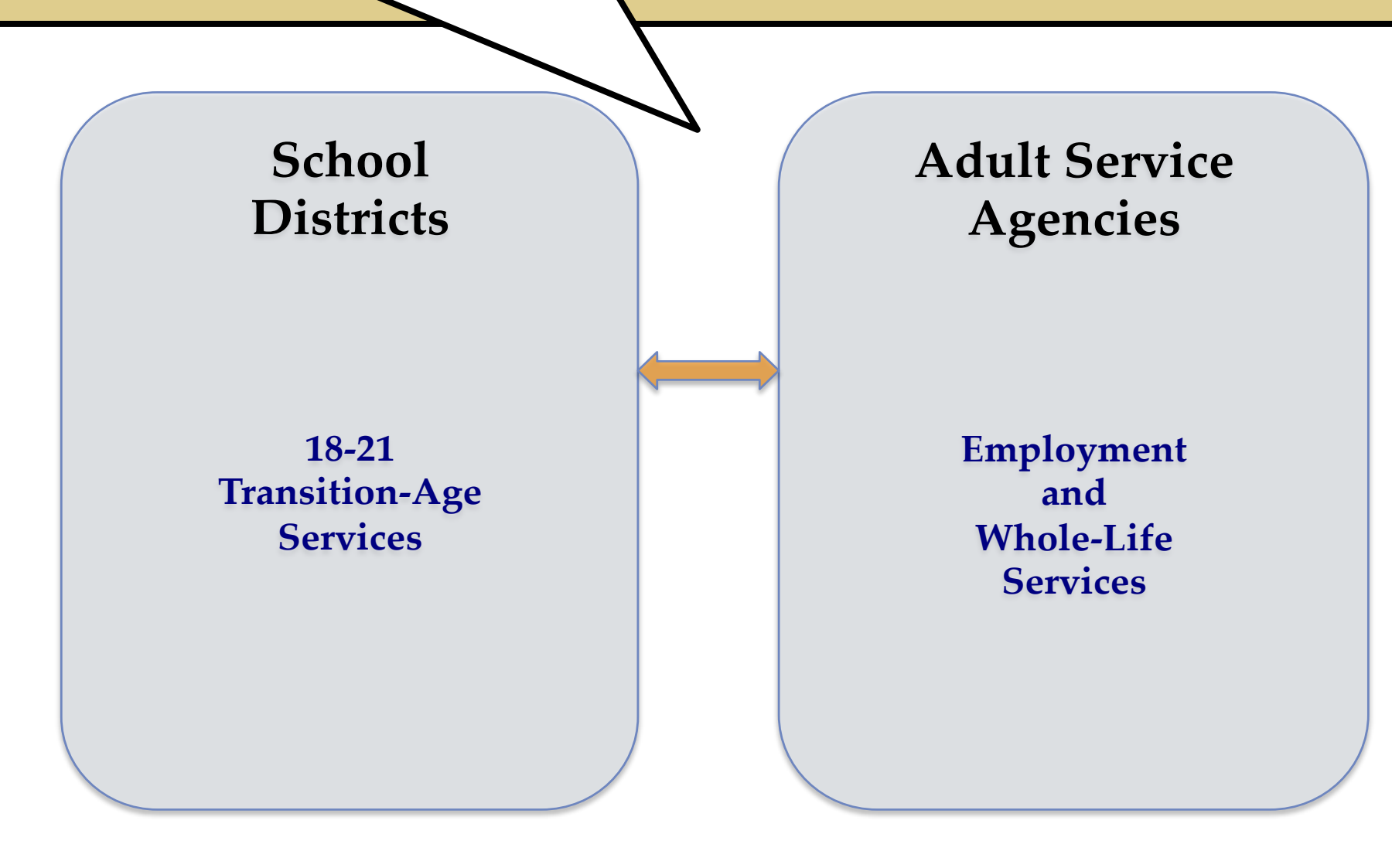


# The King County School-to-Work Program

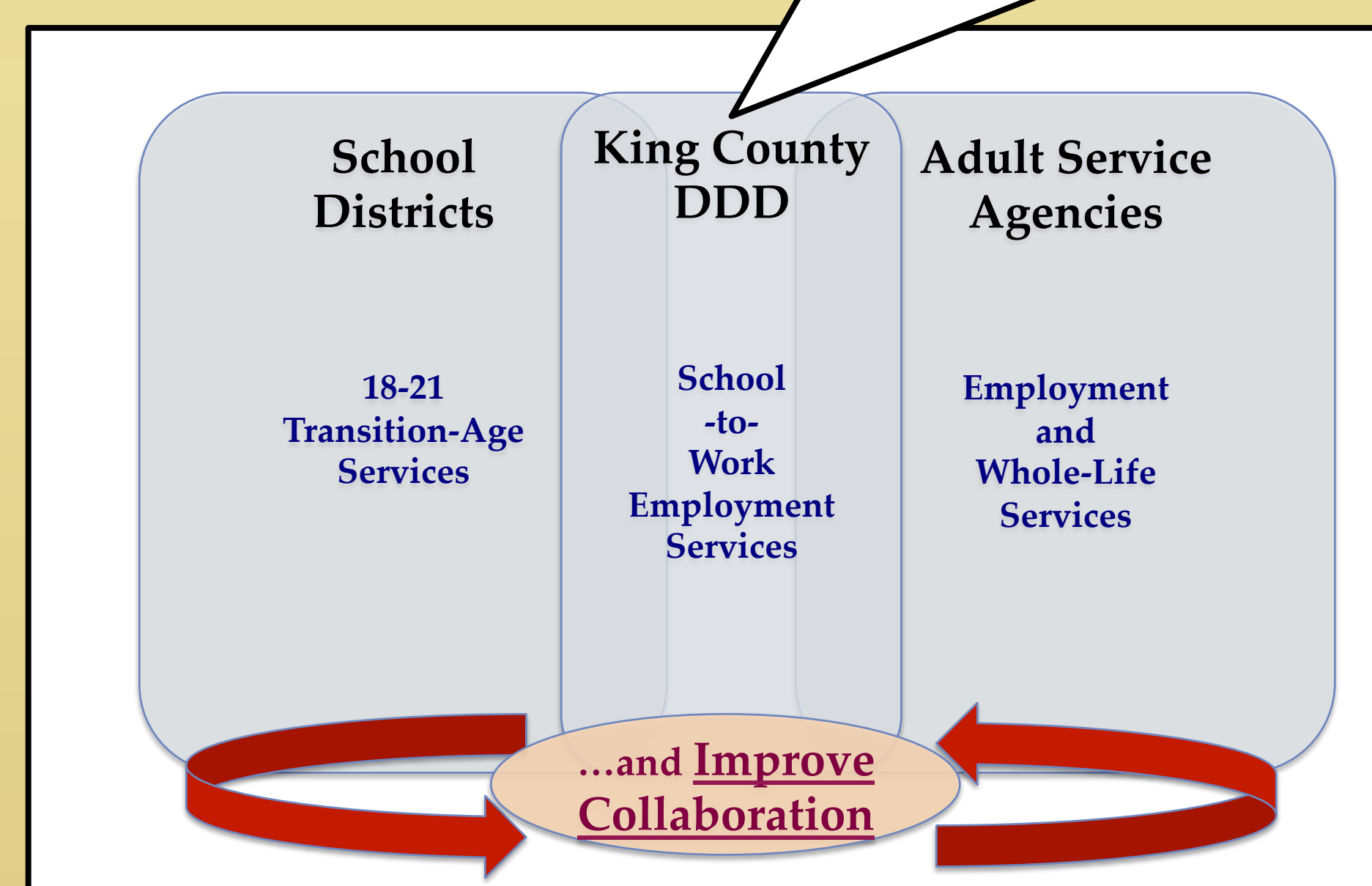


