



Sexual Abuse of Students

1. **Purpose:**

SHB 1539 (passed in 2018), also known as “Erin’s Law,” addresses 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.

2. **Description of services provided:**

Recommendations for Sexual Abuse Prevention Education in Washington State K-12 Schools(<https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/hivsexualhealth/pubdocs/Erin%27s%20Law%20Report.pdf>), 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, and program development based on evidence-based approaches to sexual abuse and violence prevention in schools. Resources on OSPI’s website serve all districts in the state.

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

All schools/districts in Washington are able to receive services. The beneficiaries cited below were those who actively attended trainings, reached out for technical assistance, and/or benefited from work with contractors.

Beneficiaries in 2019-20 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	120
Number of Schools:	132
Number of Students:	8
Number of Educators:	72
Other:	Principals, nurses, school counselors, district staff, ESD staff, and community educators
	162

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 0.70 FTE

Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 1 Contract

FY20 Funding: State Appropriation: \$76,000

Federal Appropriation: \$0

Other fund sources: \$0
TOTAL (FY20) \$76,000

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

No

Yes, please explain.

If state funds are not available, the state will not be eligible...

5. **State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY20	\$76,000	\$70,274
FY19	\$97,000	\$89,675

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

Fiscal Year	Number of School Districts	Number of Schools	Number of Students	Number of Educators	Number of Other
FY20	120	132	8	72	162
FY19	295	2,445	1,105,391	0	0

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

N/A

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

The major work accomplished in this fiscal year was development and delivery of a comprehensive sexual abuse/violence prevention training program, in partnership with the Washington State Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs (WCSAP). OSPI worked closely with WCSAP and DCYF to deliver sexual abuse/violence prevention trainings in 7 (seven) out of 9 (nine) educational service districts across Washington, which reached 72 educators and 162 counselors, school nurses, school and district administrators, and ESD staff. In response to the trainings, there been a call for even more information and resources on sexual violence prevention at the school and district level, leading to the development of a new evidence-informed program model titled the Youth-centered Environmental Shift (YES!). This strategy is funded in part through the CDC’s Rape Prevention and Education Program, in partnership with DOH and supported by this proviso funding. YES! will be piloted in 3 non-urban middle schools in Washington state, utilizing primary prevention practices described in the Recommendations for Sexual Abuse Prevention Education in Washington K-12

Schools Report to shift school climates and cultures to reduce sexual abuse and sexual violence.

Another result of the sexual abuse/violence prevention training provided has been a close partnership with DCYF to increase the provision of accurate information to schools and districts regarding mandated reporting and sexual abuse prevention.

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

Challenges have been identified related to the mandatory reporting requirement for school personnel. During trainings with ESDs and districts we identified school-specific barriers related to local mandatory reporting policies and procedures (i.e. which person does the reporting at each school to DCYF intake centers), relationships with regional DCYF offices (i.e. schools not sharing information with case workers, schools unsure of RCWs and preventing forensic interviews from happening on campuses), and verification of required training (i.e. all school personnel needs to be retrained on mandatory reporting every 3 years, but there is no mechanism for keeping track of that information). The mandatory reporting requirement for school personnel presents a challenge because there is an abundance of misinformation or outdated guidance used across the state. OSPI's partnership with DCYF has helped identify these challenges and we are working together to inform and work with districts to encourage best practice.

10. **Future opportunities:**

OSPI has received many inquiries for advanced sexual violence prevention training, and will continue to provide technical assistance in this area.

OSPI and DCYF will continue to work together to heighten awareness around mandatory reporting and have planned Q&A Panels about mandatory reporting in each of the 6 (six) DCYF divisions in 2020/2021.

The YES! Program has received national attention and funding. This proviso has helped leverage an additional \$1,200,000 in CDC funding awarded to the University of Washington to conduct a rigorous evaluation of YES!. This work will be accomplished in partnership with the University of Washington's Northwest Center for Public Health Practice and the Harborview's Injury Prevention and Research Center.

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

ESSB 6168, Sec. 501 (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:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

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

See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)

14. **Program Contact Information:**

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