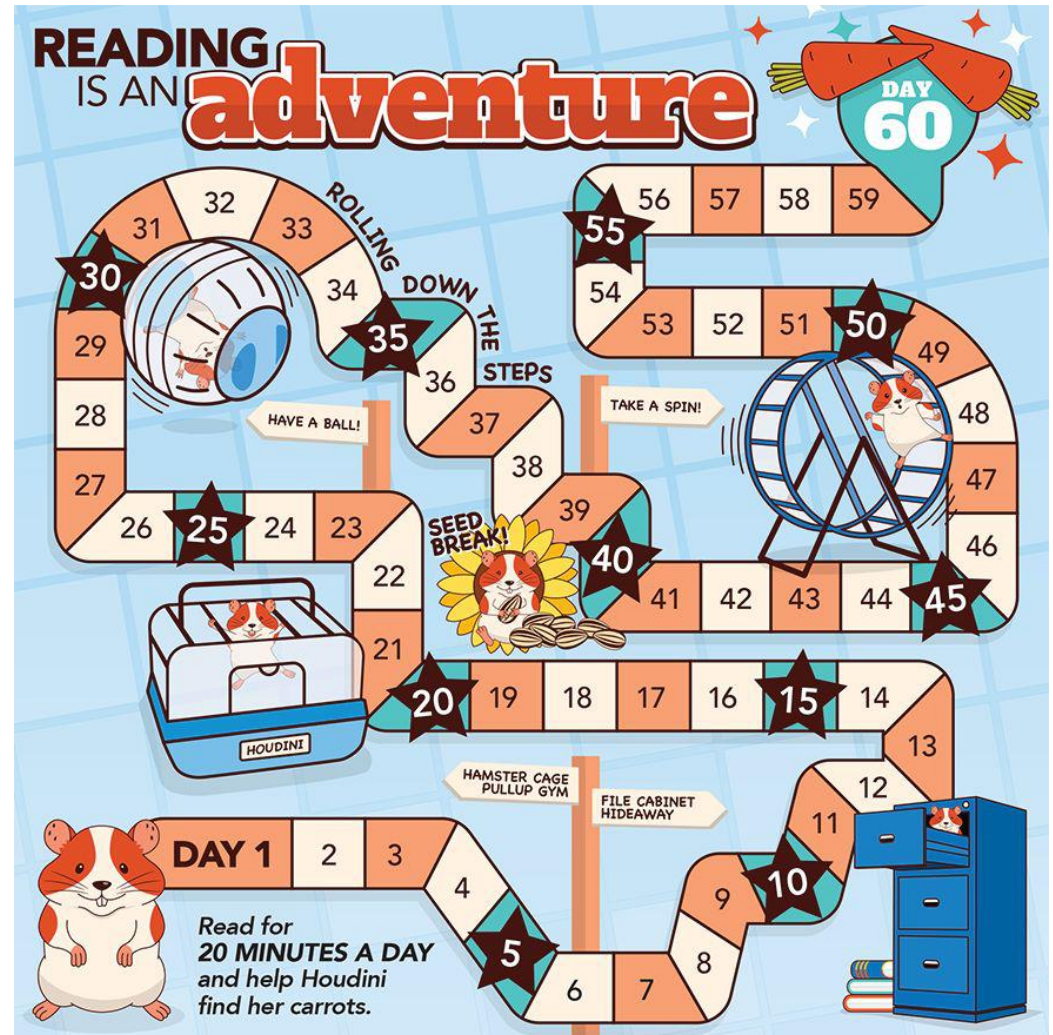
Vanessa Frias, Parents as Teachers Program, at Safe Haven in Toppenish

Literacy

Yakima Valley Library Winter Reading Challenge

Yakima Valley Library piloted a Houdini-inspired reading challenge in Sunnyside, Granger and Mabton from December 1, 2024 to January 31, 2025.

The results were inspiring and Yakima Valley Libraries launched a summer reading challenge that reached over one million minutes read in the County.



Literacy

Yakima Valley Library Winter Reading Challenge Results

This data highlights the strong engagement of young readers, particularly those between the ages of 5 and 7, who made up a significant portion of participants.

The high number of minutes read compared to the total registrations suggests that **many readers were deeply committed**, logging substantial reading time.

Additionally, the challenge successfully engaged adults, **showing that reading programs can appeal to all ages.**

Moving forward, targeted efforts could focus on increasing challenge completions and engaging older teens, who had lower participation rates.

