



A Look Back

Olympia School District Education Foundation



OLYMPIA SCHOOL DISTRICT
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Olympia School District Education Foundation (OSDEF) was founded in 1998 to remove barriers and enhance educational success for all Olympia School District (OSD) students. While OSDEF proudly supports OSD students, families and educators in fulfillment of its mission, as a nonprofit, OSDEF is separate from OSD. In 2020, thanks to our generous donors and sponsors, we raised a record amount of funds, allowing us to not just sustain our programs, but provide greater assistance than ever before.

Letter from the OSDEF Executive Director

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

I know what you're thinking ... Why would anyone want to review 2020? A year filled with events that necessitated uncomfortable and long-overdue conversations. That resulted in unprecedented hardship for so many and forced all of us to significantly alter how we live our daily lives.

The answer came down to two things: flexibility and generosity. **Like many organizations, OSDEF pivoted hard to adapt to COVID-19.** We were also fortunate to have the continued support of donors and sponsors. The result was a remarkable year for the Foundation and the students, families and educators we assist. (And assist we did, as you'll see!)

Yes, 2020 was an emotional year. And nearly every time I found myself discouraged, depressed or dumbfounded by the state of the world, I thought about the people who allow OSDEF to further our mission, and my mood was immediately buoyed.

We hope this look back at 2020 leaves you feeling both as encouraged and inspired—by what can happen when a community unites to support an organization truly dedicated to its mission—as the OSDEF Board of Trustees and I are.

Here's to continued compassion in 2021.

Best,

Katy Johansson

Executive Director | OSDEF

Pivot One

Creating PEF Grocery Vouchers and a Campaign to Fund Their Increased Need

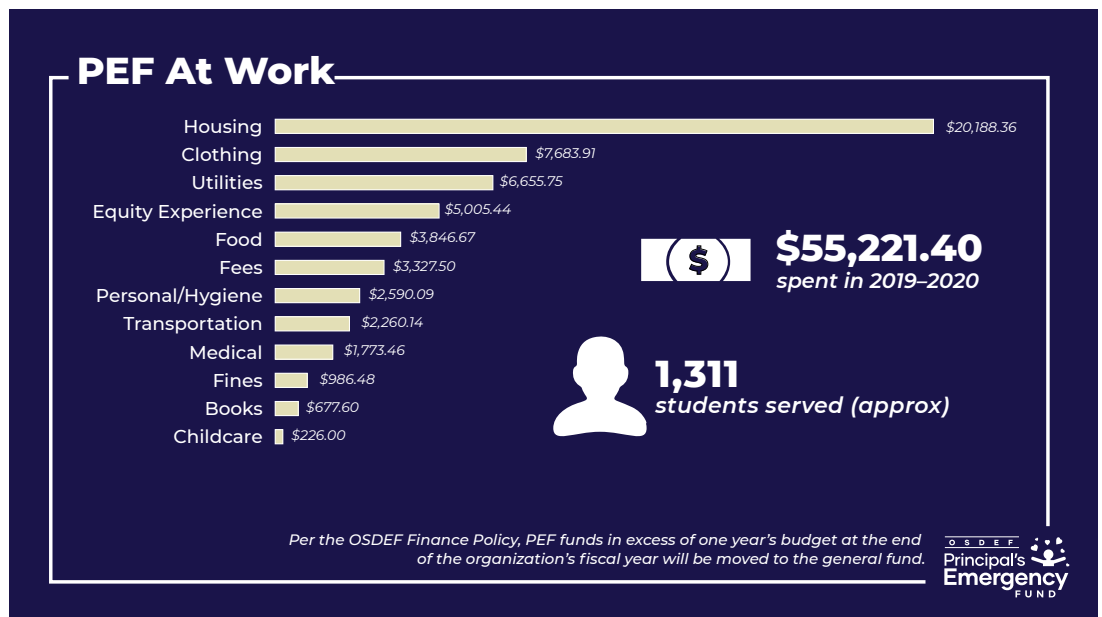
Just weeks before the pandemic forced the closure of school buildings last March, we partnered with Stormans, Inc., so that families with urgent basic needs could purchase groceries and other necessities with vouchers at Bayview Thriftway and Ralph's Thriftway through our Principal's Emergency Fund (PEF). Recognizing that COVID-related job losses would likely create an increased need for the PEF and our new vouchers, on March 17 we launched a PEF Boost campaign, and our community stepped up in a big way, raising nearly \$30,000 for this purpose.

