

# Youth Suicide Prevention

## Budget Language

\$162,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$162,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for youth suicide prevention activities.

## Proviso Purpose

Funding is provided to support ongoing work to implement suicide prevention programming in Washington schools.

## Services Provided

In collaboration with the ESD Behavioral Health Navigators, OSPI promotes training to build the competency of school staff to address social, emotional, or behavioral distress exhibited by their students. OSPI used this funding to support agency staffing and a contract with UW Forefront to provide the following supports.

### Training

School Counselors, Psychologists, Social Workers, and Nurses are required to complete an approved suicide intervention training for certification or recertification outlined in RCW 28A.410.226. OSPI, in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH) and the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB), maintains a list of approved trainings. OSPI also reviews and approves new training proposals in partnership with PESB.

### Resources and Policy

OSPI and UW Forefront provide consultation, technical assistance, and training to the Behavioral Health Navigators (BHNs) serving in each of the nine Educational Service Districts (ESDs). The support focuses primarily on RCW 28A.320.127 (2016), which requires school districts to adopt a plan to screen for, recognize, and respond to indicators of social-emotional, behavioral, and mental health distress in students.

## Criteria for Receiving Services/Grants

All schools are eligible for general services and support. The nine Behavioral Health Navigators receive targeted consultation, technical assistance, and training to support the planning and implementation of comprehensive suicide prevention efforts.



## Beneficiaries in the 2024-25 School Year

Number of School Districts:	295
Number of Schools:	N/A
Number of Students:	N/A
Number of Educators:	N/A
Other (ESDs):	9

## Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

Yes. Starting in fiscal year 2019, OSPI uses these funds to match the funds from Health Care Authority to improve school-based behavioral health systems and act as a Medicaid liaison, in support of the state Medicaid plan.

## State Funding History

2025	\$162,000	\$155,986
2024	\$162,000	\$160,418

## Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

2025	304
2024	304

## Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

UW Forefront Suicide Prevention continues to improve its program based on lessons learned from previous years' implementation. Support for the Behavioral Health Navigators has enhanced the services delivered by the ESDs. A major focus this year was providing technical assistance aligned with RCW 28A.320.127 (2016), which requires school districts to have a plan to recognize, screen, and respond to social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health distress in students. To extend the reach of this proviso, Title IVa funds were used to enhance suicide prevention services by providing additional suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention training to school district staff. The funds also supported suicide prevention training for parents and community members.

## Program(s) Evaluation or Major Findings

Navigators supported by UW Forefront continue to make progress in helping school districts complete and implement the plan required by RCW 28A.320.127 (2016). Their partnership with

UW Forefront coaching provides focused support, guidance, and training to assist school districts in meeting the RCW requirements.

## Major Challenges Faced by Program(s)

Many districts face budget constraints that limit their ability to offer comprehensive programs.

## Future Opportunities

This program continues to identify the gaps in resources available to schools across the state, highlighting the need for increased support to address students' emotional and behavioral distress.

## Other Relevant Information

Work through this Proviso is closely aligned with the Health Care Authority's Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group.

## Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

[Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2025 Fiscal Year.](#)

## Program Contact Information

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