

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 field coordinator 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 county's field coordinator 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](#).

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 2017-18 School Year:

of School Districts: 07

of Schools: 10

of Students: N/A

Other: # of staff/students/community members trained: 1,130

of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 1.0

of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 1.0

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------|
| FY 18 Funding: | State Appropriation: | \$150,000 |
| | Federal Appropriation: | \$0.0 |
| | Other fund sources: | \$0.0 |
| | TOTAL (FY18) | \$150,000 |

3. Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding? If yes, explain. No.

4. State funding history:

| Fiscal Year | Amount Funded | Actual Expenditures |
|-------------|---------------|---------------------|
| FY18 | \$150,000 | \$150,000 |
| FY17 | \$142,000 | \$131,982 |
| FY16 | \$142,000 | \$140,363 |
| FY15 | \$148,000 | \$134,189 |

5. Programmatic changes since inception (if any):

The 2017-18 school year is the third year of the program and a continuous process improvement effort contributed to an updated SFY18 Contract with UW to increase program capacity. This resulted in more collaboration with ESD partners, and more concentrated efforts with participating school districts. Previously, funding for the contractor was appropriated from HB 1163 (2012) through proviso language for bullying prevention. However, in SFY 18, the proviso language changed and removed the allocation for suicide prevention. OSPI had to work internally with the School Safety program to allocate their funds to support the contract which was already in place. This was a one-time agreement, and program funding will no longer be available from the bullying proviso language in SFY 19.

6. 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.

7. **Major challenges faced by the program:**

A reduction in funding for the program will greatly impact the ability for this program to continue at the current capacity.

Original Proviso language:

93,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2016 and \$93,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2017 are provided solely for chapter 185, Laws of 2011 (bullying prevention), which requires the office of the superintendent of public instruction to convene an ongoing workgroup on school bullying and harassment prevention. Within the amounts provided, \$140,000 is for youth suicide prevention activities.

Changes made to program proviso language:

\$50,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2018 and \$50,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2019 are provided solely for school bullying and harassment prevention activities. (No longer allocated the funds to be split with the suicide prevention program).

This demonstrates an annual reduction of \$70,000 which greatly reduces the contract with UW to serve high need communities.

8. **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. The request did not pass in the SFY 18 legislative session. 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 interruptions 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.

9. **Statutory and/or Budget language:**

Budget Proviso: SSB 5883 Section 501(20) \$150,000 of the general fund -- state appropriation for fiscal year 2018 and \$150,000 of the general fund – state appropriation for fiscal year 2019 are provided solely for youth suicide prevention activities.

10. **Other relevant information:** N/A

11. List of schools/districts receiving assistance: See OSPI [website](#).

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