

Puyallup School District
Puyallup, WA



CASE STUDY

Increasing Equity & Improving Student Learning, Engagement, and Safety Before & After School



RIGHT AT
SCHOOL



RIGHT AT
SCHOOL



PUYALLUP
SCHOOL DISTRICT
A Tradition of Excellence

Providing quality before and afterschool programs is a pressing need in many districts, particularly in communities where parents spend several hours each week commuting to work.

In 2016, Dr. Tim Yeomans, superintendent of the Puyallup School District (PSD), issued a request for proposals for on-site before and afterschool childcare from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

“We looked at three different programs and selected Right At School. In a community like ours, equity is a big issue. We want to be able to serve every child at every elementary school without busing or transporting them, and Right At School was the only entity willing and able to do that,” said Yeomans.

“We also want students to learn and be active every day instead of simply warehousing them. We want to provide families with options over school breaks and in the summertime. Right At School solved those issues for us. It’s wonderful to do all of these things and have it be financially sustainable.”



“There are now 1,340 children who are in a safe place every morning and afternoon. They’re learning. They’re being active. They’re having positive interactions with a positive adult. They’re going home with their homework done. That is an enormous gift to our community.”

— Dr. Tim Yeomans, Superintendent



“We have a community where everybody commutes,” said Dr. Tim Yeomans, superintendent of the Puyallup School District (PSD), which is located about six miles east of Tacoma and 30 miles south of Seattle. “There are a lot of families in which both mom and dad are working, and single parents who are working two jobs. There is a real need for childcare.”

Childcare was offered at seven locations with our previous provider, with some sites serving students who bused in from other schools. “It covered only nine of 21 locations, so there were big waiting lists,” said Yeomans. “We looked at doing an in-house solution but it would have been too expensive. It was a challenging situation.”

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ALL STUDENTS
DESERVE HIGH-QUALITY
AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

PREVIOUS PROVIDER

43% 

of Puyallup schools served

WITH RIGHT AT SCHOOL

100% 

of Puyallup schools served

Partnering to implement before and afterschool programs

PSD, which is the eighth largest district in the state, was the first in Washington state to implement Right At School in all of its elementary schools in 2017. Right At School provides safe, engaging, and meaningful in-school and extracurricular programs to enrich the lives of students, give parents peace of mind, and enable schools to focus on their academic mission.

In 2019, the district expanded its partnership with Right At School to include preschool students as well. “We want to provide a good start for children that’s manageable and affordable for parents and meets their needs. And what do parents of preschool kids need? All-day childcare. With Right At School, not only is the preschool wonderful, but it seamlessly wraps around to meet before and afterschool needs,” said Yeomans.

In PSD, Right At School gives parents of preK-6 students flexible, affordable options ranging from one to five days a week, including morning or afternoon programs or both. It also offers discounts for military families, siblings, families who qualify for free or reduced lunches, and district staff.

Leading provider of wrap-around services

Right At School is an expert in the extended school day space. It provides a variety of affordable programs for working families:

- ✓ PRESCHOOL
- ✓ BEFORE SCHOOL
- ✓ AFTERSCHOOL
- ✓ BREAK CAMPS
- ✓ SUMMER CAMPS



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We regularly share with the school board that Right At School is by far the most effective partner we have engaged with — probably in the history of the district. And the district has been around 154 years, so that’s a big deal.

— Dr. Tim Yeomans, Superintendent

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Increasing attendance

“Previously, we were serving about 210 children in the afterschool program, and our vision was to double that number in our first year. Within four months of partnering with Right At School, we were serving 1,000 kids,” said Yeomans. Right At School now serves 1,340 children before and afterschool across 22 schools in PSD.

The district’s summer school program previously served 150 students. “It was only offered at one site in the district, so it was very difficult for some people access it. Now, with Right At School, we offer summer school in each of our three regions, and over 500 children attend,” he said.

BEFORE RIGHT AT SCHOOL

210 students served

TODAY

1,340 students served and growing!



Supporting learning standards and improving homework completion

Right At School’s Disguised Learning™ preK-8 curriculum supports learning standards in English language arts, literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, social-emotional learning (SEL), the arts, physical fitness, and service learning. Multi-sensory, multi-intelligence activities spark a joy for learning and encourage the development of 21st century skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, creativity, and leadership.

“Right At School calls it Disguised Learning; I just call it fun. I have personally observed six different occasions where children have asked their parents to go away and come back when they’re done with their after school activities,” said Yeomans.

“Homework completion has improved, too. Now kids get their homework done here after school, which has created a huge amount of time for families. The best part about it is that it feels like it’s part of the district fabric now; it’s part of what we offer families,” he said.

Improving student behavior and safety

According to Yeomans, prior to partnering with Right At School, student behavior and the supervision of students were issues in the afterschool program. “They’re no longer an issue with Right At School. The supervision of students is superior,” he said.

“Right At School is engaging. Kids say they like what they’re doing, they like spending time with their friends, they enjoy the activities, and the staff have lots of energy.”

