
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1634

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Thai, Eslick, Reed, Cortes, Doglio, Goodman, Salahuddin, Bergquist, Scott, Parshley, Zahn, Nance, and Shavers)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing school districts and public schools
2 with the assistance, resources, and training necessary to coordinate
3 comprehensive supports across the behavioral health continuum for
4 their students; and amending RCW 28A.310.510.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.310.510 and 2019 c 333 s 3 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
9 specific purpose, each educational service district must establish a
10 regional school safety center as provided in this section.

11 (2) The regional school safety centers working in collaboration
12 with one another and the state school safety center, established in
13 RCW 28A.300.630, form a statewide network for school safety. The
14 purpose of this statewide network is to provide coordination of
15 school safety efforts throughout the state and to provide school
16 safety resources to the school districts in each educational service
17 district region.

18 (3) Working in collaboration with the office of the
19 superintendent of public instruction and the statewide network, each
20 regional school safety center must provide to the school districts in
21 its region:

1 (a) Behavioral health coordination that, at a minimum, includes:
2 (i) Providing support for school district development and
3 implementation of plans for recognition, initial screening, and
4 response to emotional or behavioral distress in students as required
5 by RCW 28A.320.127;
6 (ii) Suicide prevention training for school counselors, school
7 psychologists, and school social workers;
8 (iii) Facilitating partnerships and coordination between school
9 districts, public schools, and existing regional and local systems of
10 behavioral health care services and supports in order to increase
11 student and family access to the services and supports;
12 (iv) Assisting school districts and public schools in building
13 capacity to identify and support students in need of behavioral
14 health care services and to link students and families with
15 community-based behavioral health care services;
16 (v) Identifying, sharing, and integrating, to the extent
17 practicable, behavioral and physical health care service delivery
18 models;
19 (vi) Providing medicaid billing related training, technical
20 assistance, and coordination between school districts; and
21 (vii) Guidance in implementing best practices in response to, and
22 to recover from, the suicide or attempted suicide of a student;
23 (b) School-based threat assessment coordination that, at a
24 minimum, includes:
25 (i) Providing training and technical assistance regarding the use
26 of the model policy and procedure to establish a school-based threat
27 assessment program, developed under RCW 28A.300.640;
28 (ii) Assisting with ongoing identification and implementation of
29 best practices for school-based threat assessment programs, described
30 under RCW 28A.320.123; and
31 (iii) Building partnerships with community partners, such as
32 behavioral health providers, law enforcement agencies, emergency
33 responders, juvenile justice organizations, and child welfare
34 agencies, for the purpose of implementing school-based threat
35 assessment programs that comply with best practices;
36 (c) Assistance with coordinating other entities in the region to
37 provide support to school districts before emergencies occur;
38 (d) Plan, coordinate, and deliver the trainings required by this
39 subsection (3), and other school district staff trainings related to
40 school safety, in order to maximize quality professional learning;

1 (e) Technical assistance to school districts seeking funding for
2 first aid, health, and safety and security resources;

3 (f) Information about systems and programs that allow anonymous
4 reporting of student concerns;

5 (g) Real-time support and assistance for school districts in
6 crisis, such as offering information, technical assistance associated
7 with best practices, and staff trained in responding to school
8 emergencies;

9 (h) Develop collaborative relationships with community
10 organizations, private schools, businesses, and others interested in
11 supporting safe schools; and

12 (i) Other services consistent with state and federal school
13 safety requirements, including comprehensive safe school planning
14 under RCW 28A.320.125.

15 (4) The regional school safety centers may, based on the needs of
16 the school districts in their region, and in collaboration with
17 emergency responders, provide assistance to, and facilitate
18 communication between, emergency responders and schools or school
19 districts impacted by emergency situations.

