



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Youth Suicide Prevention

1. **Purpose:**

The purpose of the OSPI Youth Suicide Prevention Program is 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 Educational Service Districts (ESDs), OSPI promotes training to build the competencies of school staff to address social, emotional, or behavioral distress exhibited by young people. Specific services include:

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

- HB 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 collaborates with UW Forefront

Support to Behavioral Health Navigators

- OSPI contracts with *The University of Washington, Forefront Innovations in Suicide Prevention* to provide consultation, coaching, technical assistance, and training to the Behavioral Health Navigators working in each of our nine ESDs. The coach performs outreach to ESD Navigators 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:**

The nine Behavioral Health Navigators receive supports and services for comprehensive suicide prevention planning and implementation.

Beneficiaries in 2020-21 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	NA
Number of Schools:	NA
Number of Students:	NA
Number of Educators:	NA
Other:	9 Regional Behavioral Health Navigators

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 0.6

Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 1.0

FY21 Funding: State Appropriation:	\$162,000
Federal Appropriation:	\$0
Other fund sources:	\$0
TOTAL (FY21)	\$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 Health Care Authority (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
FY21	\$162,000	\$156,077
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:**

9 Regional Behavioral Health Navigators

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. Work in support of the Behavioral Health Navigators has been very beneficial to services deployed to the ESDs through the Navigator.

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

Navigators receiving support from Forefront continue to demonstrate progress in supporting districts with completing and implementing the plan required by RCW 28A.320.127. The Navigator's in partnership with Forefront coach provide concentrated support/guidance/training to school districts in their efforts to meet the RCW requirements.

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

The demand for youth suicide prevention supports is greater than what this funding can provide and do not benefit all school districts in the state. In addition, in order for this work to be successful, it is crucial that there be adequate staff in all school buildings to respond to student needs.

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 meet the needs of students who experience emotional and behavioral distress. 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 5092 Sec.1 501 (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:**

The legislature passed Senate Bill 6431 (SB 6431) in 2014 which outlines the work provided through this program. This legislation was codified in RCW [28A.300.288](#).

OSPI developed an [Educational Service District Behavioral Health System Navigator Playbook](#), which provides a roadmap for an ESD Behavioral Health System Navigators to engage in regional K–12 and healthcare partnerships through relationships and collaboration activities that will ultimately increase access to care.

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

See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)

14. **Program Contact Information:**

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