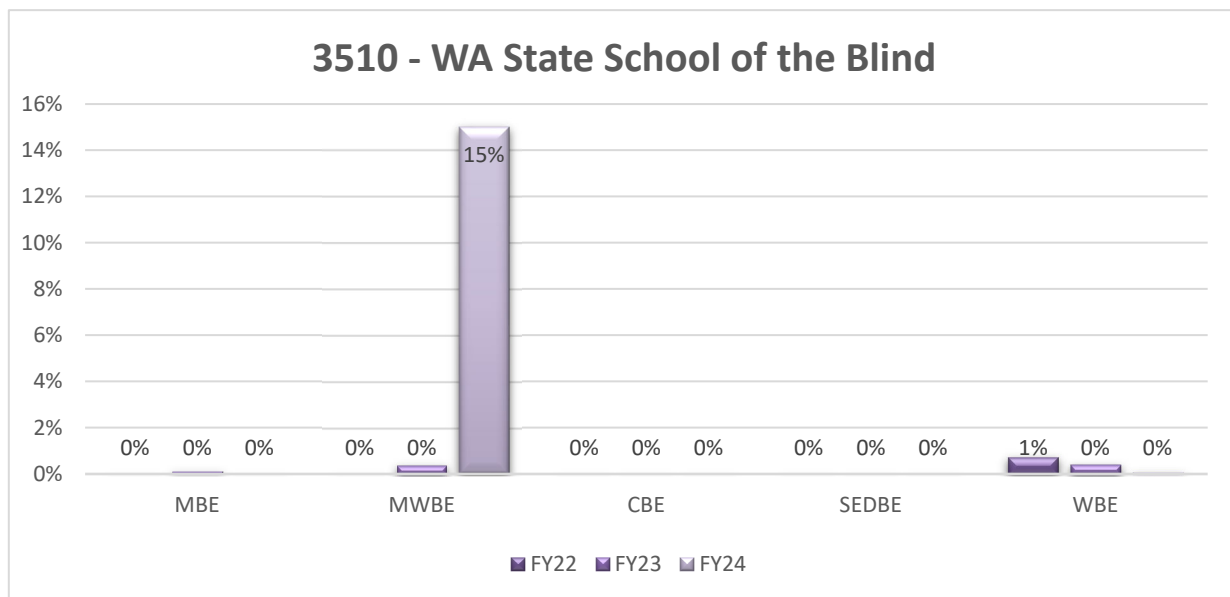


FY25 Business Diversity Spending Goal Plan – WSSB
[Governor's Supplier Diversity Subcabinet approved best practices](#)

(Agency graph showing spend comparison from FY22, FY23 and FY24)



FY 2023 – No spending goal established

FY 2023 – 0.54%

FY24 Spending Goal – 7.17%

FY24 Actual Spend – 0.25%

FY25 Spending Goal: 4.08%

Summary Statement:

A majority of current WSSB purchasing is focused on capital works projects and managed through the Department of Enterprise Services (DES). Purchasing outside of capital works projects generally centers on highly specialized access technology for blind and low vision youth, food supplies, office and cleaning supplies, and general maintenance items. In order to increase the proportion of spending with minority and women-owned businesses from .25% to 4.08%, WSSB intends to: review our spending practices, identify opportunities to shift spending to minority and women-owned business, evaluate the economic impact of each opportunity, encourage registration as a minority or women-owned business where new opportunities may exist, and utilize minority and women-owned businesses whenever appropriate to meet the operational needs of the Washington State School for the Blind.

Steps your agency has completed to prepare for forecasting and steps remaining:

The capital works projects have been planned for the remainder of the current biennium and are all managed exclusively through DES. Processing the purchase order data shows that the bulk (over 85%) is spent either on statewide contracts, specialized items, or other items/services clearly not available from multiple vendors.

How are supplier diversity efforts managed within your agency:

Supplier diversity efforts are primarily managed by our Procurement & Supply Specialist, who is under the direction of the Director of Business and Finance.

Is your agency currently using the Outreach Module in Access Equity for marketing and connecting with Diverse Businesses?

No

Are you using the Contract Compliance module in Access Equity to report your contract & purchase orders that include subcontractors (including statewide contracts)?

Not currently; to our knowledge, the only contracts we utilize that include subcontractors are the capital works projects that are managed by DES.

How does your agency track efforts to notify businesses about purchasing and opportunities to bid on contracts?

We currently have no system in place to notify OMWBE certified businesses of our purchasing needs, other than utilizing the competitive solicitation tools that allow our bids to be broadcasted to a list of vendors. However, we rarely use this method to procure goods/services because most of what we need can be obtained either through a statewide contract vendor or is something specialized—due to the nature of our specialized educational needs—that must be purchased from a specific company.

Your agency plan according to EO 22-01 should already be implemented. How has your plan aided in your efforts to increase your agency plan from last year?

Our first step has been to switch our primary office supply vendor from Office Depot to Pacific Office Solutions (an OMWBE certified business) when applicable items are available to reach our diverse spending goal. Our next step to increase our outreach efforts is to refer vendors to become OMWBE certified whenever we purchase from a vendor that provides that unique, one-of-a kind product/service.

Did your agency's spend decrease for FY24? If so, what was the reason(s)? What perceived barriers did you face?

Yes; Capital works projects are managed through DES, so subcontractors are managed outside of our agency. Most of our direct-buy purchasing is done through awarded vendors on Statewide contracts, further limiting our pool of vendor options. Finally, the bulk of our off-contract direct-buy purchasing consists of specialized blind-accessible devices and technology only available from very specific vendors.

What new efforts are you going to implement to try to increase your spending with small-minority and women owned businesses?

The next step is to start our outreach process to have eligible companies apply to get OMWBE certified, which is explained in further detail above. Additionally, we plan to review the awarded contractors on the statewide contracts we regularly utilize to determine if more diverse vendors are available to be utilized.