



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

## *Sexual Abuse of Students*

### 1. **Purpose:**

SHB 1539 (passed in 2018), also known as “Erin’s Law,” addressed child sexual abuse prevention in Washington state schools. The bill named the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) as the lead agency tasked with reviewing curricula and assisting the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) with developing a coordinated program for the prevention of child sexual abuse in grades K–12.

Proviso funding supports OSPI’s ongoing work to implement sexual violence prevention programming in Washington schools.

### 2. **Description of services provided:**

Recommendations for [Sexual Abuse Prevention Education in Washington state K–12 Schools](#) from the 2018 Erin’s Law Workgroup, inform the work of OSPI in supporting Washington state schools with technical assistance, resources and professional development. This includes development of targeted training for schools and community partners, review of instructional materials focused on sexual abuse and violence prevention, and program development based on evidence-based approaches to sexual abuse and violence prevention in schools. Work implementing Erin’s Law pointed to the lack of primary prevention efforts in schools and significant gaps in research and resources on effective programs earlier than high school. In 2020, OSPI developed an evidence-informed strategy for preventing sexual violence at the middle school level (grades 6–8) titled the Youth-centered Environmental Shift (YES!) Program. OSPI is partnering with the Department of Health (DOH), who provides partial implementation funding, and the University of Washington (UW), who is evaluating the program through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Three middle schools were recruited to pilot YES!, and a Youth Oversight Board was established to assist with guiding program planning and implementation. OSPI also partners with DOH on a social marketing campaign, It’s About Respect, to support gender-based sexual violence prevention in middle schools. Resources on OSPI’s website serve all districts in the state.

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

All schools are eligible for general services and support. Middle schools are eligible for grant funding for YES! program piloting.



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## Beneficiaries in the 2022-23 School Year:

- Number of School Districts: 295
- Number of Schools: N/A
- Number of Students: N/A
- Number of Educators: N/A
- Other: 50+ = State agencies, community-based organizations, legislative staff, members of the public, and parents.

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

No

### 5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2023	\$76,000	\$71,026
2022	\$76,000	\$52,768
2021	\$76,000	\$68,352
2020	\$76,000	\$70,274
2019	\$97,000	\$89,675

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

Fiscal Year	Number of Districts
2023	295 districts
2022	295 districts
2021	295 districts
2020	295stricts

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

Grant funding related to the YES! project has expanded our capacity related to school-based sexual abuse prevention.

### 8. Program evaluation or evaluation of major findings:

Technical Assistance and Resources: Technical assistance, resources and referrals were provided to dozens of school staff, parents, members of the public, non-profit organizations, legislative staff and other state agencies in response to dozens of requests. Staff worked closely with OSPI's Equity and Civil Rights Office, other state agencies and community-based



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providers to respond to requests as needed. Sexual violence prevention requirements and resources were included in general sexual health education guidance and professional development. Resources related to sexual violence prevention are posted on OSPI's website and are regularly included in the Sexual Health Education newsletter, distributed to over 5,000 subscribers. Staff worked closely with a high school student who is developing sex trafficking prevention instructional materials, in partnership with Washington State University teaching faculty and community-based providers, that will be made available as Open Education Resources. Instructional materials related to sexual violence prevention and healthy relationships were included in the 2023 sexual health curriculum review (2 of 10 supplemental titles). Staff served on the Washington Commercially and Sexually Exploited Children Task Force.

**Professional Development:** Targeted professional development for educators included the delivery of one training on trauma-informed sexual health education, recognizing the number of students in any given classroom who have experienced sexual violence; one training on social media and sexually explicit online materials, with a focus on student online safety and prevention of sexual exploitation; and two trainings on affirmative consent and bystander intervention, focusing on prevention of sexual violence. These training events served 74 educators. OSPI also partnered with Team Up Washington to market and provide clock hours for their trainings on "Coaching Boys Into Men" and "Athletes as Leaders," which are dating violence prevention programs in use by dozens of schools in the state. An additional 28 educators were served with these trainings.

**School-based sexual violence prevention and response:** Implementation of the YES! program, an evidence-informed strategy for preventing sexual violence at the middle school level (grades 6–8), continued. OSPI continues to partner with the Department of Health (DOH), who provides partial implementation funding, and the University of Washington (UW), who is evaluating the program through a grant from the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Three middle schools were recruited to pilot YES!, and we supported two of the pilot schools this fiscal year. A Youth Oversight Board continued to assist with guiding program planning and implementation. OSPI staff served on DOH's sexual violence prevention advisory committee and assisted with recruitment for the "It's About Respect" sexual violence prevention project, resulting in the participation of 12 middle schools. Staff assisted OSPI's Equity and Civil Rights Office in responding to a new legislative proviso to assess school responses to student reports of sexual violence and make recommendations for improvement.



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

No major challenges. OSPI continues to contract with a sexual violence consultant to implement the YES! program and assist with more general sexual violence prevention activities. Three of the grants supporting our work and the cost of our contracted consultant will end by Jan. 31, 2024.

## 10. **Future opportunities:**

With new requirements for comprehensive sexual health education in place, many districts are incorporating new instructional materials and instruction on sexual violence prevention. OSPI expects to see an increase in the number of requests for technical assistance, resources, and training. A bill was passed by the legislature in 2023 requiring schools to provide sex trafficking prevention education starting no later than the 2025–26 school year. Staff expect to work with a number of internal and external partners to identify high-quality instructional materials for this purpose, and to begin providing professional development on this topic.

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

\$76,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and \$76,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for implementation of chapter 64, Laws of 2018 (sexual abuse of students).

## 12. **Other relevant information:**

Work done through this proviso connects closely with the work done on comprehensive sexual health education.

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

[preliminaryfy23state-fundedprovisograntawardsupdated-42823.xlsx \(live.com\)](#)

## 14. **Program Contact Information:**

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