Social and Emotional Learning

Budget Language

$200,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2026 and $200,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2027 are provided solely for implementation of chapter 386, Laws of 2019 (social emotional learning).

Proviso Purpose

To promote and expand statewide support of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in Washington districts and schools and convene the SEL Advisory Committee (SELAC).

Services Provided

The OSPI provided staff and support to convene the SEL Advisory Committee. The committee is responsible for actively working on, or has achieved progress in the following areas:

a. Developing and implementing a statewide framework for SEL that is trauma-informed, universally designed, culturally sustaining, and developmentally appropriate.
b. Aligning the WA SEL standards and benchmarks with other relevant standards and guidelines, including the health and physical education K-12 learning standards and the early learning and development guidelines.
c. Identifying best practices or guidance for schools implementing the standards, benchmarks and developmental indicators for SEL.
d. Identifying professional development opportunities for teachers and educational staff and reviewing, updating, and aligning as needed the SEL online module.
e. Considering systems for collecting data about SEL, and monitoring implementation efforts.
f. Identifying strategies to improve coordination between early learning, K-12 education, youth-serving community partners and culturally based providers, and higher education regarding SEL.
g. Engaging with stakeholders and seeking feedback.
h. Holding an annual joint meeting with the Education Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC).
i. Submitting an annual report and recommendations to the legislature, office of the governor, and the office of superintendent of public instruction.

In addition, OSPI staff provided the following services:

j. Collaboration with the content teams on learning standards revisions to include SEL implementation guidance, caregiver documents, and professional development for education practitioners.
k. Grants were provided to LEAs for organizing and hosting regional conferences on SEL. Additionally, grants were provided to school districts (prioritizing districts with the

highest discipline rates) for SEL resources and professional development.

Criteria for Receiving Services/Grants

11 grants were provided to school districts who had the highest rates of discipline and who accepted the grant. Three LEAs were provided funding to hold regional conferences on social emotional learning.

Beneficiaries in the 2025-26 School Year

Number of School Districts: All

Number of Schools: All

Number of Students: All

Number of Educators: All

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No.

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2026	$200,000	$195,708
2025	$200,000	$139,067
2024	$200,000	$200,000
2023	$200,000	$165,036
2022	$200,000	$157,590

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

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2026	295 School Districts & 8 STEC
2025	295 School Districts & 8 STEC
2024	295 School Districts & 8 STEC

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

None.

Program(s) Evaluation or Major Findings

The asynchronous SEL learning module was updated, utilized regularly, and received positive feedback, as evidenced by quarterly enrollment and completion data, and participant feedback.

Major Challenges Faced by Program(s)

None.

Future Opportunities

The SELAC and OSPI staff will continue to create opportunities to build educational capacity to implement SEL.

Other Relevant Information

The SEL Advisory Committee and OSPI SEL staff collaborate on various SEL and SEL-related work across multiple contexts, programs, and agencies. Currently, OSPI is in the process of updating learning standards, and SEL has been prioritized by intentional efforts to integrate SEL throughout the new standards.

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2026 Fiscal Year.

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