
HOUSE BILL 1634

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Thai and Eslick

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 adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) A technical assistance and training network is established to
9 provide school districts and public schools with the technical
10 assistance, resources, and training necessary to coordinate
11 comprehensive supports across the behavioral health continuum for
12 their students.

13 (2) The network must be comprised of statewide and regional
14 partners with specific experience and capacity to provide behavioral
15 health-related training and technical assistance to schools. Partners
16 may include the educational service districts, academic centers of
17 excellence, and community-based organizations.

18 (3) The network must provide direct assistance to school
19 districts and public schools for establishing, implementing, and
20 evaluating efforts to support students across the behavioral health

1 continuum. Assistance the network may provide to school districts and
2 public schools includes:

3 (a) Conducting, or supporting local administration of, needs
4 assessments to identify the behavioral health needs of students,
5 including the cultural and contextual factors affecting students'
6 mental health;

7 (b) Providing professional development and other training
8 opportunities for school district and public school staff on topics
9 such as: Implementation science, mental health awareness, trauma-
10 informed practices, and effective intervention strategies;

11 (c) Assisting school districts and public schools in designing
12 and implementing evidence-based behavioral health programs tailored
13 to their specific needs and resources, in alignment with school plans
14 for recognizing and responding to emotional or behavioral distress in
15 students under RCW 28A.320.127;

16 (d) Creating and distributing resources, such as guides,
17 toolkits, and intervention materials, to support school district and
18 public school behavioral health initiatives, including prevention
19 efforts;

20 (e) Helping school districts and public schools develop and
21 revise policies and procedures related to behavioral health support,
22 crisis intervention, and student well-being;

23 (f) Facilitating behavioral health-related connections and
24 partnerships with community-based organizations and state and local
25 agencies to enhance support for students, leverage additional
26 resources, and support schools in establishing and maintaining
27 effective referral pathways;

28 (g) Providing strategies and tools for involving families and
29 communities in behavioral health initiatives to foster a holistic
30 approach to student support;

31 (h) Offering guidance on crisis response strategies and
32 behavioral health crisis intervention for school district and public
33 school staff and students; and

34 (i) Providing ongoing consultation and support to school
35 districts and public schools as they implement and improve their
36 behavioral health systems, helping to address challenges and sustain
37 efforts over time.

38 (4)(a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction
39 shall establish a coordinating hub to create and maintain the
40 network.

1 (b) At a minimum the coordinating hub must:
2 (i) Create and maintain the infrastructure of the network;
3 (ii) Provide strategic oversight to ensure the priorities of the
4 network align with state frameworks, systemwide goals, and statutory
5 requirements;
6 (iii) Administer and manage grants and contracts related to the
7 network;
8 (iv) Establish criteria for recruiting and selecting network
9 partners;
10 (v) Analyze state and local data to identify priorities for the
11 network;
12 (vi) Evaluate and monitor network progress towards goals and
13 priorities on an ongoing basis; and
14 (vii) Promote, organize, and coordinate network activities, as
15 necessary.
16 (c) The coordinating hub may contract with organizations equipped
17 with the infrastructure and expertise to effectively support and
18 coordinate sustainable, coherent, and cohesive behavioral health
19 initiatives within Washington's public education system.
20 (5) For purposes of this section, the following definitions
21 apply:
22 (a) "Network" means the technical assistance and training network
23 established in this section.
24 (b) "Public schools" has the same meaning as in RCW 28A.150.010.

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