## Before School-to-Work, Families Described a **Service Gap** Between School & Adult Services:

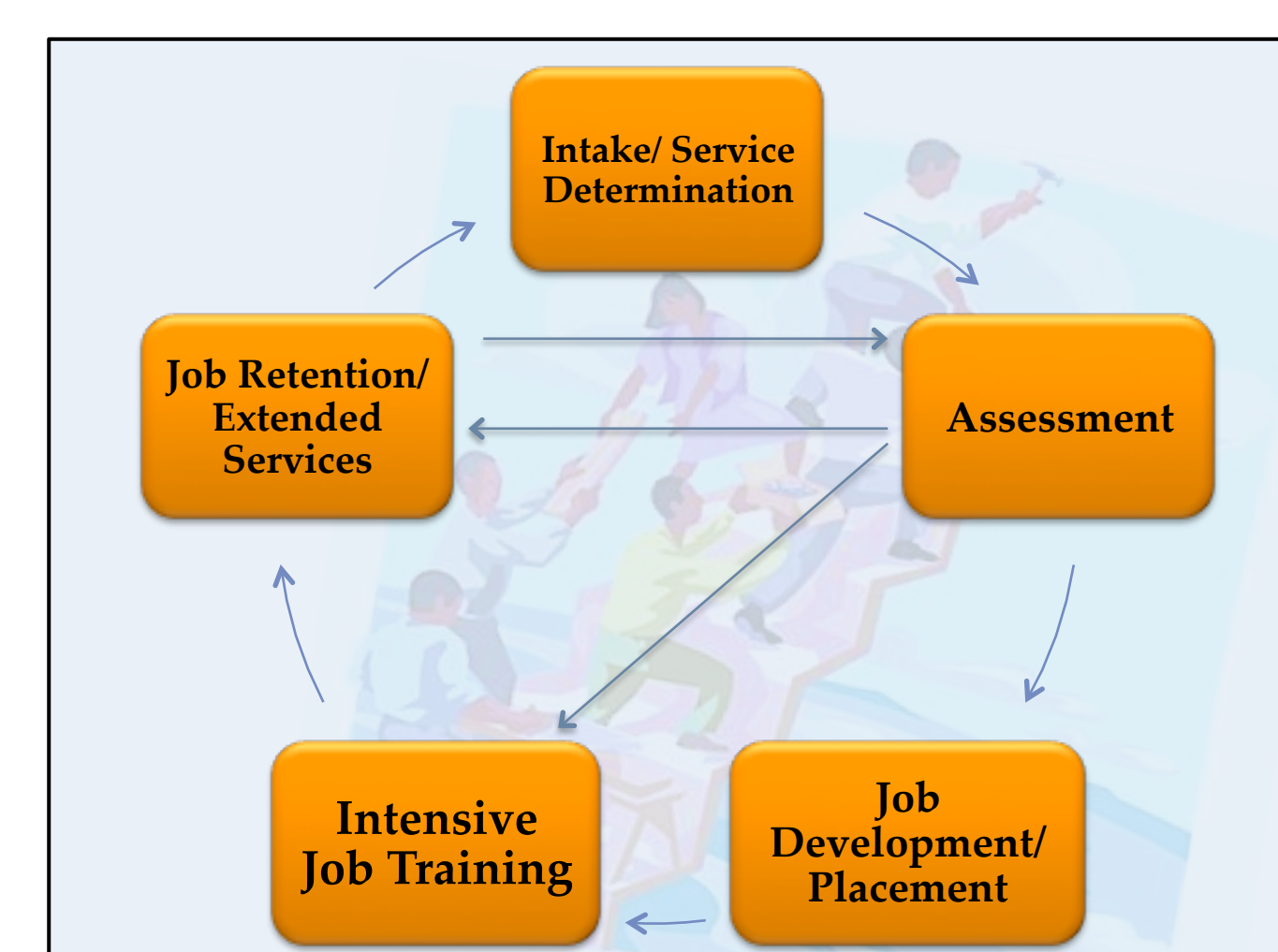
- **Families Where:**
  - Confused Over What to Do
  - Frustrated About Lack of Service
- **Students Where:**
  - Losing Skills and Motivation
  - Taking Years to Find Jobs