"When I asked [a single mom of five kids] if she needed help ... she said she had \$1,500, which is the cost of rent, but that's ALL she had. So, she had to do one or the other: rent or food. She was ecstatic to get grocery vouchers so she didn't have to risk their living situation."

—OSD Principal

How did your contributions help? Between March and June alone, \$36,000 in PEF vouchers was redeemed by hundreds of OSD families, including:

- A family of six: The dad is disabled and the mom and two oldest children worked at a local restaurant, but were laid off due to COVID. One of the oldest children was working at three different food trucks.
- A single dad of four who works with his children delivering newspapers at 2 a.m. and also supports their grandparents.



The \$36,000 in grocery vouchers is in addition to the more than \$55,000 in PEF funds that helped students and families during the 2019-2020 school year avoid eviction, keep the heat and water turned on inside their homes, pay medical bills, participate in extracurricular activities, and so much more.

Special thanks to Olympia Diamond Backers and the Capital City Marathon Association for donating a portion of their proceeds to the PEF Boost campaign.

Pivot Two



Selling Out a Golf Tournament

We weren't sure how, in the middle of a pandemic, registration for the Charlie's PEF Golf Scramble would go—or if the tournament could happen at all. Thanks to the continued dedication and hard work of event organizers Mike and Kandra Barrett, the August event sold out for the first time. We are so appreciative of the staff at the Olympia Country & Golf Club, our event sponsors, as well as all 120 players—none of whom flinched when, because of COVID restrictions, the scramble had to be played with tee times instead of a shotgun start. (The last team teed off at 3:40 p.m.!)

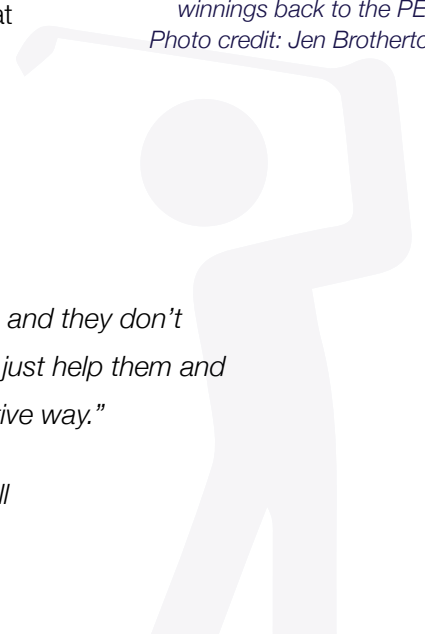
Since taking over the event in 2019, the Barretts have raised \$40,000 for the PEF! Why do they feel so strongly about this program?

"Mike and I love [the Principal's Emergency Fund] since every single penny goes back to the families who need it. We love that the principals can help those families and they don't have to jump through hoops to get help. It's amazing that the principals are able to just help them and how much it impacts those families in such a positive way."



—Kandra Barrett, Co-owner, Charlie's Bar and Grill

Boston Harbor Elementary Principal Jen Brotherton, Pioneer Elementary Principal Joel Lang, Centennial Elementary Principal Shannon Ritter and Hansen Elementary Principal Billy Harris played on one of two principal teams at the 2020 Charlie's PEF Scramble. They also won the "Green Ball" challenge and chose to donate their \$1,450 in winnings back to the PEF. Photo credit: Jen Brotherton



Pivot Three

Planning and Executing a Virtual Breakfast

It was clear before summer break that holding our annual Principal's Emergency Fund Breakfast in September at the Hotel RL with 400-plus guests would be unrealistic at best. What was less obvious was how we would pull off a compelling virtual event to take its place. Under the leadership of PEF Breakfast Committee Chair Christine Brewer, we organized not only what was arguably the best PEF Breakfast ever, but the most lucrative as well.

Through a combination of live presentations and pre-taped footage, we shared heartfelt and emotional stories about how the PEF is literally saving students' lives, which inspired our community to support the PEF like it never has before. Within two days of the September event, we surpassed our goal to raise \$110,000. And by the end of 2020, donations for the PEF Breakfast were still coming in.

