

24-25 SS-SWAC #4 — School Safety Summit

School Safety and Student Well-being Advisory Committee (SS-SWAC)

Meeting Notes

8:30am–12:30pm

May 20, 2025

Zoom

Welcome & Introductions

Presenter: Briana Kelly, OSPI

- Purpose of Safety and Student Well-being Advisory Committee (SS-SWAC)
 - Make recommendations
 - Identify emerging issues
 - Establish priorities
- Attendee Introductions

Gangs in School Task Force Update

Presenter: Amber Wynn, OSPI

- Introduction & Purpose
 - The Gang Subcommittee was formed to create a separate legislative report for the education committees, focused on gang activity impacting school safety.
- Key Objectives
 - Evaluate gang-related threats to school environments.
 - Address the lack of data collection on gang activity.
 - Convene bi-monthly with various stakeholders and organizations.
- Statewide Trends Identified in task force
 - Youth are being influenced by gangs at younger ages.
 - Increased involvement of girls in drug and weapon-related activities.
 - Rise in white supremacist activity.
- Impacts on School Communities
 - Gang presence negatively affects student safety and overall school climate.
- Prevention & Intervention Strategies
 - Acknowledge gang activity in schools.
 - Increase accountability and access to services.
 - Apply restorative practices and remove service barriers.



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- Use school-based threat assessments and HIB (harassment, intimidation, bullying) processes proactively.
- Next Steps
 - Continue collaboration through meetings.
 - Finalize and share findings and recommendations.
- Future Focus
 - Expand the scope to examine the role of weapons in gang violence.

SS-SWAC 1–3 Priority Topic Review

Presenter: Briana Kelly, OSPI

Summarized priority topic areas to improve school safety and student well-being, in no particular order:

1. Threats
2. Gangs in Schools
3. Weapons
4. Inclusion/Support for Vulnerable Populations
5. Attendance & Truancy
6. Community Involvement
7. Sustainable Interventions
8. Student Voice
9. Violence Prevention
10. Aligned Agency/CBO Support
11. School/Law Enforcement Partnerships
12. Student Discipline
13. Barriers to Increased School Staff Training
14. Lack of Access to Funding

Select Priority Topics— Breakout Discussion

- Discussion in Breakout Groups
 - Identifying emerging issues, best practices, and recommended solutions to the largest school safety needs, barriers, and gaps.
- [Notes taken in shared excel document](#)

2025 Legislative Session Updates

Presenter: Briana Kelly, OSPI

- [SB 5004](#) — Updating emergency response systems in public schools
- [HB 1296](#) — Promoting a safe and supportive public education system.
- [SB 5167 Washington State Legislature](#) — State Operating Budget
- Breakdown of Operating Budget for 2025–2027 that affects Student Safety and Well Being Programs

Share Identified Funding Gaps & Areas of Need— Breakout Discussion

- [Notes taken in shared excel document](#)
- Discussion: Documented and discussed provided and needed funding for the top priority topics.

Final Priority Topic Selection— Share Outs

Room 1

Priority Topics Identified:

- Violence Prevention (9)
- Community Involvement (6)
- Gangs in Schools (2)

Summary:

Emphasized how violence, community involvement, and gang activity are interconnected. Prioritized sustainable intervention as a way to address all three issues together.

Room 2

Priority Topics Identified:

- Lack of Access to Funding (14)
- School Climate and School Culture (related to 4 & 9)
- Threats (1)
- Violence Prevention (9)
- Community Involvement (6)

Summary:

Highlighted how multiple issues—funding, threats, violence, and school culture—are interconnected and require integrated support and resources.

Room 3

Main Priorities:

- Attendance & Truancy (5)
- Student Discipline (12)
- Sustainable Interventions (7)
- Violence Prevention (9)

Summary:

Stressed the importance of reducing exclusionary discipline practices, improving

attendance, and using sustainable interventions to address youth violence and gang involvement.

Room 4

Main Priorities:

- Attendance & Truancy (5)
- Mental Health (tied to 4 & 9)
- Data Use & Collection (related to 10 & 13)
- Violence/Gun Violence (9 & 3)

Summary:

Addressed how unmet student needs, especially for those with undiagnosed disabilities, tie into truancy and violence. Emphasized ethical data use and integrating mental health into daily school practices.

Room 5

Main Priorities:

- Violence Prevention (9)
- Attendance & Truancy (5)
- Community Involvement (6)
- Lack of Access to Funding (14)
- Barriers to Increased Staff Training (13)

Summary:

Focused on how disconnected systems lead to failed efforts. Recommended investing in local programs, improving training (e.g., de-escalation), and addressing logistical barriers like transportation and childcare to support students more effectively.

Final Priority Topic Selection for 25-26 SS-SWAC

1. Threats
2. Community Involvement
3. Violence Prevention
4. Sustainable Interventions

Next Steps: Preparation for 2025-2026 Meetings

- Top 4 Priority Topics Selected.
- Agendas will be developed around reviewing topics.
- Meeting schedules and invitations will be sent out in early fall with SS-SWAC member invitations.
- Safety Summit will identify final recommendations for legislative report.

Adjourn