## School-to-Work Seeks to **Close the Service Gap**...



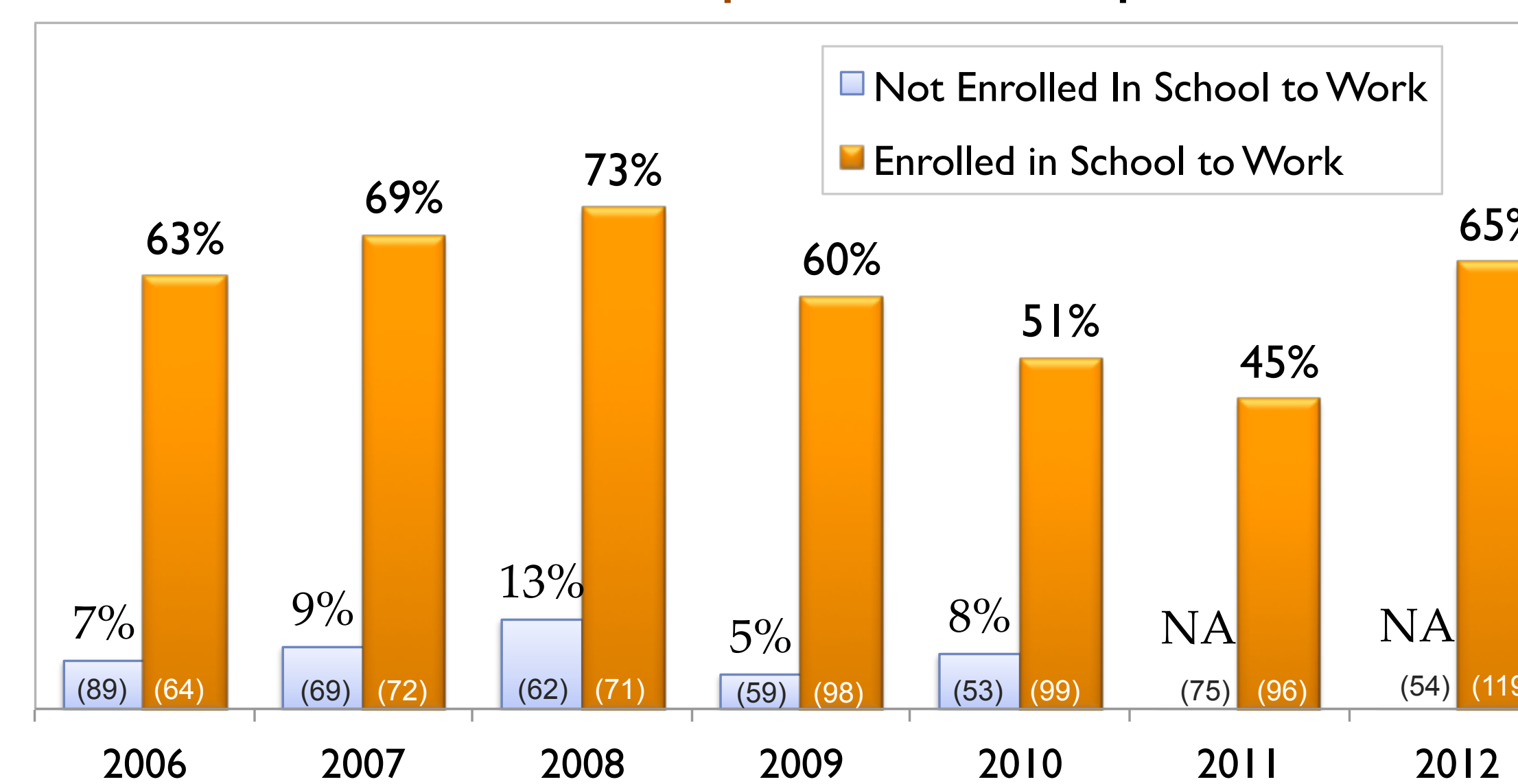
## ...By Bringing **Adult Employment Services** to Students **Earlier**



## Department of Community and Human Services Developmental Disabilities Division

### School-to-Work Exceeds National Job Placement Rates

Employment Rate Six Months After Transition is Much Higher for School-to-Work Participants Than Counterparts Not Enrolled