If you weren't able to join us for the 2020 PEF Breakfast, you can still view the program on our website: <https://www.osdef.org/live-pef-breakfast-event>

Special thanks to: event emcee Drew Mikkelsen (pictured top right) of KING-5 News; Chuck Oldright of Turning Leaf Productions; event executive producer Jennifer Huntley; and Nana's Pant Suit for an uplifting performance to close out the event.



Congratulations to our 2020 Hecks' Heroes: **Kevin Stormans** (center photo) of Stormans, Inc., and Olympia High School student **Nidhi Krishna Kumar** (bottom photo, photo credit: Yathi Lingam). The award, named in recognition of PEF founders Lt. Gov. Denny Heck and his wife, Paula, honors organizations and people who go above and beyond to assist OSD students and families with urgent basic needs. Kevin Stormans authorized the PEF Grocery Voucher Program that we launched in winter 2020 at Bayview Thriftway and Ralph's Thriftway. Nidhi Krishna Kumar volunteered her time teaching lessons to children in the classical dance form of Bharatanatyam. She donated all her proceeds—nearly \$1,200—to the PEF.

Pivot Four

Adding More Resources During Unprecedented Times

Thanks to our most successful PEF Breakfast ever, our inaugural PEF Boost campaign, the Charlie's PEF Golf Scramble, our first Give Local campaign through the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound, as well as grant funding from a number of organizations, we were able to expand the resources offered through the PEF for the 2020–2021 school year.

Internet Access. To help ensure all students can participate in distance learning, we are helping provide reliable Internet access through Comcast Internet Essentials to any OSD student who needs it.

Emergency Housing. To get our houseless families out of the elements and into safe and warm shelter during our coldest and wettest months, we are offering temporary emergency housing assistance through a partnership with the Governor Hotel. We also want to thank our local Columbia Bank branches for donating their Warm Hearts Winter Drive proceeds to this initiative.

Child Care Assistance. Understanding that distance learning creates a challenge for families who cannot work from home, we are subsidizing the burden of childcare expenses.

"Thank you for providing Comcast service to one of my students. Her wifi hotspot had been broken since the spring and her mom's data plan ran out on her cell phone. This family had such great need and you removed a barrier to her education. She now participates with her class and in my small group Zoom meetings. She is delighted to participate and is eager to learn. Thank you so much for helping her overcome a seemingly impossible obstacle."

—Sarah Eygabroat, Lincoln Options Resource Teacher



Pivot Five

Wreath Fundraiser Supports Students, Families and Educators

We were as disappointed as every fifth-grader that in 2020, COVID canceled Cispus, which we have helped support for a decade through student-led holiday wreath sales. We suspected that even though Cispus was an unlikely possibility in 2021, our supporters would still want to purchase our holiday wreaths. So this year wreath sales supported the PEF and our Teaching & Learning Grants instead of Cispus. If it is safe for students to experience Cispus in 2022, the funds from our 2019 wreath sales are reserved for this purpose.



OSDEF Wreath Distribution Day is always a favorite for our Trustees and their families.



Additional OSDEF Programs

While the financial devastation that COVID caused so many of our families necessitated that we focus on the Principal's Emergency Fund in 2020, most of our other programs thrived as well:

During the 2019-2020 school year **nearly 80 Teaching & Learning Grants** were approved—at least one in every OSD building—totaling more than \$88,000. A few examples ...

- “Narwhal and Jelly” author/illustrator Ben Clanton visited Garfield for a day.
- Battle of the Books literature for all four middle schools was purchased. When school buildings closed, students were still able to participate in the Battle of the Books competition via Zoom.
- Video equipment helped Reeves Middle School students create a Kindness Campaign.
- Avanti High School students built an outdoor pavilion as part of a construction-based math class.

