
SENATE BILL 6279

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senators Randall, Lovelett, Cleveland, Salomon, Rolfes, Saldaña, Wellman, Nguyen, Kuderer, Hasegawa, McCoy, and Lias

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding school-based health centers;
2 amending RCW 28A.310.510, 28A.300.630, and 28A.300.635; reenacting
3 and amending RCW 28A.320.125; adding new sections to chapter 28A.210
4 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.345 RCW; adding a new
5 section to chapter 74.09 RCW; creating a new section; and providing
6 an expiration date.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** INTENT. (1) The legislature acknowledges
9 that the Washington integrated student supports protocol described in
10 RCW 28A.300.139 supports a school-based approach to promoting the
11 success of all students by coordinating academic and nonacademic
12 supports to reduce barriers to academic achievement and educational
13 attainment. It helps fulfill a vision of public education where
14 educators focus on education, students focus on learning, and
15 auxiliary supports enable teaching and learning to occur unimpeded.
16 The legislature recognizes school-based health centers as one of
17 these auxiliary supports.

18 (2) The legislature recognizes that it has recently taken steps
19 to improve student well-being by, for example: (a) Tasking a
20 children's mental health work group to identify barriers to and
21 opportunities for accessing mental health services for children and

1 families; (b) establishing a school safety and student well-being
2 advisory committee to advise on all matters related to comprehensive
3 school safety and student well-being; and (c) creating regional
4 school safety centers within the educational service districts to
5 provide coordination of school safety efforts throughout the state,
6 including behavioral health coordination.

7 (3) The legislature recognizes that a number of school districts
8 have partnered with health care sponsors to establish school-based
9 health centers, which provide integrated medical, mental health, and,
10 in some centers, dental services to students. The legislature finds
11 that these school-based services promote the health and educational
12 success of school-age children and adolescents.

13 (4) The legislature intends to support the expansion of school-
14 based health centers by providing coordination and technical
15 assistance with the goal of having at least one school-based health
16 center in every school district by the beginning of the 2025-26
17 school year.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.210
19 RCW to read as follows:

20 DEFINITIONS. The definitions in this section apply to sections 3
21 through 7 of this act unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

22 (1) "Health care sponsor" means a health care provider or a group
23 of health care providers that staffs and manages the operations of a
24 school-based health center. "Health care sponsor" includes a
25 federally qualified health center, health care system, hospital,
26 local health jurisdiction, or tribal health program.

27 (2) "School-based health center" means a student-focused health
28 center located in or adjacent to a school where students can receive
29 integrated medical, mental health, and other health care services.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.210
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS. (1) By the beginning of the 2025-26
33 school year, each school district must partner with a health care
34 sponsor to establish at least one school-based health center located
35 within the school district. Each school district must adopt or amend
36 if necessary policies and procedures that, at a minimum, incorporate
37 all of the elements of the model school-based health center policy
38 and procedure described in section 4 of this act.

1 (2) (a) At a minimum, a school-based health center must:

2 (i) Be established through an agreement between a school district
3 and a health care sponsor and the agreement must provide that the
4 health care sponsor has sole responsibility for the school-based
5 health center's services, activities, and operations;

6 (ii) Provide health services that are beyond the scope of the
7 school nurse; and

8 (iii) Serve any student in the school in which the school-based
9 health center is located.

10 (b) A school-based health center may serve students from other
11 schools in the district, families of students, school staff, and
12 community members.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.345
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 MODEL SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER POLICY AND PROCEDURE. (1) The
16 Washington state school directors' association, in collaboration with
17 the office of the superintendent of public instruction, shall develop
18 a model school-based health center policy and procedure that includes
19 the requirements of section 3 of this act, aligns with the Washington
20 integrated student supports protocol established in RCW 28A.300.139,
21 and addresses:

22 (a) Roles and responsibilities of school districts and health
23 care sponsors;

24 (b) Medicaid and private insurance billing considerations; and

25 (c) Sharing and protection of health care data.

