



# Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

## **Sexual Abuse of Students**

1. **Purpose:**

The purpose of these funds is to support a statewide coordinated program for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Specifically, these funds are used to support implementation of SHB 1539 (passed in 2018), also known as “Erin’s Law,” and the [recommendations](#) developed by the Erin’s Law Workgroup for school-based prevention in 2019.

2. **Description of services provided:**

OSPI supports districts through the development of resources, professional development, and technical assistance related to child sexual abuse prevention, more broadly deemed as sexual violence prevention. Schools, educators, and students in each district benefit from the services, trainings, and resources provided.

Funds also supported the development of a Youth Oversight Board (YOB) that informs the Youth-Centered Environmental Shift Program (YES!) Program and drives other student-relevant sexual violence prevention initiatives throughout WA state. YES! is a community-level intervention program, rather than an individual- or relationship-level, designed to incorporate youth input concerning school climate and culture into community-level primary prevention strategies. It also aims to create protective environments and reduce rates of sexual violence victimization and perpetration within school communities.

Through these funds, OSPI and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families worked collaboratively to develop and host webinars in each of the 6 DCYF regions in Washington.

Through contractual agreements, this proviso also supports the following services:

- **Implementation of the YES! Program** – Services include school recruitment, assistance with resource development, pilot school training, and co-facilitation of the Youth Oversight Board. Contractor also assists with reviewing sexual violence prevention materials identified during the fiscal year.
- **Coordination and facilitation of the Youth Oversight Board (YOB):** The Okanogan Foundation for Youth Resiliency & Engagement (FYRE) is an organization that serves youth in Eastern Washington. FYRE coordinates and facilitates the Youth Oversight Board to inform the YES! Program. YOB also

strategizes and helps determine initiatives for broad based sexual violence prevention strategies for WA state K-12 education.

- **Youth Engagement** – FYRE and Peer Education Empowerment League brought youth members to discuss school building level protocols and plans that intersect with sexual violence. Youth feedback was incorporated to revisions in the Youth-centered environmental shift (YES!) Program.
- **Curriculum Review** – Support in the review of Sexual Health Instructional Materials, with a focus on materials that address Affirmative Consent and Bystander Intervention, both of which are evidence-based strategies for sexual abuse prevention.

3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

All schools/districts in Washington can receive services. The beneficiaries cited below were those who actively attended trainings, reached out for technical assistance, and/or benefited from work with contractors. For the YES! Program, OSPI has been searching for three middle schools to pilot the innovative strategy to collect initial evidence of the effectiveness of the program. YES! will be available for free to all schools throughout WA state after initial evidence regarding its effectiveness has been collected.

**Beneficiaries in 2020-21 School Year:**

**Number of School Districts:** 20

**Number of Schools:** 35

**Number of Students:** 32

**Number of Educators:** 30

**Other:** Nurses, school counselors, district staff, ESD staff, community educators, and juvenile justice personnel 60

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

**Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding:** 4 Contracts

**FY21 Funding: State Appropriation:** \$76,000

**Federal Appropriation:** \$0

**Other fund sources:** \$0

**TOTAL (FY21)** \$76,000

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

No

Yes, please explain.

5. **State funding history:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Amount Funded</b>	<b>Actual Expenditures</b>
FY21	\$76,000	\$68,352
FY20	\$76,000	\$70,274
FY19	\$97,000	\$89,675

6. **Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of School Districts</b>	<b>Number of Schools</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Number of Educators</b>	<b>Number of Other</b>
FY21	20	35	32	30	60
FY20	120	132	8	72	162
FY19	295	2,445	1,105,391	0	0

7. **Programmatic changes since inception (if any):**

During the first year of implementation (FY19), services focused on statewide support for implementation of Erin’s Law. For FY 20 and FY 21, while statewide resources are still available, the services have shifted to focus on implementation of a sexual abuse prevention pilot, which will be used to inform schools and districts statewide. Additionally, there has been an increased focus on direct youth engagement.

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

The program made significant progress through the school-based sexual violence prevention strategy called the Youth-centered Environmental Shift (YES!) Program. This strategy is funded in part through the CDC’s Rape Prevention and Education Program, in partnership with DOH and supported by this proviso. OSPI has secured one middle school to pilot the YES! Program and is working on recruiting two additional middle schools. The continued partnership with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) and the webinars made available to schools in all 6 of the DCYF regions, ensured that school staff received culturally- and regionally-responsive information from staff who are familiar with their schools and communities. Educators, counselors, and administrative staff were able to learn from specialists about how to better support students who may need to be reported to child protective services or how to help those who are currently entering the system.

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

In FY21, this program was significantly impacted by Covid-19 as educators, administrators, and district personnel were primarily focused on ensuring the safety and education of their students in remote, hybrid, and in person settings. Trainings were less frequently attended and there was less demand for meetings with districts.

YES! Program recruitment of schools has proven extremely difficult as they responded to the pandemic and the quickly changing school regulations.

10. **Future opportunities:**

OSPI has received many inquiries for advanced sexual violence prevention training and will continue to provide technical assistance in this area. Existing partnerships with DCYF, the Washington State Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs (WCSAP) and the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence will continue. CDC funding and DOH funding will extend until FY24.

This proviso has helped leverage \$1,200,000 in CDC funding for the YES! project, awarded to the University of Washington to conduct a rigorous evaluation of YES! in collaboration with OSPI. This work continues in partnership with the University of Washington's Northwest Center for Public Health Practice and the Harborview's Injury Prevention and Research Center. The YES! Program will provide a toolkit to all schools once development and the evaluation are complete. This strategy has the potential for becoming a national model for community-level sexual violence prevention.

11. **Statutory and/or budget language:**

ESSB 5092, Sec. 1501 (4)(g)(iv) \$76,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 is provided and \$76,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for implementation of chapter 64, Laws of 2018 (sexual abuse of students).

12. **Other relevant information:**

In 2020, the legislature passed [Senate Bill 5395 \(SB 5395\)](#), which requires every public school to provide comprehensive sexual health education(CSHE) to each student by the 2022-23 school year. SB 5395 included a requirement for CSHE to include affirmative consent and bystander training which are both considered effective sexual violence prevention strategies.

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

See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)

14. **Program Contact Information:**

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