

## SCHOOL SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT

# Washington State COVID Response and Recovery Project

**Partner** Edmonds School District, Evergreen Public Schools,  
and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

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## A Proactive Response to Interrupted Learning

When the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the K–12 education system, new complications in teaching and learning piled onto existing challenges caused by systemic racism. This meant that students of color felt the pandemic’s negative impacts more significantly than their peers.

To help school districts in Washington state respond proactively, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation created the COVID Response and Recovery Project. As part of the 18-month initiative, Education Northwest partnered with two school districts—Edmonds School District and Evergreen Public Schools—to co-design supports that would help district staff members, administrators, and teachers redesign systems and implement strategies to support student well-being and deliver more equitable outcomes for students of color.

## How We Helped Our District Partners

**Conducted needs assessments and reviewed data** to understand how the districts were serving students, which student groups were most impacted by pandemic-related challenges, and where the districts needed more support

**Supported the launch of multi-tiered systems of supports** by developing practical tools and protocols and building district capacity

**Provided training and coaching** on culturally responsive practice

**Developed** districtwide equity-focused strategic plans

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**Strengthened supports for multilingual students** by analyzing various dual language program models, assessing teacher staffing ratios, and developing a timeline and guide for dual language programming

**Adapted our technical assistance** to support districts through changing timelines, staffing disruptions, contract tracing, and a changing political landscape