26 (2) In developing the model policy and procedure, the Washington
27 state school directors' association and the office of the
28 superintendent of public instruction must consult with interested
29 stakeholders including the department of health; health care
30 authority; health care sponsors; educational service districts;
31 school districts; school nurses; and organizations representing
32 school-based health centers.

33 (3) The model policy and procedure must be posted on the
34 Washington state school directors' association and the office of the
35 superintendent of public instruction's web sites by July 1, 2021.

36 (4) For purposes of this section, "health care sponsor" and
37 "school-based health center" mean the same as in section 2 of this
38 act.

1 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.310.510 and 2019 c 333 s 3 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DISTRICT COORDINATION. (1) Subject to the
4 availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, each
5 educational service district must establish a regional school safety
6 and student well-being center as provided in this section.

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

15 (3) Working in collaboration with the office of the
16 superintendent of public instruction and the statewide network, each
17 regional school safety and student well-being center must provide to
18 the school districts in its region:

19 (a) Behavioral health coordination that, at a minimum, includes:

20 (i) Providing support for school district development and
21 implementation of plans for recognition, initial screening, and
22 response to emotional or behavioral distress in students as required
23 by RCW 28A.320.127;

24 (ii) Suicide prevention training for school counselors, school
25 psychologists, and school social workers;

26 (iii) Facilitating partnerships and coordination between school
27 districts, public schools, and existing regional and local systems of
28 behavioral health care services and supports in order to increase
29 student and family access to the services and supports;

30 (iv) Assisting school districts and public schools in building
31 capacity to identify and support students in need of behavioral
32 health care services and to link students and families with
33 community-based behavioral health care services;

34 (v) Identifying, sharing, and integrating, to the extent
35 practicable, behavioral and physical health care service delivery
36 models;

37 (vi) Providing medicaid and private insurance billing related
38 training, technical assistance, and coordination between school
39 districts; and

1 (vii) Guidance in implementing best practices in response to, and
2 to recover from, the suicide or attempted suicide of a student;

3 (b) School-based health center coordination that, at a minimum
4 includes:

5 (i) Facilitating partnerships and coordination between school
6 districts, public schools, and health care sponsors in order to
7 increase access to school-based health centers;

8 (ii) Identifying, sharing, and integrating, to the extent
9 practicable, behavioral and physical health care service delivery
10 models;

11 (iii) Providing medicaid and private insurance billing-related
12 training, technical assistance, and coordination between school-based
13 health centers; and

14 (iv) Identifying available funding sources.

15 (c) School-based threat assessment coordination that, at a
16 minimum, includes:

17 (i) Providing training and technical assistance regarding the use
18 of the model policy and procedure to establish a school-based threat
19 assessment program, developed under RCW 28A.300.640;

20 (ii) Assisting with ongoing identification and implementation of
21 best practices for school-based threat assessment programs, described
22 under RCW 28A.320.123; and

23 (iii) Building partnerships with community partners, such as
24 behavioral health providers, law enforcement agencies, emergency
25 responders, juvenile justice organizations, and child welfare
26 agencies, for the purpose of implementing school-based threat
27 assessment programs that comply with best practices;

28 ~~((e))~~ (d) Assistance with coordinating other entities in the
29 region to provide support to school districts before emergencies
30 occur;

31 ~~((d))~~ (e) Support the use of the Washington integrated student
32 supports protocol established in RCW 28A.300.139.

33 (f) Plan, coordinate, and deliver the trainings required by this
34 subsection (3), and other school district staff trainings related to
35 school safety and student well-being, in order to maximize quality
36 professional learning;

37 ~~((e))~~ (g) Technical assistance to school districts seeking
38 funding for first aid, health, and safety and security resources;

39 ~~((f))~~ (h) Information about systems and programs that allow
40 anonymous reporting of student concerns;

1 ~~((g))~~ (i) Real-time support and assistance for school districts
2 in crisis, such as offering information, technical assistance
3 associated with best practices, and staff trained in responding to
4 school emergencies;

5 ~~((h))~~ (j) Develop collaborative relationships with community
6 organizations, private schools, businesses, and others interested in
7 supporting safe schools; and

8 ~~((i))~~ (k) Other services consistent with state and federal
9 school safety requirements, including comprehensive safe school
10 planning under RCW 28A.320.125.