Dec. 1, 2024–Jan. 31, 2025	Granger	Mabton	Sunnyside	Total
Registrations	112	92	163	367
Active Readers	68	65	110	243
Challenge Completions	12	18	21	51
Rewards	68	101	110	279
Minutes Read	41,652	75,768	58,262	175,682

“In our small groups we explore the connections between self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationships skills, and responsible decision-making.”

— School Partner

Wellness Zones

Yakima Valley Partners for Education engages its partners to create place-based wellness zones to help families cultivate a sense of belonging and contribute to their success through training, skill building and community engagement activities.



Wellness Zones

NINE PARTNERS

using wellness
zone approaches

Our partners work cross-sector and collaboratively to connect their students, clients, families, and individuals to resources.

Strategies producing YVPE wellness zone results



Training and train-the-trainer models, evidence based approaches for wellbeing.



Community engagement helps bring people together to learn skills, engage, and connect.



Internships provide practical skill-building opportunities for students to learn while they provide a service.

**“Thank you for everything you
are doing! Keep up the great work.”**

— Maura

Community Resource Center

YVPE Fiscal Year 2025 Resources Distribution

Item	Total Distributed
Books	23,810
Toys	17,300
Backpacks	1,300
Banners	35
Highlight Magazines	4,299
Coloring Placemats	355
Hygiene Products	1,430
Tori Digital Learning Game	716
Sunglasses	50

Item	Total Distributed
Holiday Toy Gift Bags	207
Sensory Toy Sets	102
Character Education	40
Deodorants	114
Drawstring Bags	97
Band Aid boxes	113
Reading Kits	100
Stress Balls	478
\$50 Grocery Cards	50

50,596 total items distributed

**“Thank you for supporting the
people of this community
and for not forgetting us.”**

— Community Member

Food Security

Communities Served:

Prosser, Grandview, Mabton, Granger, Sunnyside
Wapato, Toppenish, Tieton, and Harrah.

Co-hosted:

- 18 community events

Supported:

- 8 educational events with food
- 20 financial aid workshops with refreshments

Food:

- 2,954 plates of warm food served
- 50 food cards (\$50 each) distributed
- 920 cups of fresh fruit served

Participated in:

- 9 community resource events
- 2 conferences and summits (Bellevue and Alaska)



“I’ve learned that there are more options and a lot of help. It gives me a sense of relief that there is more than one path I could take to get to my goal.”

— 2025 Trades and Careers Participant

National Network

Yakima Valley Partners for Education is a member of the StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network. The Cradle to Career Network is a national movement working to put millions more young people on a path to economic mobility.

YVPE has earned the Emerging designation from StriveTogether, recognizing our commitment to coordinated action, data-driven decision-making and community collaboration to improve outcomes for youth and families.

The Emerging Gateway

- Taking coordinated action to improve outcomes for youth and families
- Deepening relationships across sectors
- Clarifying roles and responsibilities
- Building trust with community members, especially those most impacted by systemic barriers



Gratitude Circle

We extend our gratitude to the organizations, donors, friends and family who help us center youth and families in hopes of improving educational outcomes.

Ballmer Group
Campesino Advocacy Group
Catholic Charities Housing
Christan Connors
College Success Foundation
Communities 4 Colleges
Communities in Schools of CW
Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Nation
Eastern Washington University
El Conquistador
Grandview School District
Granger School District
Heritage University
HU HEP
Inspire Development Centers
KDNA
Ken and Sharon Smith

Mabton School District
Mariscos Masters
Mt. Adams School District
Northwest Harvest
Nuestra Casa
Nuestro Valor (FrEsCo)
Office of Native Education - OSPI
OIC
Partners for Rural Impact
People for People
Rural 2 Rural Collaborative
Save the Children
Self Help Credit Union
Shine Strategies
Strive Together
Sunnyside School District
Taxes y Mas
Toppenish School District

UW CoLab
UW GEAR UP
WA|C2C Learning
Network
Wapato School District
Washington Student
Achievement Council
West Valley School
District + MFJ
WorkSource -Sunnyside
Yakima Health District
Yakima Neighborhood
Health - Sunnyside
Yakima Valley College
YVFWC - Parents as
Teachers
Yakima Valley Libraries
YVFWC - Farm to School
Collaborative