



TeamChild



Disability Rights
WASHINGTON

[TeamChild](#) and [Disability Rights Washington](#) are partnering to build a **Youth Advisory Board (YAB)**. We are looking for paid participants to be part of a state-wide youth power movement and guide the future of legal support for youth in your communities.

Who

We are seeking young people aged 14 to 24 years old who want to influence legal advocacy to achieve better outcomes for youth in their community who have experienced barriers to education, unfair school discipline, juvenile court, foster care, homelessness, immigration and/or LGBTQIA+ and/or identify as Black, Native/Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC). We are looking for youth who live in the following counties: King, Pierce, Spokane, Thurston, and Yakima.

What

We are building a Youth Advisory Board. The Youth Advisory Board will be 100% composed of youth and young adults who have been adversely impacted by the education and/or legal systems. The Youth Advisory Board will consist of youth from targeted communities and identities. These youth of targeted communities and identities have the lived experience to advise the organizations, leaders, and advocates responding to pandemic education advocacy.

Participants will meet monthly to build power and knowledge as a collective to inform relevant advocacy for laws, policy, practices, for the state education agency, education policymakers, educational experts, local educational agencies, school boards, schools, and non-school settings where students receive academic instruction including hospitals, juvenile justice facilities, non-public agency or residential schools, and remote learning environments. These students can advise content for self-help materials, videos, related education (including special education) issues. The Youth Advisory Board can also inform the systems that regulate these learning environments, including offices of administrative hearings or courts, and the dispute resolution process these systems employ. Students will inform short, medium, and long-range advocacy initiatives designed to address inequity and generate an education system responsive to unique needs.

Participants will receive a stipend of \$20 an hour with a monthly commitment for the next 9-12 months at approximately 15 hours a month. There may be some travel around the state and your travel expenses will be covered. Additionally, we will provide technology to those who do not have access to internet or computers. No prior experience necessary.

Why

Youth of color and youth with disabilities have historically faced systemic barriers to accessing and receiving educational services. Youth of targeted communities and identities are most harmed by but have the least input into the education system. During the pandemic, we heard of teachers who went looking for and could not find homeless youth. Students with significantly involved developmental disabilities went without highly structured behavior plans and decompensated to the point that they

were forced to move out of the home or were abandoned by their parents as a result. Students of color and students with disabilities are disproportionately excluded from school through discipline and push-out practices. These youth are more likely to drop out of school, be incarcerated, and/or become homeless. COVID-19 highlighted the major learning and opportunity gaps within the public school system.

As schools opened with hybrid models in the Spring of 2021 and fulltime this past Fall, the educational inequities have continued to grow. School districts are not adequately addressing or providing services to assist students and they are reinstating outdated school discipline policies. Youth are not being compensated for the loss of education contrary to state and federal law. Remote education issues remain salient in many ways: youth are kept out of school for periods of time for heightened health measures and COVID-19 testing but not provided services while they are out. Students who are incarcerated are only being offered asynchronous education or work packets without proper instructions according to their education levels. School enrollment is drastically down, school placement, discipline, truancy and other issues have escalated and mounted as families seek to address student needs. Students struggle to navigate through the continued upheaval of their lives in this pandemic.

Educational advocacy systems and movements have been created by parents without lived experience, who unfortunately and unknowingly reinforce a system designed to serve the majority of students who can conform to norms, which further alienates the students they strive to protect. Historically students who don't have access to property equity, like those whose parents lived through historical redlining, are at an enormous disadvantage to secure their children's education rights. Youth of targeted communities and identities are most harmed by and have the least input into the education systems. Our goal is to change this.

These youth of targeted communities and identities have the lived experience to advise the organizations, leaders, and advocates responding to pandemic education advocacy. Youth can meaningfully inform transformation of our education systems.

How

Complete our application form to apply to become a member of the Youth Advisory Board.

When

Applications will close on June 20th, 2022.

Questions or accommodations requests: Contact Porsche Phelps at Porsche.Phelps@teamchild.org