### State and National Comparisons of Individuals Employed Who Have Intellectual Disabilities or Similar Conditions:

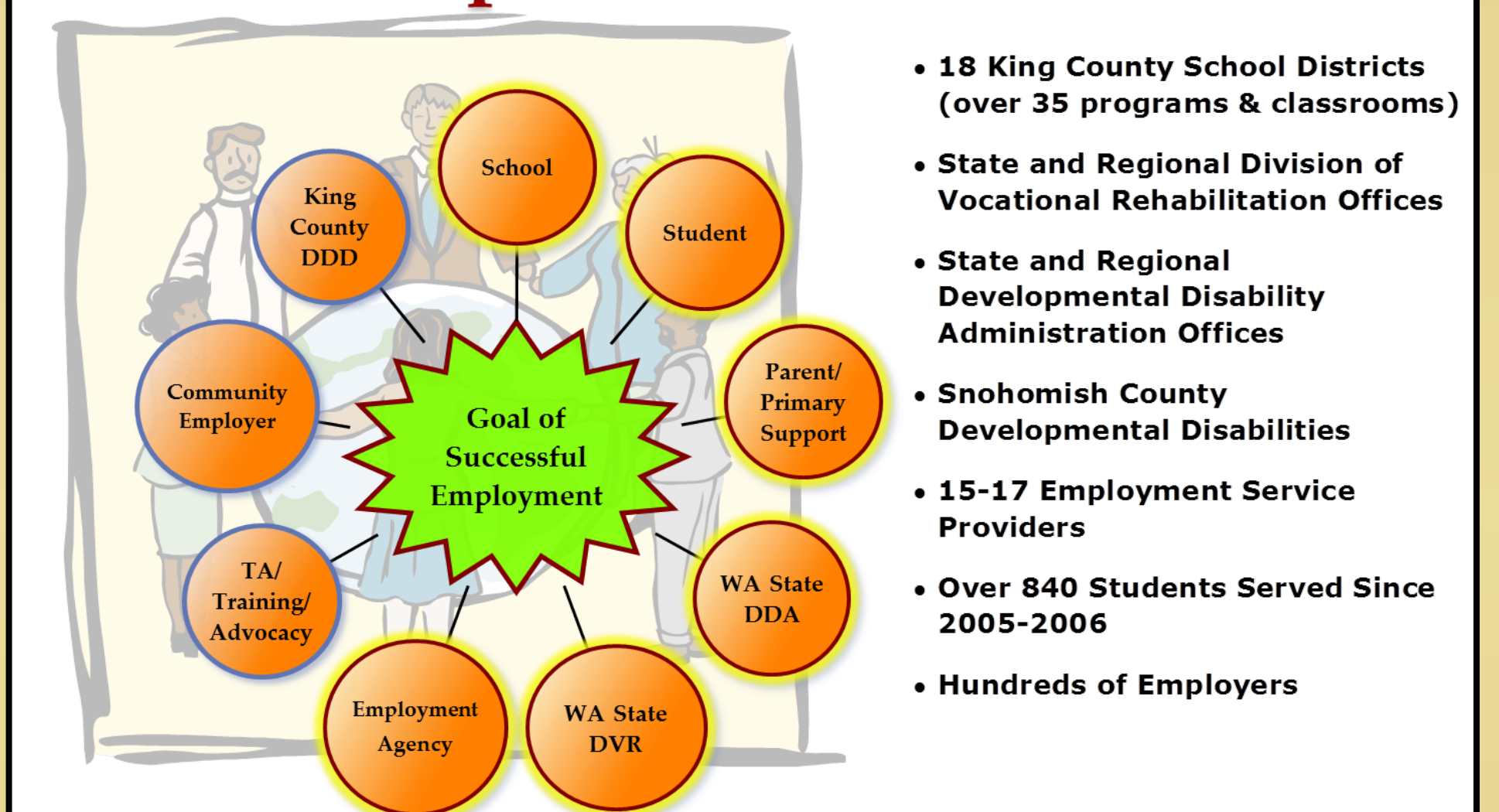
- Washington State (DSHS/DDD, 2007): 13% Transition Age Employed
- National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 (2005): 33% Transition Age Employed
- Alliance for Full Participation: 22% All Adults Employed

## Why Employment?

- **Relationships:**
    - Work is where people develop relationships, friendships, and acquaintances.
  - **Identity:**
    - Much of who we are and how we are perceived by others is related to where we work and what we do at work.
  - **Meaning:**
    - Our society values work. By working, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities feel that they are engaged in meaningful activities, as do others in society.
  - **Self-Esteem:**
    - Through work we often have a sense of accomplishment, increasing our sense of competence and self worth.
  - **Economics:**
    - Most people with intellectual and developmental disabilities live in or near poverty. Income from paying jobs helps supplement their resources and improves the quality of the lives they can live.
- The Arc of Tennessee

Obtaining Employment May Lead to Long-Term Service Funding

## School-to-Work is a True Partnership Around the Same Goal



## Two Models

### General

- Families Seek an Employment Service Provider
  - Family/Vendor Interview Process
- Many Service Providers May Work with a Transition Program & Others
- Not All Eligible Students Receive Service
- Funding Entirely King County and WA DSHS/DVR

### District

- Districts Seek an Employment Service Provider
  - Open Competitive Process
- Designated Provider Staff Works Only Within the District
- All District Referred Eligible Students Receive Service
- District Funding Added Toward the Cost of Dedicated Employment Staffing

## For More Information, Contact:

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<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/DDD/services/employment/school-to-work.aspx>

## Steps to Sign Up