20 (5)(a) The regional school safety center of each educational
21 service district, the department of health, the office of the
22 superintendent of public instruction, the academic centers for
23 excellence, and representatives of associations representing
24 behavioral health professionals working in public schools shall
25 collaborate to provide administrative support to the technical
26 assistance and training network established in subsection (6) of this
27 section to coordinate comprehensive supports across the behavioral
28 health continuum for their students. At a minimum this administrative
29 support must include:

30 (i) Providing strategic oversight to ensure the priorities of the
31 network align with state frameworks, systemwide goals, and statutory
32 requirements;

33 (ii) Managing grants and contracts related to the network;

34 (iii) Establishing criteria for recruiting and selecting network
35 partners;

36 (iv) Analyzing state and local data to identify priorities for
37 the network; and

38 (v) Promoting, organizing, and coordinating network activities,
39 as necessary.

1 (b) The regional school safety centers, through the educational
2 service districts, shall create and maintain the infrastructure of
3 the network, including administering any grants or contracts managed
4 by the network.

5 (c) The regional school safety centers must consult with the
6 tribal leaders congress on education and an association representing
7 Washington's federally recognized tribes to ensure that the technical
8 assistance, resources, and training provided through the network are
9 culturally responsive.

10 (d) The regional school safety centers, through the educational
11 service districts, may contract with organizations equipped with the
12 infrastructure and expertise to effectively support and coordinate
13 sustainable, coherent, and cohesive behavioral health initiatives
14 within Washington's public education system.

15 (6) (a) A technical assistance and training network is established
16 to provide school districts and public schools with the technical
17 assistance, resources, and training necessary to coordinate
18 comprehensive supports across the behavioral health continuum for
19 their students.

20 (b) The network must be comprised of statewide and regional
21 partners with specific experience and capacity to provide behavioral
22 health-related training and technical assistance to schools. Partners
23 may include the academic centers of excellence, federally recognized
24 tribes, and associations representing behavioral health professionals
25 working in public schools.

26 (c) The network must provide direct assistance to school
27 districts and public schools for establishing, implementing, and
28 evaluating efforts to support students across the behavioral health
29 continuum. Assistance the network may provide to school districts and
30 public schools includes:

31 (i) Conducting, or supporting local administration of, needs
32 assessments to identify the behavioral health needs of students,
33 including the cultural and contextual factors affecting students'
34 mental health;

35 (ii) Providing professional development and other training
36 opportunities for school district and public school staff on topics
37 such as: Implementation science, mental health awareness, trauma-
38 informed practices, and effective intervention strategies;

39 (iii) Assisting school districts and public schools in designing
40 and implementing evidence-based behavioral health programs tailored

1 to their specific needs and resources, in alignment with school plans
2 for recognizing and responding to emotional or behavioral distress in
3 students under RCW 28A.320.127;

4 (iv) Creating and distributing resources, such as guides,
5 toolkits, and intervention materials, to support school district and
6 public school behavioral health initiatives, including prevention
7 efforts;

8 (v) Helping school districts and public schools develop and
9 revise policies and procedures related to behavioral health support,
10 crisis intervention, and student well-being;

11 (vi) Facilitating behavioral health-related connections and
12 partnerships with community-based organizations, federally recognized
13 tribes, and state and local agencies to enhance support for students,
14 leverage additional resources, and support schools in establishing
15 and maintaining effective referral pathways;

16 (vii) Contracting with organizations equipped to provide
17 behavioral telehealth services to students in compliance with chapter
18 18.134 RCW;

19 (viii) Providing strategies and tools for involving families and
20 communities in behavioral health initiatives that are culturally
21 responsive to foster a holistic approach to student support,
22 including informing them about available services and those that may
23 be provided to children without parental consent;

24 (ix) Offering guidance on crisis response strategies and
25 behavioral health crisis intervention for school district and public
26 school staff and students; and

27 (x) Providing ongoing consultation and support to school
28 districts and public schools as they implement and improve their
29 behavioral health systems, helping to address challenges and sustain
30 efforts over time.

31 (7) For purposes of this section, the following definitions
32 apply:

33 (a) "Network" means the technical assistance and training network
34 established in this section.

35 (b) "Public schools" has the same meaning as in RCW 28A.150.010.

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