11 (4) The regional school safety and student well-being centers
12 may, based on the needs of the school districts in their region, and
13 in collaboration with emergency responders, provide assistance to,
14 and facilitate communication between, emergency responders and
15 schools or school districts impacted by emergency situations.

16 (5) For purposes of this section, "health care sponsor" and
17 "school-based health center" have the same meaning as in section 2 of
18 this act.

19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. A new section is added to chapter 28A.210
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 HEALTH CARE COORDINATION. (1) The department of health and the
22 health care authority shall support school-based health centers by
23 providing technical assistance to health care sponsors and the
24 regional school safety and student well-being centers established in
25 RCW 28A.310.510.

26 (a) The department of health shall assist regional school safety
27 and student well-being centers with identifying potential health care
28 sponsors.

29 (b) The health care authority shall assist the regional school
30 safety and student well-being centers and health care sponsors with
31 medicaid billing.

32 (2) Beginning January 1, 2022, the department of health shall
33 annually report to the appropriate legislative committees on the
34 number and location of school-based health centers established. The
35 report may include policy recommendations aimed at expanding school-
36 based health centers in Washington state.

37 NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. A new section is added to chapter 74.09
38 RCW to read as follows:

1 MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT. (1) The authority shall develop a school-
2 based health center payment methodology for medical assistance
3 clients that recognizes the value and unique service delivery of
4 providing health care in a school-based setting. The methodology
5 shall provide reimbursement for:

6 (a) Physical and behavioral health care services delivered in a
7 school-based health center model; and

8 (b) Multidisciplinary team-based services, such as shared
9 appointments, care conferences, and team meetings.

10 (2) In developing the methodology, the authority shall consult
11 with school-based health centers and organizations representing
12 school-based health centers.

13 (3) By December 1, 2020, the authority shall report the
14 methodology with proposed recommendations for implementation to the
15 appropriate legislative committees.

16 (4) For purposes of this section, "school-based health center"
17 has the same meaning as in section 2 of this act.

18 (5) This section expires January 1, 2021.

19 **Sec. 8.** RCW 28A.300.630 and 2019 c 333 s 2 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

21 CONFORMING AMENDMENTS. (1) Subject to the availability of amounts
22 appropriated for this specific purpose, the superintendent of public
23 instruction shall establish a school safety center as provided in
24 this section.

25 (2) The center, working in conjunction with the regional school
26 safety and student well-being centers established in RCW 28A.310.510,
27 forms a statewide network for school safety.

28 (3) The center, in collaboration with staff in the office of the
29 superintendent of public instruction, must:

30 (a) Serve as a clearinghouse for information regarding
31 comprehensive school safety planning and practice;

32 (b) Disseminate information regarding school safety incidents in
33 Washington and across the country;

34 (c) Develop and maintain a public web site to increase the
35 availability of information, research, and other materials related to
36 school safety;

37 (d) Serve as the lead school safety center, and work in
38 conjunction with the regional school safety and student well-being
39 centers, to support school districts' efforts to meet state

1 requirements regarding school safety including the development and
2 implementation of:

3 (i) Comprehensive safe school plans as required by RCW
4 28A.320.125; and

5 (ii) Plans for recognition, initial screening, and response to
6 emotional or behavioral distress in students as required by RCW
7 28A.320.127;

8 (e) Develop model school safety policies and procedures and
9 identify best practices in school safety;

10 (f) Work in conjunction with the regional school safety centers
11 to plan for the provision of school safety trainings and to provide
12 technical assistance;

13 (g) Hold an annual school safety summit as required by RCW
14 28A.300.273;

15 (h) Support the required activities of the regional school safety
16 centers, established in RCW 28A.310.510; and

17 (i) Perform other functions consistent with the purpose of the
18 center, as described in this section.

