



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

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:

- Collaborate with state agency and community partners to assist schools in implementing youth suicide prevention activities.
- Coordinate training for school employees, parents, community members, and students in recognizing and responding to the signs of emotional or behavioral distress in students.
- Collaborate with the PESB and DOH on an approval process for suicide prevention training required for school counselors, psychologists, social workers, and nurses.
- 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.
- 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.



Washington Office of Superintendent of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

OSPI and UW Forefront provide consultation, technical assistance, and training to the Behavioral Health Navigators working in each of our nine ESDs.

Support to Behavioral Health Navigators

Contracted services performed by The University of Washington, Forefront Suicide Prevention, provides a coach to conduct training, technical assistance, and postvention toolkit development for the nine Behavioral Health Navigators. The coach performs outreach to ESD Navigators for the provision of technical assistance and training to help schools meet the requirements of RCW 28A.320.127.

3. Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:

The nine Behavioral Health Navigators receive supports and services for comprehensive suicide prevention planning and implementation.

Beneficiaries in the 2022-23 School Year:

- Number of School Districts: N/A
- Number of Schools: N/A
- Number of Students: N/A
- Number of Educators: N/A
- Other: 9 ESDs

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

Yes, please explain: 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.

5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2023	\$162,000	\$141,378
2022	\$162,000	\$162,000
2021	\$162,000	\$156,077
2020	\$162,000	\$159,580
2019	\$202,000	\$201,999



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

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

N/A

7. 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. Work in support of the Behavioral Health Navigators has been very beneficial to services deployed to the ESDs through the Navigator.

8. Program evaluation or evaluation of major findings:

Navigators receiving support from Forefront continue to demonstrate progress in supporting districts with completing and implementing the plan required by RCW 28A.320.127. The Navigator's in partnership with Forefront coach provide concentrated support/guidance/training to school districts in their efforts to meet the RCW requirements.

9. 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.

10. 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 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 interruption 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.

11. Statutory and/or budget language:

\$162,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and \$162,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for youth suicide prevention activities.

12. Other relevant information:

N/A



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:

[preliminaryfy23state-fundedprovisograntawardsupdated-42823.xlsx \(live.com\)](#)

14. Program Contact Information:

Name: Kerry Bloomquist
Title: Behavioral Health and Suicide Prevention Program Supervisor
Phone: (360) 725-6068
Email: kerry.bloomquist@k12.wa.us