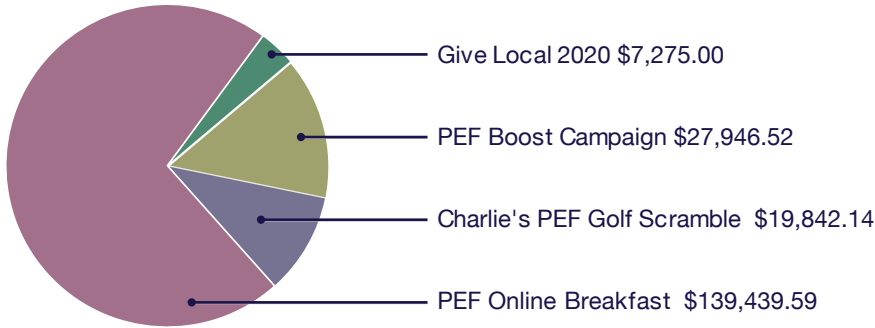
To increase exposure to the performing arts, our **Performing Arts Initiative** provides free and subsidized theatre, music, dance, storytelling and other experiences to students in their schools and out in the community. Before COVID closed school buildings and theatres, we hosted some 35 PAI performances, including the Civil Rights Legacy Tour's “Get on the Bus,” and plays produced by Harlequin Productions and Olympia Family Theater. We also loved filling the Washington Center for the Performing Arts with 950 students last school year to watch Latin-grass band Che Apalache, and look forward to a day when we can provide live experiences like this again.

In recognition of what many experts are calling a mental health epidemic, in 2019 we launched our **Mental Health Initiative**, establishing a districtwide Mental Health Resource Library and grants for teachers and counselors specific to mental health/social-emotional learning. This fall we teamed up with the nationally-acclaimed Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide to develop a free online learning experience to bring trauma-informed care into the post-COVID school environment for educators, students and families. You can learn more about Navigating Back to School here: <https://www.osdef.org/mentalhealthinitiative>.

Our **Middle School Math Tutoring Program** supports sixth-grade students who begin the year below standard in math, with the hope of not just raising their test scores, but instilling more confidence in their ability to do math. While the program has been put on hold due to COVID, we are exploring how we can assist middle schools again in the 2021-2022 school year.

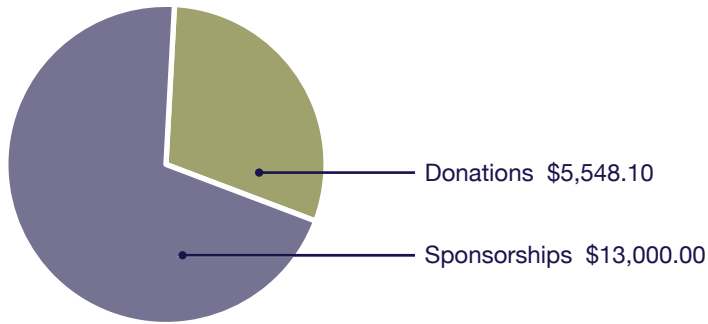
2020 Finances

Principal's Emergency Fund Revenue **\$194,503.25**



Taste of Olympia Revenue **\$18,548.10**

Thanks to those who honored their sponsorships or donated the cost of their tickets after our inaugural Taste of Olympia event, which was to benefit Teaching & Learning Grants and the Mental Health Initiative, was canceled.



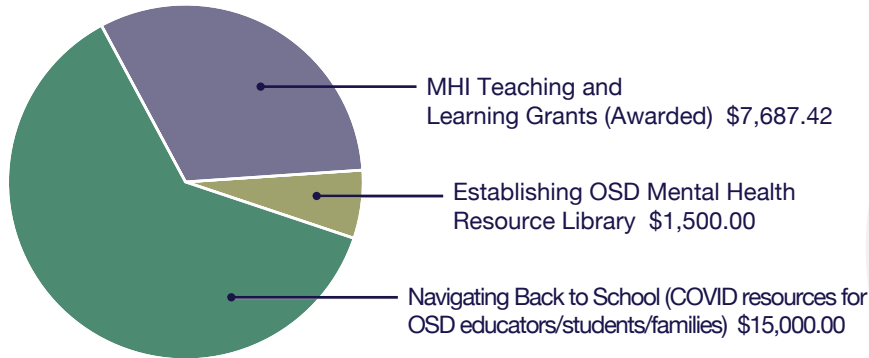
Wreath Fundraiser Revenue **\$13,880.81**

2020 wreath sales benefit the Principal's Emergency Fund and Teaching & Learning Grants.
2019 wreath sales funds have been sheltered for the next fifth-grade class that can attend Cispus.



