



## Washington Integrated Student Supports Protocol

### Background

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In 2016 the Legislature adopted 4SHB 1541 into state law. This bill was based on the recommendations of the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC), and was a great step forward in our shared work to eliminate education opportunity gaps across the state.

As part of this new law, the Legislature created the *Washington Integrated Student Supports Protocol (WISSP)*. In an integrated student supports (ISS) model school teams work together to coordinate a seamless system of wraparound supports for students, their families, and the school as a whole to address students' academic and nonacademic barriers to learning. *Once developed, the WISSP will help guide schools and districts through the process of implementing ISS models.*

### Purpose and Operational Framework

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The purpose of the WISSP is to:

- Support a school-based approach to promoting the success of all students;
- Fulfill a vision of public education where educators focus on education, students focus on learning, and auxiliary supports enable teaching and learning to occur unimpeded;
- Encourage the creation, expansion, and quality improvement of community-based supports that can be integrated into the academic environment of schools and school districts;
- Increase public awareness of the evidence showing that academic outcomes are a result of both academic and nonacademic factors; and
- Support statewide and local organizations in their efforts to provide leadership, coordination, technical assistance, professional development, and advocacy to implement high-quality, evidence-based, student-centered, coordinated approaches throughout the state.

The key components of the WISSP, as outlined in the law include the following:

- **Student needs assessment** – Must be conducted with all at-risk students to develop or identify the needed academic and nonacademic supports within their school and community
- **Integration and coordination** – School and district leaders and staff must develop relationships with providers of academic and nonacademic supports
- **Community partnerships** – Community partners must be engaged to provide academic and nonacademic supports to both students and their families in an effort to reduce barriers to students' academic success
- **Data driven** – Students' needs and outcomes must be tracked over time to monitor their progress and respond to their evolving needs



## Protocol Development and Policy Recommendations

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### Development

The Legislature gave the responsibility for developing the WISSP to the [Center for the Improvement of Student Learning \(CISL\)](#). The WISSP must be flexible enough to be used in all districts, and must also be accessible in a way that allows any academic or nonacademic provider to support the needs of at-risk students. These providers include, but are not limited to out-of-school time providers, social workers, mental health counselors, physicians, dentists, speech therapists, audiologists, and any other group of individuals or agencies working in partnership with schools and district to support students.

CISL intends to engage in a [collaborative process for developing the WISSP](#). This includes working with staff inside of OSPI; educators at education service districts, local school districts and building staff; representatives of community organizations; families, and experts in the field of family-school-community partnerships for learning improvement.

### Policy Recommendations

The bill that created the WISSP also established the [ISS Workgroup](#). The workgroup is charged with making recommendations to the Legislature about policies that should be adopted or modified in order to support the implementation of ISS across the state. In order for ISS to be successful, there must be alignment of policies, programs and practices across districts and at the state-level; schools and communities must have the capacity to implement the ISS, and they must be supported by school and district leadership. The ISS workgroup will make recommendations to support system alignment, capacity building, and leadership development to effectively and efficiently deliver a continuum of student-centered tiered supports that address academic and non-academic barriers to learning.

## Get Involved

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We need your input as we develop the Washington Integrated Students Supports Protocol. If you are a parent, educator, or representative of a community organization and would like to provide your input please reach out to us!

*You can learn more about the WISSP by visiting [www.k12.wa.us/CISL](http://www.k12.wa.us/CISL), or by reaching out to one of the OSPI staff people included below.*

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