

Hot Spot Mapping Washington

What is Hot Spot Mapping?

Hot Spot Mapping is a simple, student-driven data collection process. It asks students to anonymously color code maps of their school to show where they feel safe, somewhat unsafe, and unsafe. This feedback is used to make changes to the physical or social school environment that improve student safety and support.

Goals

1. Identify exact locations at school where students feel safe and unsafe.
2. Use student feedback to make targeted changes to the school environment.
3. Through environmental changes, create safer spaces that reduce opportunities for violence ([CDC Community Violence Resource for Action](#), [Shifting Boundaries](#)).

Hot Spot Mapping App (Pilot)

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is developing a new online hot spot mapping tool for Washington schools. Middle and high schools interested in piloting the Hot Spot Mapping App and sharing feedback can apply now for the 2026–27 school year.

2026–2027 Pilot Overview	
Onboarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss pilot with school administrators (virtual demos available).• Plan hot spot mapping implementation with pilot coordinator.• The app team converts school maps and creates new accounts on the app.
Survey & Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students complete the hot spot mapping activity during class.• School admin view results report on the app and identify key themes and hot spots.• Share results with students and other staff. <i>Optional: hold student listening sessions to explore root causes.</i>
Schoolwide Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss results with staff and/or other partners.• Brainstorm short- & long-term actions to improve unsafe spaces.• Make environmental changes at school.
Process Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gather feedback from staff and students to refine the activity.

Questions?

Contact Nikki Van Wagner at nikki.vanwagner@k12.wa.us to learn more.