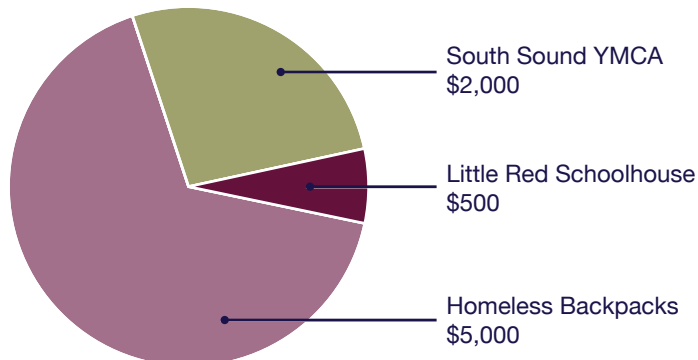
2019–2020 Finances

Mental Health Initiative Spending \$24,187.42



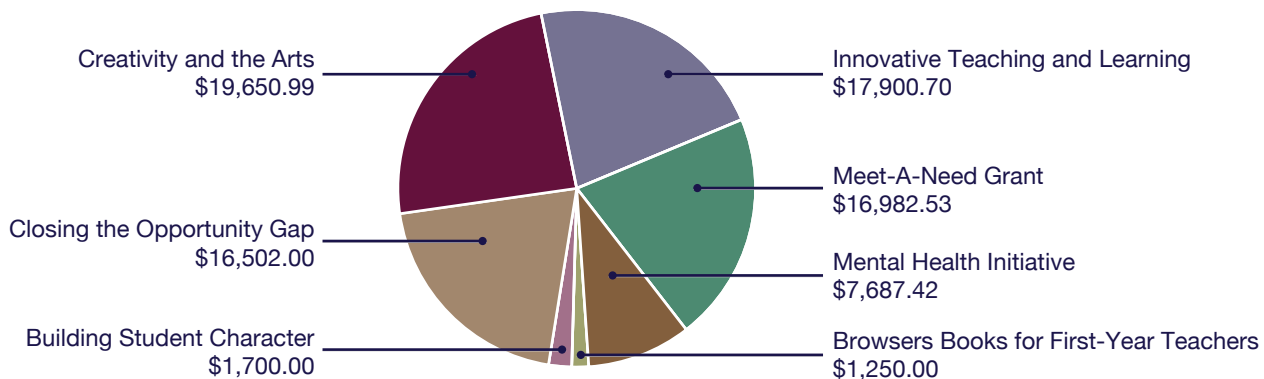
Mission-Aligned Grants Spending \$7,500

In addition to supporting OSD educators, we are also proud to support mission-aligned community organizations serving OSD students and families. We awarded grants to the following nonprofits:



We are proud to have supported Homeless Backpacks with a grant and enjoyed filling food bags for them this summer.

Teaching & Learning Grants Awarded \$81,673.64



2019-2020 Teaching & Learning Grants

Awarded by Category

Browsers Books for First-Year Teachers \$1,250.00

Books *WMS*

Social-emotional books for K-1 classroom library *LPBES*

Literature for classroom *OHS*

Build classroom library with multiple reading levels *OHS*

K-1 DLC classroom books *CHS*

Building Student Character \$1,700.00

Student activities/materials for Restorative Justice Center *CHS*

Goggle sanitizers for three science classrooms *OHS*

Closing the Opportunity Gap \$16,502.00

Wages for 12 student tutors *OHS*

K-5 fiction and non-fiction library books; focus on diversity *GES*

Take-home book program for 1st grade *GES*

Update nonfiction section of library: philosophy, psychology, religion, social sciences, language, science *CES*

Archery club *CHS*

One-year subscription to Buzz Math *WMS*

Food supplies for weekly cooking, life skills and nutrition classes *HES*

School-home activity and book packets in dual language for ELL *RES, OSD*

TS Gold Assessment tool to collect data on all students attending OSD Developmental Preschools *OSD*

28 topic-based books for teen immigrants that will support and enhance curriculum *CHS*

Homework Club 2:30-4:15 p.m. 2 days/week *MMS*

Zero-hour woodshop class; wood supplies and stipend for teacher *OHS*

Stay Woke Conference speaker *CHS, OHS*



New books for Madison Elementary's library funded by Teaching & Learning Grants.