Sharing revenue

Right At School provides its enrichment programs at no cost to a district. It handles all aspects of program administration and even shares revenue back with the district.

“The revenue sharing sets Right At School apart. They’re the only vendor who comes to you and says, ‘We can make this work and you can generate revenue doing it,’” said Yeomans. “It takes dollars to operate 22 locations before and after school every day, and the dollars we generate in the revenue sharing offset those costs. We’ve brought in over \$400,000 of revenue in the first two years of partnering with Right At School. That’s been really helpful to say to the school board, ‘We’re going to be able to provide these programs, and we can do this on a cost-neutral basis.’ So, we’re not only getting greater use out of the facilities the public has provided to us, but we’re providing a service that’s absolutely needed within the community.”

RIGHT AT SCHOOL MEANS MORE...

FAMILY TIME

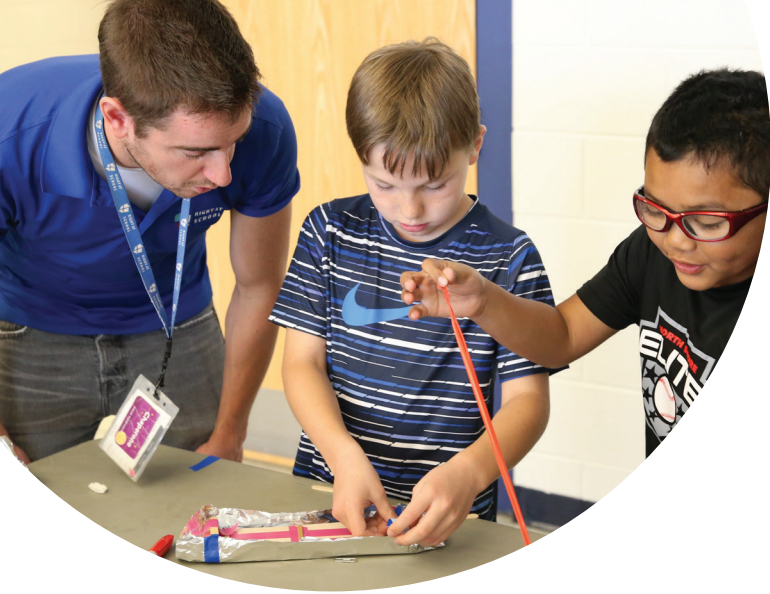
100% of students finish their homework during the Right Club afterschool program

STAFF RETENTION

Teachers receive program discounts and childcare coverage during after school professional learning courses

REVENUE

Right At School shared \$400,000 of revenue in its first two years partnering with Puyallup



Being responsive to parents' needs

“Parents say that having the before and afterschool programs has been a game changer. What I hear from them is that they’re super-appreciative that the district is so responsive and that they found a program like Right At School. They feel like the district is listening and paying attention to their needs,” said Yeomans.

“I recently heard from the grandmother of a student who told us that without Right At School, they literally could not make their schedule work. The mom goes to work in the morning and to school in the evening, so having childcare before and after school has been a positive for them. In a community where everyone commutes, it allows parents to be a little more flexible with their schedules. They can get to where they need to go and know that their kids are safe,” he said.

This is true for staff members as well. “Every Wednesday after school, we have between 90 and 240 staff members doing professional learning. Right At School offers childcare for them and we offer a staff discount. That’s a huge benefit, and it helps with staff retention, too,” he said.

Establishing an effective partnership

“People like to talk about partnerships all the time, but the truth of the matter is that the school district is usually the partner that does all the work, and the other entity is the one getting most of the benefit,” said Yeomans. “Right At School takes responsibility for the before and afterschool programs, and they actually work as a partner, which has had a wonderful catalyst effect. It has created an idea of what we can do with other partnerships and how we can make them more effective.”



Choosing what's best for students and parents



Yeomans, like many superintendents, knows that bringing a new program into a district isn't always easy, which is another reason why it is so important to find the right partner.

“The reality is that there’s always noise. Nobody wants anything different from what they’ve had unless there’s a crisis, but you have to ask yourself, ‘What is best for students as a whole and parents as a whole?’ I’d be very surprised if anybody has ever brought in Right At School and had it not be a quantum leap better than what they had before. For us, there are now 1,340 children who are in a safe place every morning and afternoon. They’re learning. They’re being active. They’re having positive interactions with a positive adult. They’re going home with their homework done. That is an enormous gift to our community,” he said.

“It takes courage as a leader to say, ‘We’re making a change.’ But once parents experience the benefits, the noise subsides very quickly. Right At School filled a huge need, and it has been met with a great response. When you partner with an entity, you hope you get most of what they promised and we’ve gotten all of what Right At School promised us.”

District Data

33 schools
Grades preK-12
22,487 students
<https://puyallup.k12.wa.us/>

Student Demographics

1% American Indian/Alaskan Native
5.6% Asian
4.5% Black/African American
17% Hispanic/Latino
1.7% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
57.5% White
12.8% Two or more races
38.7% Free/reduced lunch

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