



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:

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

- OSPI and UW Forefront provide consultation, technical assistance, and training to schools who experience a suicide in their school community.

Support to identified high-need schools

- Contracted services performed by The University of Washington, Forefront Innovations in Suicide Prevention, provides a coach to conduct training, technical assistance, and coalition building in Okanogan, Stevens, and Island Counties, the three counties identified as high-risk by the Department of Health Injury Data. Each coach performs outreach to ESDs and school districts 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:**

Schools in Stevens, Island, and Okanogan Counties must sign a MOU with UW Forefront to receive supports and services for comprehensive suicide prevention planning and implementation.

Beneficiaries in 2019-20 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	5
Number of Schools:	5
Number of Students:	1,601
Number of Educators:	0
Other:	1,246

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 0.5

Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 3.0

FY20 Funding: State Appropriation: \$162,000

Federal Appropriation: \$0

Other fund sources: \$0

TOTAL (FY20) \$162,000

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

No

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
FY20	\$162,000	\$159,580
FY19	\$202,000	\$201,999
FY18	\$150,000	\$150,000
FY17	\$142,000	\$131,982
FY16	\$142,000	\$140,363
FY15	\$148,000	\$134,189

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. This has resulted in OSPI receiving more robust data on the services schools are receiving and outcomes the schools and students experience.

8. **Evaluations of program/major findings:**

Schools who receive the support from Forefront continue to demonstrate progress in completing and implementing the plan required by RCW 28A.320.127. Schools who do not receive this concentrated support/guidance/training continue to struggle to meet the RCW requirements. Schools do not have the internal capacity to complete this important planning and implementation work.

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

COVID-19 closures: Site visits were cancelled or converted to desk reviews for the spring and summer months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 supported a state agency request to the legislature to increase regional capacity to provide this support to districts in HB 1216, however the regional supports for suicide prevention were not funded. 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:**

ESSB 6168 Sec. 501 (4)(g)(i) - \$162,000 of the general fund -- state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and \$162,000 of the general fund – state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for youth suicide prevention activities.

12. **Other relevant information:**

N/A

13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)

14. **Program Contact Information:**

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