Creativity and the Arts \$19,650.99

Musical theatre dance workshops *CHS*

Open mic/writing workshop opportunities/poetry slam team/
literary magazine publishing *OHS*

Author/Illustrator Ben Clanton visit *GES*

Art education for 4th-6th through WA Arts Commission *ORLA*

Ukuleles for 3rd- through 5th-graders *PES*

10th grade teachers and 141 students attend performance of
Tempest in Seattle; includes tickets and buses *CHS*

Ukuleles *MCLES*

Tuxes/dresses for choir students who can't afford own *CHS*

Video cameras for Kindness Campaign, book trailers, videos for
coding students *RMS*

RMS extra-curricular jazz choir *RMS*

Tenino stone-carving project *CES*

Subscription to Soundtrap online music studio *WMS*

Tubanos for Music Room *HES*

Microphones for Open Mic club *OHS*

Guest artist series *OHS*

Partner with Arbutus and guest artist for intensive pottery wheel
throwing classes *AHS*

Ukeleles *RES*

Artist in Residence to help with all school art installation
project *BHES*

2019-2020 Teaching & Learning Grants

Teaching & Learning Grants Awarded by Category, continued

Innovative Teaching and Learning \$17,900.70

Zero-hour woodshop class *OHS*
Building classroom libraries for language learners *OHS*
Materials to enhance classroom teaching from Colonial
Williamsburg Teacher Institute *CES*
Art instruction in every classroom monthly *RES*
All-in-One Video Production *WMS*
Construction-based classroom/math: Build pavilion *AHS*
"Movers and Shakers" for K/1 field trips *LES*
Digital notes and audio lectures: Math *OHS*
Cubelets (modular robots); Life Sciences for 4th-graders *CES*
"Whole Brain Child" parenting classes *RES*
Book trailers for library *WMS*
News 2 U subscription for Life Skills students *MCLES*
Non-fiction books, magazines, field trips and guest speakers
about global warming *LES*
Makey Makey kits for design projects *MES*
Sensory path for special services wing of school *RES*
AVID site license fee *MMS*

Meet-A-Need Grant \$16,982.53

Speaker to talk about being undocumented student *OHS*
Magnetic Dry Erase Reading/Writing Center *PES*
Scholastic News for 2nd grade Social Studies supplement *RES*
Books (Biomes Readers) for emergent readers in early childhood
classrooms *ORLA*
Books for library *HES*
Fiction and nonfiction books for 7th/8th "book club" *WMS*
Oregon Battle of the Books *RMS, MMS, WMS, JMS*
Books for county-wide Battle of the Books *OHS, CHS*
Multicultural baby dolls, clothes and furniture *CES*
Cooking and baking projects at school *WMS*
Flexible/alternative classroom seating *MES*
Updated P.E. equipment *RMS*
Why Try curriculum for OT intervention *RMS*
Woodcraft joinery *ORLA*
Transportation for Mount Saint Helens science field trip *JMS*
Social justice novels for classroom library *WMS*
Living Wax Museum *MCKES*
Field trips/transportation for DLC students during SBA testing *MMS*

Mental Health Initiative \$7,687.42

Second Step kit *MCLES*
Social Thinking Conference (Tacoma) *MCLES*
Student workshops on social justice, mindfulness and
wellness, and positive communication *AHS*
Home room using Character Strong curriculum *OHS*
Intervention specialist support *JMS*

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WSECU



Getting our first batch of PEF Grocery Vouchers ready for distribution to every school in the OSD.

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State employees can donate to OSDEF through the Combined Fund Drive. www.cfd.wa.gov Our ID is 0315734.

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CHS students watch "Get on the Bus," thanks to the Performing Arts Initiative. Photo credit: Olympia School District.

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Top: Golfers check in for the PEF Scramble at the Olympia Country & Golf Club.

Below: Board President Jocelyn McCabe and Executive Director Katy Johansson just moments before the virtual PEF Breakfast went live. (Masks by OSDEF Trustee Claire Beagle.)



Olympia School District Education Foundation

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