19 **Sec. 9.** RCW 28A.300.635 and 2019 c 333 s 4 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

21 (1) The school safety and student well-being advisory committee
22 is established within the office of the superintendent of public
23 instruction. The purpose of the committee is to advise the
24 superintendent, the office of the superintendent of public
25 instruction's school safety center, the regional school safety and
26 student well-being centers, school districts, and public and private
27 schools on all matters related to comprehensive school safety and
28 student well-being.

29 (2) The superintendent of public instruction must appoint the
30 members of the committee. The members must represent the following
31 sectors, agencies, and organizations, at a minimum: The various state
32 education associations, including teachers associations, the
33 association of colleges for teacher education, and associations for
34 educational staff associates; the educational service districts; the
35 state ethnic commissions; the governor's office of Indian affairs;
36 parent organizations; student organizations; private schools;
37 emergency management; behavioral health; public health; law
38 enforcement; and emergency first responders.

39 (3) The committee shall:

1 (a) Make recommendations to those it advises on policies and
2 strategies to improve school safety and student well-being;

3 (b) Identify emerging issues and best practices for consideration
4 and implementation, particularly as these relate to the integration
5 of student well-being and school safety;

6 (c) Establish priorities for training, funding, statewide data
7 collection, and other forms of support for students, schools, and
8 school districts;

9 (d) Engage the public on school safety and student well-being;
10 and

11 (e) Perform other duties as required by law.

12 (4) By November 15, 2020, and by November 15th every even year
13 thereafter, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the committee must
14 coordinate with the office of the superintendent of public
15 instruction's school safety center to submit a report to the
16 appropriate committees of the legislature. The report must summarize
17 the committee's activities during the past biennium, include
18 recommended state policies and strategies for improving school safety
19 and student well-being, provide an estimate of the cost to implement
20 each recommendation, and prioritize the recommendations.

21 (5) Staff support for the committee must be provided by the
22 office of the superintendent of public instruction.

23 (6) The committee must meet at least quarterly.

24 (7) Members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses
25 if they are elected officials or are participating on behalf of an
26 employer, governmental entity, or other organization. Any
27 reimbursement for other members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

28 **Sec. 10.** RCW 28A.320.125 and 2019 c 333 s 10 and 2019 c 84 s 1
29 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

30 (1) The legislature considers it to be a matter of public safety
31 for public schools and staff to have current safe school plans and
32 procedures in place, fully consistent with federal law. The
33 legislature further finds and intends, by requiring safe school plans
34 to be in place, that school districts will become eligible for
35 federal assistance. The legislature further finds that schools are in
36 a position to serve the community in the event of an emergency
37 resulting from natural disasters or man-made disasters.

38 (2) Schools and school districts shall consider the guidance and
39 resources provided by the state school safety center, established

1 under RCW 28A.300.630, and the regional school safety and student
2 well-being centers, established under RCW 28A.310.510, when
3 developing their own individual comprehensive safe school plans. Each
4 school district shall adopt and implement a safe school plan
5 consistent with the school mapping information system pursuant to RCW
6 36.28A.060. The plan shall:

7 (a) Include required school safety policies and procedures;

8 (b) Address emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and
9 recovery;

10 (c) Include provisions for assisting and communicating with
11 students and staff, including those with special needs or
12 disabilities;

13 (d) Include a family-student reunification plan, including
14 procedures for communicating the reunification plan to staff,
15 students, families, and emergency responders;

16 (e) Use the training guidance provided by the Washington
17 emergency management division of the state military department in
18 collaboration with the state school safety center in the office of
19 the superintendent of public instruction, established under RCW
20 28A.300.630, and the school safety and student well-being advisory
21 committee, established under RCW 28A.300.635;

22 (f) Require the building principal to be certified on the
23 incident command system;

24 (g) Take into account the manner in which the school facilities
25 may be used as a community asset in the event of a community-wide
26 emergency; and

27 (h) Set guidelines for requesting city or county law enforcement
28 agencies, local fire departments, emergency service providers, and
29 county emergency management agencies to meet with school districts
30 and participate in safety-related drills.

