



# Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

## **Tuancy Reduction (2SHB1170, 2017 Session)**

1. **Purpose:**

Proviso funding is for OSPI staffing capacity to support districts and schools to understand and implement requirements in BECCA Compulsory Attendance law, as well as best practice to increase attendance and reduce chronic absenteeism.

2. **Description of services provided:**

Staff provided presentations, professional development, technical assistance, resource development, and awareness raising activities to support the purpose described above.

During FY20, the following work was prioritized under this proviso:

- A statewide district truancy liaison network was created to inform OSPI actions, identify needs in field, and create a space for districts to share what's working and network on challenges
- Developing definitions of attendance, truancy policy and guidance, and supports for best practices in the context of remote learning and the coronavirus pandemic
- Provide technical assistance to districts and schools on attendance and truancy policy and practice
- Refine OSPI CEDARS truancy data collection and reporting

3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

N/A

**Beneficiaries in 2019-20 School Year:**

<b>Number of School Districts:</b>	0
<b>Number of Schools:</b>	0
<b>Number of Students:</b>	0
<b>Number of Educators:</b>	0
<b>Other:</b>	0

**Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs):** 1.3

**Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding:** 0.0

**FY20 Funding: State Appropriation:** \$178,000

**Federal Appropriation:**     \$0  
**Other fund sources:**        \$0  
**TOTAL (FY20)**                \$178,000

4. **Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?**

- No
- Yes, please explain.

5. **State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY20	\$178,000	\$169,616
FY19	\$178,000	\$164,537
FY18	\$186,000	\$78,192

6. **Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:**

N/A

7. **Programmatic changes since inception (if any):**

N/A

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

N/A

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

Broadly, we see districts challenged to implement certain requirements in the law without additional funding and staff capacity. Providing interventions earlier (e.g., parent conferences after 5 excused absences or administering the Washington Assessment of Risks and Needs of Students (WARNS) or other screener between 2–5 unexcused absences) even though they are best practice, proved to be challenging to districts.

There is still ample opportunity for more training and support of community truancy boards (CTBs) and other coordinated means of intervention, as these critical interventions and support is not yet fully implemented in all communities. More broadly, there is continued work to support multi-tiered systems of support for attendance that include supports, outreach, engagement, and interventions prior to filing a petition and referring a student to a CTB or other coordinated means of intervention.

We also see an opportunity to shift the approach and the thinking that attendance is a compliance measure, instead of a valuable early warning indicator and cue for support.

10. **Future opportunities:**

At the current funding level, OSPI will be able to maintain the current level of support for districts. There continues to be opportunity to resource school and district capacity to engage in tiered supports, including early intervention and community truancy boards and other coordinated means of intervention to promote increased engagement in school.

11. **Statutory and/or budget language:**

ESSB 6168 Sec. 501 (4)(h)(iii) - \$280,000 of the general fund—state \$178,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and \$178,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for implementation of chapter 291, Laws of 2017 (2SHB 1170) (truancy reduction efforts).

12. **Other relevant information:**

N/A

13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)

14. **Program Contact Information:**

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