

Old Capitol Building
PO Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504-7200



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

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(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 048-22 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: School Safety and Student Well-Being Legislative Reminders

CONTACT: Mike Donlin, Program Supervisor, School Safety
360-725-6068, mike.donlin@k12.wa.us

Lee Collyer, Director, School Health and Student Safety
360-725-6053, lee.collyer@k12.wa.us

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

This bulleting provides reminders of school safety and student well-being legislative requirements specific to:

- Comprehensive school safety.
- Behavioral health and suicide prevention.

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY

Drill Requirements

Schools shall conduct at least one safety-related drill per month, including summer months when school is in session with students. These drills must teach students three basic functional drill responses, and one earthquake response:

- **Lockdown**—used to isolate students and staff from threats of violence, such as suspicious trespassers or armed intruders, that may occur in a school or in the vicinity of a school.
 - [Substitute House Bill \(SHB\) 1941 \(2022\) Session Law](#) adds the following language: “Lockdown drills may not include live simulations of or reenactments of active shooter scenarios that are not trauma-informed and age and developmentally appropriate.”

- **Evacuation**—to move students and staff away from threats, such as fires, chemical spills, oil train spills, or tsunamis.
 - Note: If your school is in either a mapped tsunami or lahar hazard zone, you are required to practice a pedestrian evacuation drill each year.
- **Shelter-in-place**—used to limit the exposure of students and staff to hazardous materials, such as chemical, biological, or radiological contaminants, released into the environment by isolating the inside environment from the outside.
- **Drop, cover, and hold**—to respond to an earthquake.

Full scale exercises, live simulations, and/or reenactments are not drills and are not required. However, the [Revised Code of Washington \(RCW\) 28A.320.125](#) states that “School districts are encouraged to work with local emergency management agencies and other emergency responders to conduct one tabletop exercise, one functional exercise, and two full-scale exercises within a four-year period.”

When planning such activities, schools are encouraged to plan, involve staff and families in the process, and perform such exercises when **students are not in the school**.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Student and Staff Identification Cards

[RCW 28A.210.400](#) requires student and staff identification cards to include the contact information for a national suicide prevention organization and one or more campus, local, state, or national organizations specializing in suicide prevention.

- Text HEAL to 741741.
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-8255.
- [Mental Health Crisis Lines by County](#).

School and District Websites

[RCW 28A.320.294](#) requires that school and district websites have the following information:

- National Suicide Prevention: Website and phone number.
- Suicide Prevention: Website and phone number for either local and/or [national organization\(s\)](#).
- Depression, Anxiety, or Counseling: Website and phone number for either local and/or [national organization\(s\)](#).
- Eating Disorders: Website and phone number for either local and/or [national organization\(s\)](#).
- Substance Abuse: Website and phone number for either local and/or [national organization\(s\)](#).

School District Requirements for Recognition, Screening, and Response to Emotional and Behavioral Distress

As of February, 1, 2014, [RCW 28A.320.1271](#) required the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to develop a model school district plan for recognition, screening, and response to emotional and behavioral distress, including but not limited to indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, youth suicide, and sexual abuse.

A newly revised [Model District Template](#) is now available and accessible on the [OSPI Youth Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention webpage](#).

Per [RCW 28A.320.127](#), each school district must adopt a plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students, including but not limited to indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, youth suicide, and sexual abuse and the school district must annually provide the plan to all district staff.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding the comprehensive school safety reminder, please contact Mike Donlin, Program Supervisor, School Safety, at 360-725-6068 or mike.donlin@k12.wa.us. The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

For questions regarding the behavioral health and suicide prevention reminders, please contact Lee Collyer, Director, School Health and Student Safety, at 360-725-6053 or lee.collyer@k12.wa.us. The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

Michaela W. Miller, Ed.D., NBCT
Deputy Superintendent

Martin Mueller
Assistant Superintendent
Student Engagement and Support

Lee Collyer
Director
School Health and Student Safety

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