

2016 OSPI SAFETY CORPS CONCEPT

Title of Request: School Safety Corps

Description: What problem are we trying to address and solution to the problem?

The problem is schools' difficulty in addressing school safety in the 21st Century and the impact of safety on climate, dropout rates and general academic achievement.

School safety includes an evolving and overlapping set of 21st Century issues, including HIB, digital safety, potential terrorist attacks, active/rampage shooters, and human trafficking, as well as other, more traditional elements such as natural, biological, technological, and man-made disaster preparation. **School safety planning** is a long-term, iterative process, the results of which have a critical impact of **school climate**. A sense of safety and security is necessary for effective teaching and learning. The importance of school climate and safety is underscored by their inclusion in the current TPEP process. A **safe school** supports student learning by creating and promoting an academically, socially, emotionally, and physically secure environment for students, staff, and visitors. Currently, there is a mandate for districts and school to have safety plans; however, there is no requirement that these be either documented or evaluated.

A growing body of research shows that a focus on school safety creates a learning environment which has a positive impact on behavior, attendance, drop-out prevention, and ultimately, academic achievement.

District and school safety planning involves the prevention, mitigation, protection, response to and recovery from the variety natural, physical, social and technological threats to the school and the entire school community. **Many school safety issues are addressed in current RCW's, Federal law, or both.**

In order to create a **unified approach to school safety**, this request proposes to fund a statewide **School Safety Corps**. Working with the multi-tier system of support framework and coordinated through the School Safety Advisory Committee, the School Safety Center will develop a **School Safety Corps** in collaboration with the 9 ESD's, and other partnering agencies and organizations.

With OSPI as the lead agency, the **School Safety Corps** will:

1. Work with and through the 9 ESDs o provide technical assistance to districts and schools in the development of high quality safety plans;
2. Build on the ESD-District consortia;
3. Identify mandated district and school safety practices for all areas of technological, biological, natural and man-made/adversarial threats and hazards;
4. Identify research and best practice approaches, programs and curricula;
5. Create guidance in the development of model safety policies and procedures;
6. Research costs of school safety and create a tool to assist districts and schools in cost planning;
7. **Provide grants to selected** * school districts to encourage local participation; (OR: **Allocate funding based on a prototypical school model**)
8. Provide training to schools/districts in these areas;
9. Development a safety plan assurance process Identify and partner with appropriate state and local agencies and organizations to help ensure effective implementation of programs and curricula;

10. Develop and implement a school safety data dashboard for schools;
11. Provide a feedback loop for assessment of EOP/Safety Plans;
 - a. Review and assess high quality district or school safety plans, and/or
 - b. Provide TA for revision of district and school safety plans, annually.
12. Regular review of Safety Corps processes and products.

As a result of the School Safety Corps, within an MTSS framework, there will be

- a coordinated cadre of people across Washington with skills and expertise in school safety;
- an increased capacity to provide effective planning for the prevention, mitigation, protection, response and recovery for all district and school threats and hazards;
- a process for tracking and ~~assessing~~ providing technical assistance for district and school safety plans;
- a model school safety dashboard tool available to districts and schools throughout Washington;
- a resultant decrease in behavior referrals, absenteeism, drop-out rates, and other negative school discipline data;
- an increase on overall satisfaction with school climate and safety, and academic achievement;
- districts and schools which are safer, and better prepared to prevent, mitigate, protect from, respond to and recover from natural, biological, technological and man-made/adversarial threats and hazards.

* When we initially proposed this a few years back, we discussed including grant funds to LEAs for district and/or school safety planning and implementation. IF school safety were to be funded on a prototypical school model, then a proposed budget would reflect that.