

Youth Suicide Prevention

1. Purpose:

The purpose of the OSPI Youth Suicide Prevention Program is to implement Senate Bill 6431 (2014) RCW 28A.300.288 to:

- a. Collaborate with state agency and community partners to assist schools in implementing youth suicide prevention activities.
- b. Coordinate training for school employees, parents, community members, and students in recognizing and responding to the signs of emotional or behavioral distress in students.
- c. Collaborate with the PESB and DOH on an approval process for suicide prevention training required for school counselors, psychologists, social workers, and nurses.
- d. Prioritize funding to communities identified as high risk (as determined by DOH) and administer those resources and technical assistance to coalitions of community members who collaborate with ESDs and schools to perform youth suicide prevention activities.
- e. Respond to communities determined to be in crisis after a suicide or non-suicidal self-injurious behaviors to prevent suicide contagion and provide needed support for staff and students.

2. Description of services provided:

In collaboration with the ESDs, OSPI promotes training to build the competencies of school staff who may not necessarily have training to address social, emotional, or behavioral distress exhibited by young people.

Training

School Counselors, Psychologists, Social Workers, and Nurses are required to take an approved suicide prevention training for certification/recertification (RCW 28A.410.226). OSPI consults with the Department of Health and the Professional Educator Standards Board to maintain a list of approved trainings.

Resources and Policy

ESHB 2315, (2014) required the Department of Health complete a plan for statewide suicide prevention. OSPI collaborates with the Department of Health Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention and the Suicide Prevention Plan Implementation Workgroup to participate in the rollout of the statewide plan's recommendations.

OSPI and UW Forefront provide consultation, technical assistance, and training to schools who experience a suicide in their school community.

Support to identified high-need schools

Contracted services performed by The University of Washington, Forefront Innovations in Suicide Prevention, provides a coach to conduct training, technical assistance, and coalition building in Okanogan, Stevens, and Island Counties, the three counties identified as high-risk by the Department of Health Injury Data. Each coach performs outreach to ESDs and school districts for the provision of technical assistance and training to help schools meet the requirements of [RCW 28A.320.127](#).

Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:

Schools in Stevens, Island, and Okanogan Counties must sign a MOU with UW Forefront to receive supports and services for comprehensive suicide prevention planning and implementation.

One-time funding for Crisis Text Line and Online Training

In fiscal year 2019, OSPI received an increase in funding for two items requested by an [OSPI budget request](#). This funding purchased an annual subscription to the Crisis Text Line which allowed OSPI to partner with DOH to pass through the funds for the subscription. The subscription purchases enhanced access to a data dashboard along with a state 'keyword' used by the dashboard to inform suicide crisis response needs in the state. Additionally, this funding allowed OSPI to contract for the development of [Confident Action and Referral for Educators \(CARE\)](#). This online course is free and meant for anyone who works in the school setting to learn how to recognize signs of emotional or behavioral distress in students and refer students to appropriate supports and services. This training can help school districts meet the training requirement of [RCW 28A.320.127](#).

Beneficiaries in 2018-19 School Year:

of School Districts: 06
 # of Schools: 10
 # of Students: **856**
 Other: # of staff/students/community members trained: 1495

of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): .5
 # of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 3

FY 19 Funding: State Appropriation: \$202,000
 Federal Appropriation: \$0.0
 Other fund sources: \$0.0
 TOTAL (FY19) \$202,000

1. [Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding? If yes, explain.](#) Yes. Starting in fiscal year 19, OSPI uses these funds to match the funds from HCA for an agency Medicaid liaison working to promote and support the state Medicaid plan.
2. [State funding history:](#)

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY19	\$202,000	\$201,999
FY18	\$150,000	\$150,000
FY17	\$142,000	\$131,982
FY16	\$142,000	\$140,363
FY15	\$148,000	\$134,189

3. [Programmatic changes since inception \(if any\):](#)

UW Forefront Suicide Prevention continues to make improvements to their program based on lessons learned from previous years' implementation. This has resulted in OSPI receiving more robust data on the services schools are receiving and outcomes the schools and students experience.

OSPI now has an online training resource to offer equitably to all schools in an effort to support suicide prevention.

4. **Evaluations of program/major findings:**

Schools who receive the support from Forefront continue to demonstrate progress in completing and implementing the plan required by RCW 28A.320.127. Schools who do not receive this concentrated support/guidance/training continue to struggle to meet the RCW requirements. Schools do not have the internal capacity to complete this important planning and implementation work.

Data from the crisis text line dashboard will help inform future legislative requests by OSPI and other state agencies working to increase resources for schools and communities.

5. **Major challenges faced by the program:**

The funding for this program does not allow for equitable supports to be deployed to all school districts in the state. OSPI continues to make budget requests for more resources for school districts.

6. **Future opportunities:**

This program continues to identify the gaps in supports available to all schools statewide to receive needed supports to meet the needs of students who experience emotional and behavioral distress. OSPI supported a state agency request to the legislature to increase regional capacity to provide this support to districts in HB 1216, however the regional supports for suicide prevention were not funded. OSPI will continue to elevate the need for this very important work, as suicide rates continue to increase for students in Washington. Schools impacted by a student suicide experience intensive interruptions and need resources for responding to these crises and supporting students and staff through postvention efforts. Without successful postvention response, schools cannot move toward preventing additional suicides.

7. **Statutory and/or Budget language:**

Budget Proviso: ESHB 6032, Section 501 (20) \$150,000 of the general fund -- state appropriation for fiscal year 2018 and \$202,000 of the general fund – state appropriation for fiscal year 2019 are provided solely for youth suicide prevention activities.

8. **Other relevant information:** N/A

9. **List of schools/districts receiving assistance:** See OSPI [website](#).

10. **Program Contact Information:** Camille Goldy

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