31 (3) To the extent funds are available, school districts shall
32 annually:

33 (a) Review and update safe school plans in collaboration with
34 local emergency response agencies;

35 (b) Conduct an inventory of all hazardous materials;

36 (c) Update information on the school mapping information system
37 to reflect current staffing and updated plans, including:

38 (i) Identifying all staff members who are trained on the national
39 incident management system, trained on the incident command system,
40 or are certified on the incident command system; and

1 (ii) Identifying school transportation procedures for evacuation,
2 to include bus staging areas, evacuation routes, communication
3 systems, parent-student reunification sites, and secondary
4 transportation agreements consistent with the school mapping
5 information system; and

6 (d) Provide information to all staff on the use of emergency
7 supplies and notification and alert procedures.

8 (4) To the extent funds are available, school districts shall
9 annually record and report on the information and activities required
10 in subsection (3) of this section to the Washington association of
11 sheriffs and police chiefs.

12 (5) School districts are encouraged to work with local emergency
13 management agencies and other emergency responders to conduct one
14 tabletop exercise, one functional exercise, and two full-scale
15 exercises within a four-year period.

16 (6)(a) Due to geographic location, schools have unique safety
17 challenges. It is the responsibility of school principals and
18 administrators to assess the threats and hazards most likely to
19 impact their school, and to practice three basic functional drills,
20 shelter-in-place, lockdown, and evacuation, as these drills relate to
21 those threats and hazards. Some threats or hazards may require the
22 use of more than one basic functional drill.

23 (b) Schools shall conduct at least one safety-related drill per
24 month, including summer months when school is in session with
25 students. These drills must teach students three basic functional
26 drill responses:

27 (i) "Shelter-in-place," used to limit the exposure of students
28 and staff to hazardous materials, such as chemical, biological, or
29 radiological contaminants, released into the environment by isolating
30 the inside environment from the outside;

31 (ii) "Lockdown," used to isolate students and staff from threats
32 of violence, such as suspicious trespassers or armed intruders, that
33 may occur in a school or in the vicinity of a school; and

34 (iii) "Evacuation," used to move students and staff away from
35 threats, such as fires, oil train spills, lahars, or tsunamis.

36 (c) The drills described in (b) of this subsection must
37 incorporate the following requirements:

38 (i) Use of the school mapping information system in at least one
39 of the safety-related drills;

1 (ii) A pedestrian evacuation drill for schools in mapped lahars
2 or tsunami hazard zones; and

3 (iii) An earthquake drill using the state-approved earthquake
4 safety technique "drop, cover, and hold."

5 (d) Schools shall document the date, time, and type (shelter-in-
6 place, lockdown, or evacuate) of each drill required under this
7 subsection (6), and maintain the documentation in the school office.

8 (e) This subsection (6) is intended to satisfy all federal
9 requirements for comprehensive school emergency drills and
10 evacuations.

11 (7) Educational service districts are encouraged to apply for
12 federal emergency response and crisis management grants with the
13 assistance of the superintendent of public instruction and the
14 Washington emergency management division of the state military
15 department.

16 (8) The superintendent of public instruction may adopt rules to
17 implement provisions of this section. These rules may include, but
18 are not limited to, provisions for evacuations, lockdowns, or other
19 components of a comprehensive safe school plan.

20 (9)(a) Whenever a first responder agency notifies a school of a
21 situation that may necessitate an evacuation or lockdown, the agency
22 must determine if other known schools in the vicinity are similarly
23 threatened. The first responder agency must notify every other known
24 school in the vicinity for which an evacuation or lockdown appears
25 reasonably necessary to the agency's incident commander unless the
26 agency is unable to notify schools due to duties directly tied to
27 responding to the incident occurring. For purposes of this
28 subsection, "school" includes a private school under chapter 28A.195
29 RCW.

30 (b) A first responder agency and its officers, agents, and
31 employees are not liable for any act, or failure to act, under this
32 subsection unless a first responder agency and its officers, agents,
33 and employees acted with willful disregard.

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