The proposed School Safety Corps will address school safety issues which impact school climate, dropout rates and general academic achievement. School safety includes an evolving and overlapping set of 21st Century issues, including, but not limited to, HIB, cyberbullying/digital safety, gang activity in schools, LGBTQ, CSEC/human trafficking, as well as other, more traditional, elements such as disaster preparation and threat assessment. A growing body of research shows that a focus on school safety creates a learning environment which has a positive impact on behavior, attendance, drop-out prevention, and ultimately, academic achievement. A safe school supports student learning by creating and promoting an academically, socially, emotionally, and physically secure environment for students, staff, and visitors. The importance of school climate and safety is underscored by their inclusion in the current TPEP process.

School safety involves planning for the prevention, intervention, and mitigation of, and recovery from the variety natural, physical, social and technological threats to the students, staff, and the entire school community. Many school safety issues are addressed in current RCW’s, Federal law, or both. In order to create a unified approach to school safety, this request proposes to fund a statewide School Safety Corps. Working with the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) framework and coordinated through the School Safety Advisory Committee, the School Safety Center will develop a School Safety Corps in collaboration with the 9 ESD’s, the Criminal Justice Training Commission and other appropriate agencies and organizations. The School Safety Corps will:

1. Identify research and best practice approaches, programs and curricula in prevention and intervention of harassment, intimidation and bullying, digital safety and cyberbullying, gang activity in schools, suicide prevention, CSEC/human sexual trafficking;
2. Create guidance in the development of model safety policies and procedures;
3. Provide grants to selected school districts to encourage local participation;
4. Provide training to schools/districts in these areas;
5. Identify and implement school safety and climate data gathering resources;
6. Identify and partner with appropriate state and local agencies and organizations to help ensure effective implementation of programs and curricula;
7. Develop and implement a school safety data dashboard for schools;

As a result of the School Safety Corps, within a PBIS framework, there will be

1. a cadre of people across Washington with skills and expertise in school safety,
2. an increase in effective prevention, intervention, response and mitigation to HIB, digital safety and cyberbullying, gangs in schools, human trafficking and related issues,
3. a resultant decrease in behavior referrals, absenteeism, drop-out rates, and other negative school discipline data,
4. an increase on overall satisfaction with school climate and safety, and academic achievement;
5. a model school safety dashboard tool available to schools throughout Washington.