

The Washington [School Safety Center](#) - School Safety Corps (Abbreviated)

Short Description: School safety issues have evolved in number and complexity. Safety planning is addressed in current RCW's, Federal law, or both. District and school safety planning involves the **prevention, mitigation, protection, response to** and **recovery** from the variety natural, technological, biological and social threats and hazards. Although there is a mandate to have safety plans, there is no funding for plan development, training/ implementation, or that plans be documented.

In order to create a unified approach to school safety, this request proposes to fund a statewide **School Safety Corps**. Building on the work of its federal GSEM grant, and working within the multi-tier system of support framework, paralleling the statewide Nurse Corps, and coordinated through the School Safety Center, OSPI will develop a **School Safety Corps** in collaboration with the **9 ESD's**, and other partnering agencies and organizations.

The **School Safety Corps** will:

- Work through the ESDs to provide technical assistance to districts and schools in the development of high quality safety plans;
- Build on the ESD-District consortia;
- Identify safety-focused research and best practices;
- Create guidance in the development of safety policies and procedures;
- Research safety costs and create a cost planning tool;
- Provide training to schools/districts;
- Develop a safety plan documentation and assurance process;
- Partner with appropriate state and local agencies and organizations to help ensure effective plan implementation.

Problem: The National School Climate Center notes that “feeling safe is a basic and fundamentally important need. ([W]hen students—or adults—do not feel safe, it undermines learning, teaching and healthy development.” A recent GAO survey of states “underscore[d] the importance of school emergency management planning to help protect children in K-12 public schools. [The GAO added that] school districts [must] be prepared to confront a range of threats and hazards, from man-made to natural. However, with limited resources, districts and schools have difficulty in addressing 21st century school safety and the impact of safety on climate, dropout rates and general academic achievement.

Key Performance Indicators:

Through a coordinated safety cadre across Washington, and the resulting capacity for effective planning for the prevention, mitigation, protection, response and recovery for district and school threats and hazards, there will be:

- Decreased suspension/expulsions
- Decreased chronic absenteeism
- Increased 4-year and 5-year graduation rates.



NIJ CISS Project Abbreviated Abstract

The WA Collective Impact on School Safety Project (CISS)

Feeling safe is fundamental for a positive learning environment. **RCW 28A.320.125** requires all public school districts and public schools to have current school safety plans and procedures in place. High-quality safety plans provide for the **prevention, mitigation, protection, response to, and post crisis recovery** from a variety of potential emergency situations. These include natural and man-made hazards, security issues, and a broad spectrum of human safety related topics such as active shooters, bullying, internet safety, substance abuse prevention, and suicide prevention.

A component of [Secondary Education](#), **The Safety Center** provides planning tools based on the federal *Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans*, a collaborative product of the USDOE, FEMA, Homeland Security, and several other federal agencies. The **School Safety Center** website has been revised as a **working toolkit** of resources for districts and schools to help in the development of high-quality emergency operations and safety plans.

It has long been a goal to establish a **corps of safety trainers and planning/training resources** across Washington. Viewing school safety and security as a multi-tiered system of supports, and with OSPI as the statewide lead, and collaborating with our **9 Educational Service Districts (ESDs)** as regional leads, work is underway to make the “Washington Safety Corps” concept a reality.

The **Collective Impact on School Safety (CISS)** is a project to increase practical knowledge to improve the school safety, and develop a comprehensive school safety planning framework. The **collective impact approach** of the project will incorporate the 5 US DOE Safety Preparedness Mission Areas, **prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery**, into a comprehensive school safety planning framework. Building off the existing US DOE **Guide for Developing High Quality School Safety Plans**, this framework will take an **MTSS approach**, be comprehensive, and adaptable to the needs of different districts. It will include:

- **Consistent definitions** under the framework of school safety.
- A list of **all potential threats, hazards and risks**.
- A **checklist** for addressing vulnerability to each risk factor.
- A risk **prioritization and costs** planning tool.
- A set of standard, **cross-agency protocols** to address different threats, hazards and risks.
- A **checklist** to assess adherence to necessary risk mitigation procedures.

